

THE QUESTION MARK

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Publications Committee: Harry Andrews, Jean Babcock, Doris Gray, Jane Manthorne, Edward J. Montana, Jr., Mrs. Bridie Stotz, Martin F. Waters, Barbara Flye, Peter DeSantis, Cartoonist, Sarah Usher, Indexer, William R. Lewis, Chairman.

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The tenth of each month

In this our last editorial we of the Publications Committee wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation of the many kindnesses and acts of assistance tendered to us during our year at the helm of the sturdy ship QUESTION MARK. We would be less than honest if we failed to admit that our year-long voyage had not been a turbulent and stormy passage. However, the fact remains that we have weathered storm after storm and are presently back in port - battered but somehow still unbowed. Those to whom, in one way or another, we are indebted include both Chief Librarians [HR&CS and RRS] and the many Branch Librarians and Department heads who were generous in their allowance of time and personnel for QM preparation. Needless to say we are also grateful to the many members of the Library staff who contributed articles, reports, notes, etc. in a display of cooperation which made our task so much easier. Last but by no means least a bouquet to the Administration and Library Trustees who despite our several differences have allowed the QM to continue in its traditional format.

We would like at this time to offer our good wishes to the new Officers and Executive Board of the BPLSA and especially to the next Publications Committee.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Executive Board of the Staff Association has met twice [December 16 and January 7] since the last issue of The Question Mark. During these meetings we continued our discussion of long-service payments and the Library Assistant Salary Schedule, as well as concluding our work on the new proposed promotional policy.

Although the position of the Staff Association as a whole may not coincide exactly with the expressed desires of the Quarter Century Club on the matter of longevity payments, the Executive Board of this Association is agreed that the extra grade increase recently granted all those having twenty-five or more years service does not solve this problem entirely. On January 14 [too late for a report in this QM], we have scheduled another meeting with Mr. Gaines in which this subject will be one of several under discussion. If possible, any positive and workable suggestion arising out of this meeting will be brought to your attention at the Annual Meeting of this Association on January 17.

In regard to the LA Salary Schedule, there seems to be no question on the necessity of some salary increase during 1964. Your Executive Board is not sure, however, whether this increase should be a flat across the board one for all LA levels. As you are aware, the new salary schedules were designed to begin at a high enough rate to attract new assistants. At the other end of the spectrum, grades IA9 and up now equate with our substantial professional salary scale. It is the contention of your Executive Board, then, that the median LA grades, from IA3 through IA7 or 8, are the ones most needful of attention, salary-wise, at this time. The Board would welcome the opinion of all staff members on this question.

You will remember that early in 1963, the Executive Board asked the Personnel Committee to study current promotional policies and practices and to make to the Board whatever recommendations it felt warranted for inclusion in any proposed promotional policy for the B.P.L. With these recommendations in hand, the Executive Board held several conferences

on this subject with Mr. Gaines. Out of these conferences came a tentative promotional policy. From the beginning, there has been agreement between Mr. Gaines and the Board on the basic premises underlying this new policy. At the December 16 meeting of the Board a few minor changes were proposed in the draft of this policy and sent along to the Personnel Office. Since these changes seem to be acceptable to Mr. Gaines, we are confident that the Director and the Trustees of this Library will soon take the action needed to make this written promotional policy official. [As Chapter IV of the Personnel Manual]

It should be noted that this promotional policy is a general statement of principles and practices. Its basic premise [which your Executive Board accepts] is that promotion should be based on background, related experience and past job performance, here or elsewhere. Essential to this or any good promotional policy is the necessity for descriptions to cover every job in our library, plus a statement of minimum qualifications for each job. These factors being so necessary, the Executive Board wishes God speed to the Personnel Office in bringing these job descriptions into being as quickly as possible.

As the process of differentiating between LA duties and redefining LA jobs continues, your Executive Board is, also, firmly convinced that some system of in-service training for the LA Service is absolutely necessary. Here, too, there seems to be no argument. I have, therefore, formally requested that some such system be set up in the near future.

In these, the last President's Notes which I shall have the privilege of addressing to you, I would like to express my gratitude to several groups of people. To the 1963 Executive Board, I owe a great deal, both for the amazing way in which they turned out for those seemingly innumerable Executive Board Meetings, and also for their complete cooperation in performing the many extra tasks, beyond their regular duties, which I set before them. Throughout the year, I have had occasion to call upon many staff members for advice or assistance. To these people, one and all, thank you for giving so freely of your time despite overburdened schedules. A final word,

President's Notes cont.

too, about five men whom I have come to know better and to respect highly during these last twelve months; namely, Mr. John Carroll, Mr. John Connolly, Mr. Ervin Gaines, Mr. Bradford Hill and Mr. Frank Moloney. From each of these men, I have received a full measure of confidence, support and cooperation whenever my duties as President of this Association led me to some problem lying within their administrative sphere.

To the 1964 President and Officers of the Boston Public Library Staff Association, my best wishes for a happy and productive year.

B. GERTRUDE WADE
President

PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered

Francas E. Spencer - Bookmobiles
M. Patricia Glancy - Adams Street

Transferred

Mary T. Crowe from West Roxbury to Jamaica Plain
Jennie M. Femino from South Boston to Mt. Bowdoin
Myra A. Morse from Mattapan to South End
Raymond Collins from Book Stack Service to Division of Library Operations
Donald Cilley from Adams Street to Open Shelf

Married

Cynthia Smith [Music] to Peter A. Fedders.
December 28, 1963

Retired

Julia H. Barry - December 31, 1963
Marjorie MacIntire - December 31, 1963

IN MEMORIUM

Edward Guess, Custodian in the Buildings Department, died January 2, 1964 in the Soldiers' Home, Chelsea, after a long illness.

Eddie was employed at the Boston Public Library for six years. He was a veteran

of World War II, and served in the European Theatre. Although Eddie was shy and retiring by nature, he made many friends at the Library and was highly thought of by his fellow workers.

He was buried from the Mission Church, Roxbury with a Solemn Requiem Mass, and interment was at the New Calvary Cemetery.

Eddie is survived by a brother and two sisters in England.

BOOK REVIEW

Boulle, Pierre. PLANET OF THE APES. N.Y., Vanguard, 1963. \$4.50.

True to his genius as a storyteller, the author of THE TEST, THE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER KWAI and FACE OF A HERO has joined the ranks of C.S. Lewis and Aldous Huxley in this science-fiction tour de force. Briefly it is the story of three French scientists of the future who set out to explore a planet in the galaxy of Betelgeuse. There the learned men find a topsy-turvy world where Simius sapiens have replaced Homo sapiens as leaders and governors of "the people". The gorillas constitute the aristocracy, engage in blood sports, provide the brawn, the money, the "know-how." The orangutans make up the government and the bureaucracy; among their ranks will be found the "writers of educational books," the academicians [here M. Boulle levels a finger at the pompositives of L'Academie Francaise.] The intellectual elite of the planetary society is composed of chimpanzees and they have provided the most of the book's sparkle and gaiety. Although this may sound absurd and overdrawn, M. Boulle has succeeded in making it seem all too logical, even frightening.

Dedicated S-F fans will need no encouragement to read this; the reader who has heretofore resisted all forms of the genre will find this delightful book with its surprise ending a stimulating introduction.

Ed.Note: Several members of the Publications Committee have read this book and believe it will be one of the outstanding books of 1964.

Mattapan

On Sunday, December 15, 1963 at 5 o'clock in the evening, over thirty people - members of Mattapan past and present - plus a sprinkling of husbands - surprised Theodora Scoff at a dinner given in honor of her coming retirement, at the home of her dear friend Mrs. Malvina Malouf. The secret was well kept, Miss Scoff's two sisters and her brother's wife managed to join the group in time to welcome the guest of honor who was coming, presumably, to have a quiet Sunday dinner with her lifelong friend.

It would be impossible to describe the luscious food which was prepared by our hostess - with kitchen assistance from Nura Globus and Sadie Rotondo except to say that it was delicious, plentiful and loaded with calories. Sarah Richman and Irene Mains collaborated on a poetic scroll which was presented to Miss Scoff. The piece de resistance was a bouquet of dollar bills beautifully executed by Myra Morse and presented to the lady of the evening. Flash bulb pictures and Polaroid films were taken as a lasting memory of this tribute. When this reporter and her husband left the party after several fun-filled hours, Miss Scoff and a group of her former girls were still chatting away and reminiscing about things which had happened in the past.

AUGUSTA RUBENSTEIN

Faneuil

JULIA BARRY

On the first day of this month of January, Julia Barry of Faneuil will have terminated forty years of conscientious and devoted service to the Boston Public Library.

For thirty-odd years, she has been at Faneuil. Everyone loved her, young and old. Through the years, the children, especially, have been fortunate that their first experience at the Registration Desk was such a happy one. Unfailingly kind, she understood people and their needs.

The way she chose to leave was typical of her; no party, no fanfare, just an ordinary leave-taking on an ordinary day.

Happily, we were able to persuade her to participate in a simple lunch in the Staff Room where we wished her well and presented her with a purse of money.

We who have worked with her so many happy years are just now beginning to accept the fact of her leaving. It has been as though she were on vacation and would soon return.

Young of age and eager of spirit, the years that lie ahead should be happy and fruitful ones. One can believe truly of Julia Barry that 'the best is yet to be.'

E. L.

Roslindale

Miss Marion Herzig, Branch Librarian, Roslindale wishes to thank all of her friends for the many kindnesses shown to her during her recent illness.

If the staff of Roslindale seems unusually merry these days it is because their beloved chief, Marion Herzig, is well on the way to recovery after a serious case of pneumonia.

A M A C E

The worst aberration human society is guilty of is the notion of race superiority, and in our time, what with the Nazi slaughter of "inferior" peoples, the South African practice of apartheid against the vast majority of its citizens, and the more hypocritical discrimination against Negroes in our own country the whole thing has reached ridiculous proportions, and I decided to do something drastic about it. I noticed that the initials of the words ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL form what almost looks like a word, AMACE, and I wrote to the NEW YORK TIMES and to Adlai Stevenson at the United Nations urging them to start a campaign to have all nations adopt that word as a substitute for OK, R. ger, Hello, So Long, Bottoms up, Cheers, Gesundheit, Bien, Bon Bene, Righto, Auf Wiedersehen, Da, Zdravstvuytye, Hasta la Vista, sure, You said it, and other most popular words or phrases in all languages. The users of this word in common might form a true international community, and war become obsolete and unthinkable.

My letters elicited no enthusiasm either from the TIMES or Stevenson. I thought therefore that we ought to start the ball rolling from a more modest level - the Boston Public Library. If members of the Staff in corridors or coffee shop or lounges will begin to use the term as they meet on various occasions during the day, who knows what momentum it might achieve towards solving a very great and painful problem in our society?

AMACE
HARRY ANDREWS

OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS WANTED

The State School, Wrentham, Mass. has issued an appeal for discarded Christmas cards. Those who wish to donate may leave them with Kenneth Barnes in the Periodical Room and he will see that they get there.

THANK YOU

The Men's House Committee wish to extend their thanks to the Women's House Committee for their donations for the Men's Christmas Party. We also wish to thank the following staff members who worked so hard to make the party a success:

- Joseph A. Lynch
- Edward Maynard
- Robert Kavin
- James Monahan
- George Gentile

Max Anapolle, Chairman

MISS SCOFF RETIRES

A luncheon was held on January 4 At Tiffany's (Restaurant - not the 5th Ave. store) Fifty librarians met to pay homage to Theodora Scoff and to bid her adieu The luncheon was luscious, the atmosphere gay The mood was most mellow, reflecting the way

The company felt as they honored their guest With heartfelt applause, clapping with zest At the message read aloud by our chief Whose own deserved tribute was witty and brief

As he outlined a career of complete dedication To library service of lengthy duration. In gracious acknowledgement, Miss Scoff replied,

She thanked all those present and those who had tried; She hopes that a new way of life will begin

After a Western vacation to visit her kin For though she's retiring, she plans to be

Active in work for the community. Miss Scoff entered the service as library aide ["Extras" they called them when they weren't so well paid]

Education at B.U., Columbia and then Promotion in her twenties to B.Librarian [It's no exaggeration for us to state Nobody has broken that record to date] For years she's been called - wouldn't you know?

Dean of librarians - and deservedly so Her knowledge of problems, procedures, indeed

Has made her advice of infinite need. She will be missed time out of mind A replacement for her won't be easy to find

We wish her god-speed and a well-deserved rest

And may she ever with good health be blessed.

SARAH RICHMAN

LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS

During the past few years great progress has been made in improving library service in the United States. Financial aid from both the state and Federal governments has been increased, and all around the country new buildings are being erected, salaries are being raised, and library standards are reaching new heights.

Perfection has not been achieved in these areas, but we are making commendable progress. The general public, as well as our legislators, has become more aware of the value and importance of libraries and of the contributions of librarians to our society.

The librarian is the key to good library service, for without him a library is just a collection of books, which, although they contain valuable information, do not accomplish their purpose if they are not made available to the right persons at the right time.

At the beginning of a new year it is appropriate that librarians should take a good look at themselves and perhaps make a few New Year's resolutions.

Different areas of library service demand librarians with different abilities, interests, and personal traits; but at any level the librarian must possess an awareness and a comprehension of the needs of the public and the willingness and competence to meet these needs. But the really dedicated librarian gives a little more than the job calls for. Such a person is the neighborhood librarian who takes a group of school children on a visit to the zoo--at his own expense--after the summer reading program has been completed. Another gives his time to after hours work with adult groups. A third aids an older person who has difficulty getting to the local reading centre. These people rarely expect and, even more rarely, receive public approbation for these services and kindnesses. It is these people who have helped eradicate the stereotyped concept of the old crone librarian whose principal duty is the enforcement of silence. But we still have work to do in establishing the new public image of the modern librarian. There are still librarians to whom we can apply the comment, originally made about the

Courtiers who surrounded Louis XIV, that they have forgotten nothing and learnt nothing. Vehemently opposing any change, they take as their motto: "It has always been done this way." They are like a monotonous Greek chorus chanting "service, service, service," which we find very gratifying until we realize that the service referred to is for the librarian and not for the public.

The first group should be encouraged in every way possible, and suitable recognition given. The second should be eliminated. Although it is small, it exercises an influence out of all proportion to its numbers. It can cause chaos in any department or library and its effects on morale are disastrous.

Most librarians take a middle course emulating the qualities of the first group and avoiding those of the other. They do their job, usually very well, are kind, courteous, and helpful, but they do not read, or at least more than necessary for their job. This is something like the case of the arm-chair football fan. He is quick and eager to comment on and criticize the players, coaches, and officials even though he never actively participated in the sport and gained that knowledge which can be obtained only by experience.

Let us apply this situation to the librarian. He cannot encourage reading, which after all is the reason for the library's (and the librarian's) existence if he does not read himself. How else can he compare two works on the same subject effectly, not superficially, and how else can he tell a patron that one is better than the other and the reason therefor. Most, but not all, librarians read reviews but they are poor substitute for the book.

Obviously the librarian, with the best intentions in the world, could not read even a small percentage of the books that are published, but it is the attitude that is important. Unfortunately, reading is often like virtue, everyone is for it but nobody does anything about it.

The selection of reading matter is also important. The schools formerly

Libraries and Librarians cont.

taught that a librarian need not necessarily know very much about a subject, but should merely know where to find information on it. This is an excuse for narrow thinking. The old idea that a librarian should be a specialist in his field was not a bad one. It could be modified to the extent that the librarian should know a great deal about his own subject, and as much as possible about others. Again, it is the attitude which is important. A librarian who desires to be liberally educated, in the correct sense of the term--will be.

The librarian is a very special person, needing diverse and highly developed talents in order to perform his job properly. He deserves the best that the library can give him. The patron is also a special person, and deserves the best that the librarian can give to him. With a little work on all sides the flaws can be worked out of the system and a little more progress made toward the ideal.

EDWARD MONTANA

EDNA WOLLENT

On Friday, January 10th, Edna Wollent gave out her last aspirin tablet, her last advice on health and was the guest of honor at coffee hour held in the staff lounge. A great many of the friends whom she has acquired over the years by her kindness and interest in their welfare, far beyond the requirements of duty, were on hand to bid her farewell and wish her good luck. All were impressed by the most suitable presentation speech delivered by Mr. Gaines. Mrs. Wollent looked lovely and the large orchid corsage she wore was very striking.

Mrs. Wollent's leaving will create a void that can never be filled. No one person knows all the extra things she has done for staff members who came to her with personal problems. Many can attest to the soundness of her judgement and advice, and the sincerity of her concern for the welfare of the staff. The good she has done by her visits to sick staff members can never be measured.

Mrs. Wollent will be moving soon to Utica, New York to be with her son, Edward, and her four grandchildren. Again we wish her good luck and good health and sincerely urge her to visit us whenever she can.

LIBRARIANS LOOK AT THINGS PAST -

Pressures from student users of libraries frequently take these vocal shapes: "I need a novel about the ancient Greeks" or "What have you got about the Jacksonian Era in story form?" Well aware of the demands for historical fiction and of the absence of comprehensive, up-to-date bibliographies geared to high-schoolers, the Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults are taking a hard look at the genre. "Evaluating historical fiction for Young People" is the theme for their winter meeting at the Wellesley Free Library, January 16th at 10:00 A.M. Speakers will be Mrs. Helen I. Beavin, Reference Librarian at the Boston University School of Education Library, and Mr. Harold Goodrich, Head of the History Department of the Jeremiah E. Burke High School.

INSTANT BOOKLISTS!

Visitors to the Federal Pavilion of the New York World's Fair will be able to press a button and receive an instant booklist. Details of this magic are not fully available at this time, but it can be said that the Boston Public Library is sharing in the wonders of new technology. The Readers Advisors of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services are busy preparing special subject lists which eventually will come forth from a machine at the press of a button.



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

To the Soap Box:

Great credit is due to the Administration for the recent appointment of additional P3's in several Library units. It is a realistic, fair, and intelligent solution to an old problem which had become particularly acute in the Reference Division. Assistants eligible by education, special skills, examinations, and time could not obtain

their just promotion if their Department already had a First and Second Assistant. They remained frozen in their positions until they were enticed away from us by more sensible offers in other libraries. They have all done better, but it is too bad that we did not find this answer earlier. Several members of the Staff had suggested it.

An important problem has been solved. On to some of the hundred others.

HARRY ANDREWS

Dear Editor:

It's time to liquidate the mouldering PZ3's. The use of that fiction category was dropped by the Reference Division many years ago. Novels are handled by the Circulation Division, and those of some literary value, and reprints and new editions of classics are classed by the Reference Division with the literature they belong to by LC standards. It is a sensible enough arrangement, though occasionally you find a Frances Parkinson Keyes, a Zane Grey, or a John O'Hara cataloged as American literature and you wonder who makes the decisions. But in general it works very well.

However all the old Stack 4 fiction has been recataloged on PZ3 and there they remain. Physically the consideration of space has made it necessary to separate them A through part of G in Stack 3 Annex and the rest in the cellar. Most of these books have had a great deal of use, are mouldy and mildewed, and many of those in the cellar damaged by water. It is time the whole collection of them was examined, some transferred to the Circulating Division, some placed in the literature collection, and most of them destroyed. But the job of separation will have to be done by a competent committee headed and chosen by the two Chiefs of the Book Selection Departments.

There has been extraordinary enthusiasm among some Circulation Division people to throw out all sorts of books and an extraordinary reluctance among Reference Division people to throw out anything. In very many cases cheap Grosset reprints of popular novels in disgraceful physical condition are still kept on PZ3 shelves and circulated to the public, while copies of the same

books in good condition and often in the original editions have been destroyed in the other Division. So dichotomized are the two Divisions that no attempt was made to get together on this and make a sensible combination. It's too late to do anything about that now. But something can be done about settling this question of the lingering PZ3's.

HARRY ANDREWS

MRS. MARJORIE KNILLING HONORED

The atmosphere which pervaded the Red Coach Grill on Wednesday, the fifteenth, held nothing of the sadness of farewell, even though the luncheon was honoring Mrs. Knilling as she retires from the Library after ten years of service. With a warm friendliness, the guest of honor made the rounds of all the tables chatting with each of the more than fifty friends who were present (and they were from a remarkably large percentage of the departments in Central Library), radiating a feeling of happiness and good cheer which was contagious. From the arrival of the guest of honor to the group's spontaneous rendition of "Margie" (dating some and totally unfamiliar to others), all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Louis Polishook, her Chief in Central Charging, did a masterly job of spacing his appropriate remarks, and of prolonging the excitement of the gift presentation by doing it in two installments. The first half was a charm to be added to Mrs Knilling's bracelet--on one side of which sparkled a diamond; on the other, the engraving B.P.L. 1953-1964. The second half was a card containing, in addition to the traditional white ribbon bearing the names of friends, a sum of money which will be used to buy luggage for a trip to Hawaii, which is on her schedule for late spring.

It was evident that Mrs. Knilling had endeared herself to many in her ten years in the Library, and that these friends will always remember her special charm, her warm friendliness, and her noteworthy contribution to Library service. All good wishes for success go with her in everything she undertakes!



THE
Question
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

APRIL 1964

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Publications Committee: Michael Arnold; Jean Babcock; Barbara Bachrach;
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Stotz; George Scully, Cartoonist; Sarah Usher,
Indexer; Edward J. Montana, Jr., Chairman.

Publication date: Deadline for submitting material:
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National Library Week is causing a great deal of excitement this year. On billboards, in street cars, even on the pages of a TV magazine you will see one or the other of the slogans for 1964. The first is READING IS THE KEY with a colorful reproduction of that symbol; the second shows a young boy and a book, with the caption, I AM WHAT I KNOW.

These slogans illustrate two ideas. The most obvious is that reading, and by extension, libraries, is an essential part of everyone's life, whether done for business or pleasure, or more usually, for both.

The other idea follows from the first. If reading is the key (to the knowledge that makes a person what he is, to understanding, or whatever), it is the librarian who guides the hand, young or old, that turns the key. And what an awesome responsibility this is. For a great deal of what happens once the door is opened depends on the librarian. Will the youngster read Golding, or will he turn to trash? Will the elderly person try to improve his mind, or just to pass the time as painlessly as possible?

This responsibility and its acceptance make librarianship a profession. Without this acceptance, such work is only a trade, and the librarian a hack.

Spasmodic bursts of feverish activity are not the sign of a 'good' librarian. Hurried straightening of chairs, moving of coats, making sure that no one uses call slips for scrap paper, and generally causing mayhem has never helped service or improved a patron's mind (and that after all is what a library is for). Rather they are generally the signs of a complete lack of purpose and direction. This same "librarian" is usually the one who will tell a patron to look up something in the catalog himself because he is too busy. Being busy, it seems, covers a multitude of sins, never mind whether the business is library-directed or not.

No, good librarianship is a quiet, constant thing, involving the leading of a patron, by the hand if necessary, to the catalogue or the indexes, and repeating, sometimes over and over again, the proper procedure. Remarkably, many patrons do not understand what we librarians consider the simplest, clearest instructions, but.... Good librarianship also means that the librarian must be well informed. For example, he must be able to tell the patron that Galsworthy is dead, and therefore his biography will be found in one place, and that Updike is alive, and information about him must be sought somewhere else. Above all it means being courteous, and willing to take an active interest in the patron's problems.

All of this sounds like a large order in these days of overcrowded and somewhat understaffed libraries. But the solution here is the same as elsewhere: the librarian must do the best he can, and as long as it is the best, the spirit of professionalism will be satisfied.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Executive Board, with Mrs. Conley of the Personnel Committee, in attendance, recently met with Mr. Gaines. One of the topics under discussion was the library's health program which is to take the place of the nursing service no longer available since the retirement of Mrs. Wollent. Administrative notice #27 has since been distributed to all units of the library.

The Board also discussed the possibility of a salary increase for members of the LA service. We feel that the present scale is out of date and should be readjusted. I hope to have more definite information available in the near future.

The need for the establishment of an in-service training program for LAs and the need for an orientation program for all new employees was also discussed. Mr. Gaines made the point, and the Board agrees, that staff members who lack certain basic skills, typing, shorthand, etc., can obtain them by taking advantage of the Adult Education programs which are made available at many institutions at a nominal fee. The Board pointed out that there was a great need to provide information on the new, correct, and uniform methods of procedures in the library. The necessity of making employees aware of the functions of every department in the BPL was also touched upon. This would give staff members an opportunity to transfer, when a vacancy occurs, to other departments in which they might have an interest or for which they might be better suited. Such a program could work both ways: it would

increase the efficiency of the employee and his value to the institution and it would give the employee a sense of belonging and a sense of loyalty to the library. Another important factor which was discussed was the need to re-write and bring up to date a procedures manual. Mr. Gaines suggested that perhaps, in time, the library might establish a position of Training Coordinator but that it would take time and money to study the problem and to set up a program.

The question of the publication of job description sheets was brought up. The Board feels that they should be made available as soon as possible. Mr. Gaines said that he had been unable to do so because of a heavy work load and a shortage of staff but that he would make the information available to Department Heads if there is a need.

Our thanks to all the enthusiastic contributors to the Bazaar.....but don't forget to come to Camelot on Friday, April 24!!!

MARY T. CROWE
President

PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered:
Bethany Tudor - Fine Arts
Mrs. Margaret S. Scarpa - East Boston
Ellen J. Barton - Cat. & Class. -
HR&CS
Ronald A. Brewington - Book Stack
Service

William Herlihy - Book Stack Service
 Harry E. Arnold - Open Shelf
 Joan Morris - Science & Tech. - former
 employee
 Claire E. Ahern - Cat. & Class. - Ref.
 Frederick D. Hill - Book Stack Service
 Denise M. Barry - CCR
 Bernard Hrul - Book Stack Service -
 former employee

Entered Military Service

Thomas J. Saunders - Book Stack Service

Transferred

J. Theresa O'Conner from History Dept.
 to Faneuil
 James M. McNiff from Book Stack Service
 to Exhibits Office

Resigned

Geraldine Cudmore - Cat. & Class. -
 HR'CS - another position
 Jon Lawton - Open Shelf - another
 position
 Judean Langone - Brighton - resigned
 John J. Donovan - Per & Newspaper -
 resigned
 William Salvia - Book Stack Service -
 resigned.

THIS WONDERFUL WORLD OF RESEARCH

On March 24, 1964, Mr. Bradford M. Hill, Acting Chief Librarian for Reference and Research Services, gave a talk entitled, "This Wonderful World of Research" to the Women's Club of the City of Boston, on the research facilities of the Boston Public Library.

The Boston Public Library is one of two public libraries that are members of the Association of Research Libraries. Its special collections is an important factor in certain fields of research.

For Example:

The Tichnor Library of Spanish and Portuguese language and literature is nationally known and is consulted by scholars working in this field. This was the gift of George Tichnor,

former Professor of Romance Languages at Harvard and a member of the first Board of Trustees of the BPL.

The Barton Library contains one of the best collections of Shakesperiana outside the Folger Library in Washington.

The Prince Library, the personal library of the Rev. Thomas Prince, pastor of the Old South Church, is exceedingly rich in rare books relating to the history of New England before 1758, and includes the Ray Psalm Book and Eliot's Indian Bible.

The Adams Library, the personal library of President John Adams, is of interest because it preserves in a single collection the private library of a great statesman.

The Allen A. Brown Music Library is one of the most important gift of books that the Library ever received and is internationally known.

The Galatea Collection, the gift of Col. Thomas Higginson, is of particular interest to the ladies as it is a collection relating to the history of women and contains many unique items.

Bibliographies are an important component in any research library. General bibliographies such as that of the British Museum, La Bibliotheque Nationale, and the Library of Congress are as important as single bibliographies on a single person or subject. The Boston Public Library has thousands of the latter.

However, it is the serial publications that form the basic collection of a research library for these contain original source materials that cannot be found elsewhere. The Proceedings and Transactions of Societies form a considerable part of the serial publications at the Boston Public Library.

The place of periodicals and encyclopedias was also stressed. The Boston Public Library is particularly rich in periodicals in French and German as well as in English covering the humanities of the 18th and 19th Centuries. Such encyclopedias as the Encyclopedia Italiana; the Enciclopedia Universal Ilustrada, the famous Ilustrated Spanish encyclopedia in 90 volumes; Der Grosse Brockhaus; and La Grande Encyclopedia, are the base of any encyclopedic research collection.

The audience was very attentive and interested and asked many pertinent questions following the talk. Coffee was served before the meeting and a luncheon followed.

ARTHUR W. MULLONEY

Mr. Arthur W. Mulloney, Reference Librarian of the Government Documents and Social Sciences Department has retired from the BPL after 33 years of service. He did not quite duplicate the record of his father, William J. Mulloney, who had 54 years of service at the time of his retirement. However, in quality, it was the same kind of high service - a dedication to the best ideals of the library profession. Quietly and minus fanfare the library lost a most important member of its staff.

It is said that everyone is replaceable and that the work continues. There are times when this becomes a saying only, and replaceability in quality and personality becomes a difficult matter. The loss of a specialist particularly suited by manner and interest to work with the public is not a minor matter. Librarianship depends primarily on knowledge plus interest in each and everyone's search for knowledge. Mr. Mulloney had a rare blending of the two.

During World War II Mr. Mulloney left us for three years. He served in India and China as a radio operator in the Air Transport Command.

Flying the "Hump" on planes that barely skimmed the mountains and becoming involved with and surrounded by jungles while on land was a far cry from his normal environment. Although naturally reticent, we would now and then prevail upon him to tell us of some of his adventures. To say that they were interesting, exciting and hazardous is to put mildly the effect they had on listeners - especially the library aides who were always enthralled. During these campaigns, Arthur collected the Air Medal with Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross with Clusters.

The staff of the Government Documents and Social Sciences Department with three former members of the staff tendered a luncheon for Mr. Mulloney at Joseph's Restaurant on March 18th. It was particularly enjoyable as it was not only a time for reminiscences but of plans for the future as this is just the beginning of some special one for Arthur. We wish they all come true.

M. F. D.

Sunset

The setting sun with its light
Obscures everything
In its final glare and glimmer.
Night creeps up
To scare some child not asleep.
The wind chilled and tired
Rushes home
To a comfortable bed.
Everyone keeps to himself.

g m a cumming

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Constitution Committee:

Louis Polishock
Gerald Ball
Martin F. Waters
B. Gertrude Wade
William R. Lewis, Chairman

House Committee for Men:

Thomas J. Manning
Robert Schleeauf
Michael Venezia
Francis Cox, Chairman

Legislative and Legal Matters:

Louis Polishock

Personnel Committee:

Grace Marvin
Josephine Kelley
Harold Brackett
Brenda Hemingway
Corinne Henderson
Sheila P. Stevens
Ruth Marshall
Helen Harrington
Lillian Gallagher
Elinor D. Conley, Chairman

Special Services Committee:

Patricia Neth
Doris E. Gray
William R. Lewis
Mary E. Obear, Chairman

Nominating Committee:

Mary Curado
James Ford
B. Joseph O'Neil
Olive Partridge
Eleanor Conley
Max Anapolle, Chairman

Hartzell Mem: Lecture Committee:

Rose Moorachian
Ruth Hayes
B. Joseph O'Neil
Jane Manthorne
Grace Marvin
Bridie Stotz, Chairman

House Committee for Women:

Jean Babcock
Josephine Conroy
Marion McCarthy
Dorothea Morgan
Barbara Feeley, Chairman

Membership & Hospitality Committee:

Mary V. Curado
Jennie Femino
May G. Langton
Margaret E. Lewis
Helen Rothwell
Isabel Martino, Chairman

Program Committee:

Geraldine Altman
Margaret Hoare
Euclid Peltier
Sadie Rotonao
William Ward
Lana Mayberry, Chairman

Care Committee:

Anne Dray
Marie Cashman
Rhoda Blacker
Selma Horwitz, Chairman

Sort Committee:

B. Joseph O'Neil

Concession Committee:

Dorothea Morgan
Margaret Lyons
Ruth Foley
Frank Cox
Claire O'Toole, Chairman

Entertainment Committee:

Jeanne Hayes
Eleanor Halligan
Bertha Keswick
Sheila Stevens
Barbara Doran
Regina Cotter
Marie Quinn
Jean Babcock, Chairman

SOCIAL NOTES

Announcement is made of the engagement of Lana Marion Mayberry to David Wesley Reed. Miss Mayberry is a Pre-Professional Assistant in the Adult Services office of the Home Reading Division. She is studying for her Master's degree at Simmons College, School of Library Science. Mr. Reed is a candidate for a Doctor of Science degree at M.I.T. The wedding will take place on Saturday afternoon, June 20, in their home town of Pittsburgh.

*** *** *** ***

On Thursday, March 19, the Red Coach Grille was the gala setting for a festive send-off to Mrs. Helene Fisher (better known by most BPLer's as Rusty), of the Personnel Office. Needless to say the guest of honor was both surprised and overwhelmed at the tremendous assemblage in her honor. The presence of her charming mother at the head table was also a pleasant and quite unexpected surprise. In between succulent courses Mr. Gaines, very eloquently, presented her with a money bouquet along with the best wishes of all her co-workers. Rusty had been with the BPL for over five years and as we all know was always ready and willing to answer the many questions pertinent to personnel policies which have arisen in that time. She will certainly be missed by all, but we know she will be much happier in her role of mother and thus we bid her a fond adieu, and all hope her expected heir will be blessed with its mother's russett locks.

*** *** *** ***

The Committee and Chairman of CARE wish to thank the Departments and Branches for their contributions amounting to \$100.40 for this worthy cause.

Anne Dray
Mary Cashman
Rhoda Blacker
Selma C. Horwitz, Chairman

The staff of the East Boston Branch are proud to announce that John Barravecchio, a senior at Boston Latin School and a library aide at East Boston, has been the recipient of an \$1800 scholarship to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, New York. Besides working as a part-time employee at East Boston, John finds time to remain second in his class at Boys' Latin and also to work as a volunteer at the Children's Hospital Blood Bank. He is a member of the Key Club and the National Honor Society at Boston Latin School.

*** *** *** ***

Miss Rita Desaulniers was hostess to the Business Branch staff at a party held at the Desaulniers mansion in Dorchester on April 2. Guests of honor were Miss Jeanne Fitzgerald of the Business Branch, and Paul McGerigle, formerly of the Business Branch and now with the Massachusetts Dept. of Administration and Finance. The couple are to be married on April 25.

As the one and only romance to have its beginnings on City Hall Avenue, this was a particularly happy occasion for all concerned.

Miss Desaulniers served a delicious ham buffet, and there was an appropriately decorated cake.

The bride-to-be was presented with the practical, if unsentimental, gift of a steam iron and left-handed ironing board.

Background music was provided by four or five pianists, who were discovered among the guests.

The wedding will take place on April 25 at the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown.

CURRENT EVENTS

Attending the meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America at the new Beinecke Library of Rare Books and Manuscripts at Yale University on April 3 and 4 were John Alden and Ellen Oldham of this Library's Rare Book Department. The two had an opportunity to examine and admire the spectacular award-winning building, especially designed for the scientific care of rare book materials. Among the speakers at the meeting were William A. Jackson, head of the Houghton Library at Harvard, and John Sparrow, Warden of All Souls' College at Oxford. In attendance were many of the leading figures in the rare book world, as well as Sir Frank and Lady Francis of the British Museum.

At the beginning of his lecture Mr. Jackson, on behalf of Harvard, presented to Yale a copy of the first American edition of Lawrence Sterne's Sentimental Journey, printed at Boston in 1768 without indication of place or printer. In this the Boston Public Library had a small part, for it was John Alden who in the course of his research identified this edition for what it is, thus making it a fitting gift to Yale.

*** *** *** ***

BOOK AND AUTHOR LUNCHEON

The 5th annual Book and Author Luncheon sponsored by the Boston Chapter of the Women's National Book Association (WNBA) and the Boston Herald-Traveler was held Monday, April 13 in the Ball Room of the Statler-Hilton Hotel. An informal cocktail-meet-the-authors hour in the Tudor Room preceded the luncheon. Promptly at 12:30 Mary K. Harmon, President of the Boston Chapter WNBA and Juvenile Editor of Houghton Mifflin Company, welcomed the 640 guests. As usual, the gay spring hats, relieved here and there by the unadorned head of the male of the species, provided the right tone

of springtime festivity to the occasion. Following the delicious luncheon, topped off by the Statler's world-famous ice cream pie and strawberry sauce, the President called the assembly to order (no small task). She graciously thanked all those who had worked so hard and contributed so generously to make the luncheon a success, especially "the help" in the Promotion Department of the Herald-Traveler.

She then introduced the head table guests, the four representatives of the publishing firms who had so generously made it possible for the four authors to be at the luncheon. They were Isabell Holland (J.B. Lippincott), Paul Brooks (Houghton Mifflin), John Gregg (Doubleday), and Arthur H. Thornhill, Jr. (Little, Brown). Mrs. Endicott Peabody, First Lady of the Commonwealth and Honorary Chairman of Massachusetts State National Library Week, who was to have graced the head table, and to have brought the greeting of the Commonwealth, at the last minute was unable to attend due to the illness of one of her children. She dropped by to bring her regrets and greet the authors during the cocktail hour.

Miss Harmon then turned the program over to Mrs. Alice Dixon Bond, Literary Editor of The Herald. Mrs. Bond as Mistress of Ceremonies with her usual graciousness introduced the guest authors. The first speaker was Mrs. Lail Wertenbaker, author of the current best seller, THE EYE OF THE LION. Mrs. Wertenbaker set the right tone with her charm and combination of wit and wisdom. When Mrs. Bond introduced the next author, it was easy to realize her pride, for Harold Bond, author of RETURN TO CASSINO is Mrs. Bond's son. He is currently Head of the English Department at Dartmouth College. His book is the vivid record of his return to Italy, a year ago, where he shared with his

wife and four young daughters his experiences in that country during World War II. His remarks brought into the Statler-Hilton Ballroom a vivid sense of what it was like to be a participant in the march on Rome in 1944 - and what it meant to come through such an experience and return to his native land. Professor Bond's moving account was counter-balanced by the scintillating remarks of Marya Mannes as she recalled her writing career from the age of five, to her forthcoming book, BUT WILL IT SELL?. The program was concluded by Vincent Sheean, author of the popular DOROTHY AND RED, and ended another successful Book and Author Luncheon became history. EDNA G. PECK

*** *** *** ***

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

The Third Governor's Conference on Libraries took place on April 16 in the Main Ballroom of the Sheraton Plaza Hotel in Boston.

After the invocation by the Right Reverend Edward G. Murray, President, Board of Trustees, BPL, and a short address by Governor Peabody, Richard J. Sullivan, Chairman, Board of Library Commissioners, told the audience that the contract for the Eastern Region would be signed with the Boston Public Library soon, and that regional service should begin by July 1, 1964. He emphasized the fact that service would begin gradually, and would pass through various phases before being completely implemented.

The Dorothy Canfield Fisher award of the Book-of-the-Month Club was presented to the Avon Public Library, and to its Director, Arthur V. Curley. Mr. Curley was formerly a member of the BPL's Open Shelf Department. The award, one of nine, was a check for \$1500 to be used for the purchase of books, and was in recognition of improvements made in library services.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Benjamin C. Willis, General Superintendent of Schools, Chicago,

Illinois. Dr. Willis spoke of the triple role of the library as trustee of the intellectual character of the future; as educator of all people, and on all subjects from knitting to political science; and as the guide in the recreative life of man: with more leisure should come more cultivation.

The members of the large audience had the opportunity to talk with friends and to enjoy a pleasant meal (at least it wasn't chicken).

EMILY DICKINSON REVISITED

Readers of the QM (see p. 5, Sept. 1962) will be pleased to learn that the Library's collection of Emily Dickinson letters is no longer "meanly housed" in a dilapidated cardboard box "that once must have held shoes or envelopes." The Barcroft Bindery has recently provided a handsome case of grey cloth, with a blue Nigerian goatskin spine titled with letters in gold.

ANNA J. SCANLAN

Too Much

Too much is past

Beyond repair.

Too much is done

Without result.

Too much is said

And gone undone.

g m a cumming

CONGRATULATIONS

To Ervin J. Gaines, Assistant Director for Personnel, BPL, on his appointment as Director of the Minneapolis Public Library. We wish him good luck and every success in his new position.

HAVE YOU SEEN ...

...the Rand-McNally ad for National Library Week which appeared, among other places, in Time, p. 85, April 17? Take a look and compare it to those spread on walls and doors around this building. (We couldn't help it, that's what they sent us). They took the slogan, which is from James Russell Lowell and perfectly respectable, "Reading is the Key", enlarged the letters and put them above and below a big gold key. Wasn't that clever? Such originality! Who is responsible? Give him a scholarship, put him under contract. We can't allow such talent to escape!

Come on, ALA, let's get on the ball. You'll never lure anyone into a library with that old, tired symbol.

*** *** *** ***

...the new pamphlet, MUSIC DEPARTMENT: A GUIDE, ? and a very attractive brochure it is. Besides being very informative, it is the latest effort to jazz up (if you will pardon the expression) the Library's publications. Congratulations and more power to the officials responsible, to Mrs. Bleeker and her staff, and to George Scully (Exhibits) who drew the design. A wonderful job!

*** *** *** ***

...the pamphlet, SERVING OUR STUDENTS: GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS ON STUDENT USE OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY. This is a

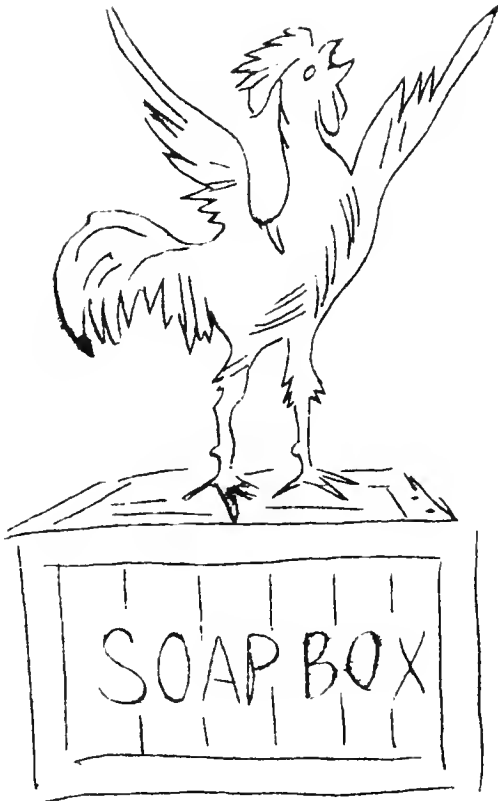
very important (and well-prepared) document which sets forth the attitude of the BPL toward the students and their problems. While maintaining that the student and the teacher must share a part of the responsibility for good library service (e.g. by not mutilating materials, or by not assigning the same topic to very large groups), it is realized that the major part of the task is the librarian's.

Furthermore, the Library will do everything it can to ensure that the student is satisfied. A quick reading will alert the staff member to the specifics of the problem and tell him what he is expected to do.

NIGHT-WALK

The dark night
Has settled upon its mattress
Sighing
As its tired body
Falls upon the feathery softness.
Each street-light
Stirs and awakens
Blinking and finally
Wide-Awake
Glaring
At each passing figure.
The wind
Quietly walks about
Staring at the sky and the stars
Humming to itself.
The great stretches
Of green grass
Turn grey-black
A huge carpet
Stained
By some muddy rain.
The bright buses
Run past, crying
And afraid to stop.
The dark cars
With their piercing eyes
Hurriedly
Flee past
Searching for something
Lost during the day.
The tall trees
Calmly watch
And are contented
To be left out.

g. m. a. cumming



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

Editor

Question Mark:

For many years it has been an accepted fact that promotions in the Reference and Research Services were few and far between. Unless a department had a certain number of persons, only two titular positions were assigned. Ironically the more specialized areas often had the least staff members. The status of the library as a research center more often than not rested on the shoulders of these specialists who were denied recognition under the numbers system.

I would like to suggest that more Reference Librarian or P3 positions be established. In subject areas where the library has an extensive or important collection a specialist should be assigned with the proper rating. For instance, there should be a Reference Librarian-History as well as a Reference Librarian-Genealogy, a Reference Librarian-Newspapers, as well as a Reference Librarian-Periodicals, and a Reference Librarian-Social Sciences, as well as a Reference Librarian-Government Documents. I could mention a dozen more, especially in those subject fields where it is planned to set up separate subject or area departments. Effort has been put forward to attract people by higher starting salaries. It would seem even more important to hold the most able. The incentive needed might be opportunities for specialization and promotion within the service. We could very well use the services of at least 12 more such P3's immediately for the accelerated ordering program which would be the result of state aid money.

Sincerely,
M. F. Daly

To the Soap Box:

Is there going to be anything done about our Coffee Shop when the annex is no more? Many of our staff members have come to depend on this

shop when working at odd hours or when on the one-to-nine shift. We sincerely hope that suitable arrangements are being considered for a new Coffee Shop in our new building.

Hungry

Soap Box:

"Fifty million times a day, at home, at work, or on the way, there's nothing like a Coca-Cola, nothing like a Coke". Remember that ad from a few years back? Disregarding the plug for one of our national institutions, let's turn to the first phrase---50,000,000 times a day---and see if it, too, cannot justly be applied to much of what the librarians, PP's, LA's, and Junior LA's do, and---unnecessarily? Why are they forced to spend so much time with the trivia of slip shuffling and re-shuffling, alphabetizing and re-alphabetizing; endless repetitions of directions as to procedures; answering equally endless requests for the location of various departments, or public telephones, or rest rooms?

Are the slips so vital as to necessitate being handled four, five, more times? Could not more direction and location placards be openly, visibly distributed, and attention brought to them (whether by means of gaudy neon lights, firecrackers, Hollywood style searchlights, or more 'sophisticated' techniques)?

Could not a schematic map or outline of the library be drawn up and made readily available? Could not clear, concise procedural brochures, pamphlets, folders, or better yet, leaflets be printed, and distributed as a matter of course to each patron who approaches an open desk with a directional problem?

If these admittedly relatively insignificant annoyances could even partially be alleviated, would not genuine service be improved in an equal, opposing degree?

Patience-tearing-trivia: if we can't kill it at one blow, let's at least try to force its eventual retreat, one step at a time.

Mischa

Dear Editor:

The BPL indoctrination handbook, 1962, distributed by Personnel, says on the dress of male staff members: "Dress - Members of the staff are expected to present a neat appearance and be appropriately dressed when on duty.

It is difficult to specify precisely the clothing to be worn, but in general the following rules should be observed for staff members serving in open departments or in public corridors. Men - Should wear conservative shirts with neckties properly in place. Trousers should be neat and of quality acceptable on conservative social occasions. Coats are optional (underlining added).

Women - ...extreme styles, colors and manner of dress are to be avoided. Employees doing heavy work like cleaning, carrying or shelving books may wear clothing appropriate to the task."

I applauded this statement when it appeared because of its reasonable approach. I was particularly dismayed when G.A.N. 1964-no. 30, Attire in Public Departments, appeared with the statement, "Recently there has been a tendency for some men to appear in public departments without coats. They are requested to resume the wearing of coats at once (except when performing work that is especially heavy)."

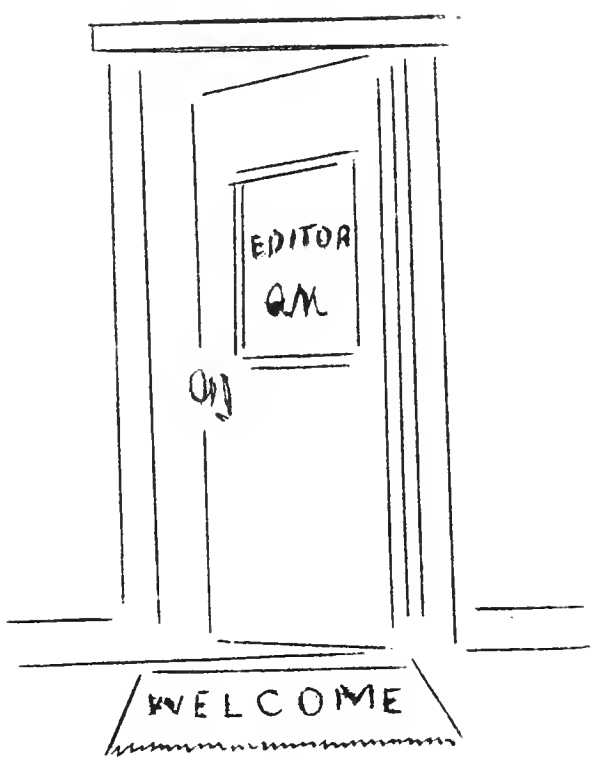
Why this abrupt departure from the indoctrination handbook statement?

Certainly a clean conservative shirt is not inconsistent with a neat appearance and appropriate dress.

With the approach of the warm weather many men on the staff are going to be extremely uncomfortable if required to wear coats while on duty. Customs have changed. No longer is a coat required to present a dignified neat appearance. The white summer dress uniform for Navy CPO's and officers is coatless, uses a short-sleeved shirt. The summer uniform of the Boston Police is likewise coatless. The trend is toward light-weight, comfortable clothing.

Please, cannot the edict on men's coats be reconsidered?

NO AIR CONDITIONING



Ask the Editor

COFFEE SHOPPE

The demolition of the Annex is about one year away, and it is still too early to tell what is going to be done. No decision has been made at the present time. As for eating facilities in the new building, the architect's plans have not been prepared as yet, and therefore nothing definite can be stated at this time.

DIVISION OF LIBRARY OPERATIONS

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QUO VADIS?

The Exhibits Office has prepared a set of floor plans of the central library building showing all important public departments and certain other areas; there are shortly to be

available in mimeograph form. They will serve to help in the orientation of new staff members and will be useful to the departments in providing directional information to the public.

More important will be the execution of a program now being planned by the Division of Information with the library's consulting Architect. This involves the installation of floor-plan directories, illuminated signs, signs designating departments (wherever feasible), and public notice-boards.

It is recognized that there is a great need for the installation of directional aids in the building. The architect has been asked to expedite his part of the planning of the installations.

DIVISION OF INFORMATICN

***** ***** *****

QUO VADIS? (2)

Pamphlets describing resources and giving general directions have already been prepared for the Education and Music departments. More are forthcoming and eventually the entire Division will be covered.

DIVISION OF REFERENCE AND RESEARCH SERVICES

***** ***** *****

TOO MUCH PAPERWORK?

Certain statistical information is needed, and it is hoped that this is being gathered as efficiently as possible. Any useful suggestions are always welcome.

Also, the Council on Book Delivery Service has recommended that the "books out" indicator record in Bates Hall be discontinued. If it is possible to implement this suggestion, there should be an appreciable decrease in the amount of paper work now being done.

DIVISION OF REFERENCE AND RESEARCH SERVICES

MORE P3's?

The Division has already added more P3's in the General Reference, and Cataloguing and Classification Departments, and in the Kirstein Business Branch. This was done for various specific reasons, e.g. KBB has three floors, each devoted to a different aspect of the branch's work. In General Reference it was necessary because this department also buys for the Language and Literature, and Religion, Philosophy and Psychology Departments.

Furthermore, a study is being made of the feasibility of appointing more P3's in other subject fields.

DIVISION OF REFERENCE AND RESEARCH SERVICES

LIBRARY DRESS

G.A.N. 1964 - no. 30: "Attire in Public Departments" supersedes the paragraph on page thirty-nine of the indoctrination handbook, WELCOME TO THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY (1962). Some relaxation in hot weather may be expected.

DIVISION OF PERSONNEL

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CAMELOT

BAZAAR

IN CAMELOT - IN CAMELOT - IN CAMELOT - IN CAMELOT

PROGRAM

"It's true... it's true, the crown has made it clear... there's simply not a more congenial spot for happy ever-aftering than here in Camelot, in Camelot"

1:30 p.m.

Everyone will "smile in secret delight" when they hear the folk music of Ray, Joe and Lloyd.

3:30 p.m.

Come be young before you're old and hear Susan Gill sing "Camelot" followed by Lee Meissner, folk singer and guitarist.

5:15 p.m.

It's time for every frivolous whim but take time to hear Mary Walsh and Carmela Aufiero as ~~etc~~ sing musical selections and to hear Mrs. Ruth Bleecker and Natalie Palme play the recorder.

COME ONE ! COME ALL !

Accompanied by ANGELO MAMMANO, of course!

B.P.L.S.A.

"Don't let it be forgot, that once there was a spot,
for one brief shining moment that was known as Camelot."
Spend one brief shining hour...or two...or three at the



BAZAAR

APRIL 24, 1964

10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Lecture Hall

of the Boston Public Library

B. P. L. S. A.

THE
Question
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAY 1964

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIX Number 5

May 1964

Publications Committee: Michael Arnold; Jean Babcock; Barbara Bachrach;
Jane Manthorne; Sheila Stevens; Mrs. Bridie Stotz;
George Scully, Cartoonist; Sarah Usher, Indexer;
Edward J. Montana, Jr., Chairman.

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

The Spring months - May and June especially - suggest something different to everyone, but to a certain group attached to the Library Establishment they mean proms, parties, and finally, graduation. This group is not listed in the library tables of organization - those administrative hierarchies that are more intricate than the British Peerage and more valued than the French - as Professional, although they do professional work, or rather some of the work that professionals do. It is not noted as non-professional either; as a matter of fact it is usually not listed at all. And yet we depend on these people, variously known as pages, library aides, extras, etc., more than we like to admit.

Their principal job is, of course, to run slips; whenever you see a walking pile of books, you can be sure that there is a library aide under it. They push trucks that would challenge a stevedore, label and mend books, and travel up and down stairs, sometimes six flights at a time in order to satisfy some scholar's thirst for knowledge. Going on errands, stamping, sorting, and a thousand other things are all within their province.

The youngsters who work in a library are usually brighter than most. It is very difficult to "put something over on them". They sometimes give the impression of having memorized the staff manual and will quote you chapter and page if they feel their rights are being infringed upon. And woe to the full-timer who does something and then corrects an aide for doing the same thing.

Just as few men are heroes to their valets, so few librarians are heroes to their aides, which is perhaps one reason why so few enter The Service after graduation. They know too much.

A library aide will work hard and well if he feels he is treated properly, but because he is not a permanent member of the staff he can also be bluntly honest. A person who is not respected by an aide, is usually not respected by anyone else, although the latter will seldom say so. Very accomplished mimics, they will lampoon pomposity, ridicule incompetence, and be impatient with inefficiency. They are, all in all, a good barometer for the workings of a department.

This attitude often gets them into trouble as they irritate, but because theirs is not a permanent appointment, this does not bother them too much. They can afford to be objective. They are also criticized for being noisy, but then what youngster isn't, on occasion. However, to most of us they are the people who do the jobs that we would rather not do, keep service running smoothly, and last but certainly not least, provide the humor which helps us to resist the temptation to take ourselves and our Positions too seriously.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

On behalf of my family and myself, I wish to thank the members of the staff for their expressions of sympathy.

*** *** *** ***

I still have nothing conclusive to report on the LA salary schedule at this time. I can only assure the membership that the Executive Board is deeply concerned about this matter and that we will continue to press for a fair and reasonable salary scale.

I am happy to report that the job description sheets for LA 2, 3 and 4 positions in the branches have been distributed.

The Executive Board and I would like to express our thanks to Miss Jane Manthorne, the members of her inspired and hard-working committee and to all the members of the staff and their relatives and friends who contributed so much time, enthusiasm and effort to make the Camelot Bazaar such a tremendous success.

MARY T. CROWE
President

PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered:

- Frederick D. Hill - Book Stack Service
- Bernard Hrul - Book Stack Service - re-entered
- Denise M. Barry - Central Charging Records
- Christine M. Scholtz - Book Prep. - a former part-timer
- Mrs. Helen Harrison - Charlestown - former library aide
- Mrs. Audrey H. Anderson - Audio Visual
- Jane E. Freitas - Brighton Branch
- William W. Holmes - Book Stack Service
- Dawn C. Furr - Book Stack Service
- Carol A. Feuerstein - Bookmobiles (was employed here as a coop student)
- Mr. David G. Nevin - Mattapan - Professional librarian

Married:

- Judith G. Clarke - Open Shelf - to Mr. Stephen F. Grohe - May 1, 1964

Resigned:

- Betsey Thorin - North End
- Amanda Irons - Book Stack
- David Frary - Bookmobiles
- Marie E. White - Charlestown
- Dolores A. O'Hara - Cat. & Class. Reference - to accept position with Baker Library at Harvard

Transferred:

- William Scannell - from Audio Visual to Book Purchasing
- Michael Tiorano - from Book Purchasing to Receiving, Shipping, Stock and Supplies
- Margaret E. Lewis - from North End to South End
- Brenda H. Hemingway - from South End to Mt. Pleasant
- Irene M. Mains - from Mt. Pleasant to Charlestown
- Rose Marie DeSimone - from East Boston to North End
- Ronald McLeod - from Central Charging Records to Audio-Visual
- Roderick Slowe - from Book Stack Service to Central Charging Records
- Lawrence G. Scott - from Book Prep. to Central Charging Records
- Helen Harrington - from Book Prep. to Book Purchasing
- Frances E. Spencer - from Open Shelf to South Boston
- Roberta Permatteo - from Book Purchasing to Personnel
- Mrs. Margaret H. Zindler - from South Boston to East Boston

The membership of the SORT Committee as published last month was incomplete. The corrected notice is as follows:
SORT Committee
Jean Babcock
B. Joseph O'Neil, Chairman

JOIN MLA IN 1964

CAMELOT REVISITED

This past week our proposed gift from BPL employees to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library soared above the twenty-five hundred dollar mark. For this unheard of surpassing of our original thousand dollar goal, we can point to the tireless, inspired workers in our branches and Central Library and say a resounding Thank You!

At the time of our last Question Mark article, certain Camelot Bazaar committees had not yet been formed. To fill out the roster of committee members who have not been recognized to date, we add the following contributors of much time, energy, and goods.

Working with Mrs. Margaret E. Haverty on the White Elephant Booth were Mrs. Sarah Flannery [History], Mrs. Belle Levin [Roslindale], Helen Colgan [Uphams Corner], Mildred Kaufman [Mattapan], and Mrs. Patricia Czabator [Jamaica Plain].

Joining Louisa S. Metcalf [Readers Advisor for Adults], Mrs. Geneva R. Kershner [General Reference], and Mrs. Geraldine Altman [Jamaica Plain] in selling books, prints, and recordings were Mrs. Geraldine Beck [Hyde Park], Mrs. Helen Bickford [Open Shelf], Mrs. Ruth Bleecker [Music], William Casey [Codman Square], Florence Connolly [Fine Arts], Rose Marie De Simone [North End], Nura Globus [Mt. Pleasant], Madalena Holt [Lower Mills], Linda Ivers [Mt. Bowdoin], Mrs. Mary Langton [Hospital], William Lewis [History], Ruth Marshall [Education], Ruth Michelson [Book Selection, Reference], Edwin Sanford [History], Genevieve Moloney [Branch Issue], Mary Rea [Book Purchasing], Mrs. Beryl Robinson [Readers Advisor for Children], Russell Scully [Book Selection, Reference], Paul Swenson [Prints], and Veronica Yotts [Audio Visual].

Sharing the platform with Louis Polishook [Central Charging] as a true price-getting, boost-bidding auctioneer was Robert Lane [Central Charging]. Behind-the-camera in helping visitors put a head on the headless knight was Marjorie Gibbons [Washington Village].

Several Bazaar-goers commented on how they repeatedly tried to leave the festivities in order to keep other appointments, but "something new always seemed to be happening." Responsible for the

constant entertainment were:

Angelo Mammano	Mrs. Ruth Bleecker
Euclid Peltier	Geraldine Gardner
Barbara Feeley	Mrs. Sheila Stevens
Jean Babcock,	Chairman

To all members of Shipping, the Bindery, Exhibits, Records, Files, Statistics, and the Information Office go hearty cheers. Much of their work was behind-the-scenes paperwork, decorating, delivering, building, and making ideas come true.

The unsung workers on the Bazaar were those who joined Thomas P. Geoghegan in all the details of Lecture Hall facilities and arrangements. They virtually put the Bazaar together and then had to take it apart. Our gratitude goes out to the following members of the Buildings Department:

Mary Sands	Joseph Mercer
John Allix	Paul Miles
Edward Blake	Martin Murphy
James Cunningham	William Murray
Israel Dobkin	David O'Keefe
Anthony DeFilippo	Harry Parker
Joseph Fallon	Pasquale Piantedosi
John Farrell	William Reynolds
Philip Fay	Robert Schleeauf
George Gentile	Stephen Searles
Frank Green	John Tuley
Austin Garrity	Anthony Vozella
Adolf Grenda	Joseph Cullinane
John Howard	Leo Keane
William Kane	John Kelly
Warren Madden	Mrs. Crowley
James Masterson	Mrs. Driscoll
Frank McDonough	Mrs. Rollins
John McManus	Mrs. Splaine
John Mealey	

And to the following Bindery workers for their efforts especially in preparing the booths:

Henry Fahey	Bill Nelson
Bernie Doherty	Steve Baxter
Chester Walsh	

If we have missed a contributor in our thanks, it is because our breathless over-all success has obscured important details from our thinking. Our gratitude to each other will continue until a great new library joins ours on the Boston skyline - and long after.

JANE MANTHORNE, Chairman
Camelot Bazaar

COMMENTS ON CAMELOT

Comments on Camelot will doubtless be varied and many. Those of us who manned the "Pastry Shoppe" had the opportunity to make an observation not evident to all. We do not need to comment on the superb organization of the Camelot Bazaar carried out by Jane Hawthorne. We knew she would do a good job - and look who she had for a steering committee. We do not need to comment on the generosity of the staff who individually and collectively gave without measure of their time, talents [and what talents were revealed] and money. We knew that the BPL has the most generous staff in the U.S.A. We do not need to comment on the good fellowship that was engendered; it was evident everywhere. We need not say what a pleasure it was for those on the front lines to welcome back the many retirees who came bearing gifts and went away with arms full of purchases and pockets empty of money. All this was self-evident and heart warming. But we would like to comment on the fact that over the years there have passed through Book Selection dozens upon dozens of books in which the authors have explored, delved, probed and propounded answers to the enigma of the Great Hunger. We now have an answer, maybe not the definite answer, but an answer observed from the Crow's Nest of the Pastry Shoppe on Friday, April 24, 1964. The Great Hunger of the American people is for home-made bread, not the bread observed basking in the sun of a bakery shop and bearing proudly the sign "Home Made" but the kind of home baked bread that was contributed by staff members and their families to Camelot. Bread made with "a little bit of love" and a lot of good New England know-how; loaves individually shaped and carefully wrapped; loaves that smelled too good to be true - but they were true: this is the kind of bread America hungers for. We had 25 - 30 loaves to sell. We could have sold 125 - 130. And what does this mean? There must be a moral somewhere. Does it mean America is weary of "pseudo" - in all its manifestations. Does it mean America is ready to return to substance? Does it mean that the American people should beware of signs? Choose your own implications. They are there to be found and applied individually. One thing only is sure. The Pastry Shoppe committee is

grateful for all the fabulous food donated. We are especially grateful for the home-made bread and the lessons to be learned from it.

EDNA G. PECK

*** *** *** ***

"A MOVEABLE FEAST"

George Frazier had been mentioning Hemingway's new book with such near idolatrous pertinacity, that I dropped everything and read it in about 5-6 hours. Its meager length [211 pages] and its subtitle give a deceptive view of slightness. It is a meaty and fascinating book. The famous terse unadorned style is at its most effective, and puts him back permanently at the top of modern American writers.

The subject of the book is Hemingway in his early twenties in Paris, poor, proud, stern and disciplined with himself about his writing, and very much in love with his young wife Hadley. But the great fascination of the book lies mostly in the pictures that emerge, both friendly and hostile, of the people he knew. Poor Gertrude Stein will never recover from what is done to her in this book. More knowledgeable readers than myself perhaps knew that the phrase "lost generation" was not coined by her. A mechanic working on her Ford had made some error and his boss called him and people like him generation perdue and Gertrude had repeated it to Hemingway and applied it to him and other dissipated Americans in Paris. A very unkind reference to Ford Madox Ford will attach itself in a reader's mind to that author for a long time. Wyndham Lewis is called the most evil man in the writer's experience. And F. Scott Fitzgerald comes out indisciplined, petulant, irresponsible and spoiled. Yet after presenting him as such in many pages, Hemingway reads THE GREAT GATSBY, and decides that he will always remain Fitzgerald's friend - no matter what his behavior.

There are very sympathetic portraits of Sylvia Beach with her bookshop. He used to be so poor that he couldn't afford to eat every day, and used to walk long distances making sure that he passed not streets where there were smells of

"A Moveable Feast" cont.

MRS ROLLINS RETIRES

food. Once he walked into the bookshop and Miss Beach spoke to him about looking thin and perhaps not eating enough; but because of Yankee reserve she didn't know how to offer him some food and he didn't know how to ask, and he walked out as hungry as before.

The best picture is that of Ezra Pound, and though the book was written 35 years after the Paris events, Hemingway does not say a word about Pound's subsequent career. Pound was the great friend and encourager of talent, and helped everybody who was in need. He and Hemingway founded a group who supplied a little money each month in order to make it possible for T.S. Eliot to give up his job in a London bank and have more time to write poetry.

There is an excellent description of Hemingway's method of writing, and interesting opinions on contemporary painting, food, wines, racing, the difference between the clienteles of the Cafe Select and the Dome, etc. Of chief interest to librarians are the remarks he quoted from friends about books. Hemingway was much excited by Dostoyevsky. He asked Pound how so undisciplined a writer who broke all the rules could create such vital characters. Pound replied that he had never read the "Rooshians" Gertrude Stein told Hemingway to drop everything and read Marie Belloc Lowndes and Fitzgerald urged him to give his days and nights to Michael Arlen.

One quotation will give the flavor of the book. He had just discovered the SHAKESPEARE AND COMPANY bookshop and Sylvia Beach had let him take several books out although he could not pay for the rental card. He told his wife all about his new find, and she said - Does she have any Henry James, and he said Yes, and she said We're lucky you found the place, and "... we're always lucky, I said, and like a fool did not knock on wood."

A feast of a book is A MOVEABLE FEAST.

HARRY ANDREWS

*** *** *** ***

When Mrs Elizabeth Rollins joined the staff of Buildings at Central Library on October 22, 1947, as one of the "Cleaning Ladies", she brought with her a determination to do everything within her power to fulfill her duties conscientiously and always to the very best of her ability. During the seventeen years in which she put these high resolves into practice, she never once wavered in her belief that the job at hand demanded her best. It was this pride in her work and this honest approach to each job that won for her the respect of all those with whom she came in contact.

The Chiefs in Stack 4 had for some years presented Mrs Rollins with a small remembrance at Christmas time. This year they decided to move Christmas ahead to April and to present their gift on her last day of work. Their intention leaked out, and news of it spread — as good news has a way of doing — and each one who heard asked eagerly to be included.

When on the morning of April twenty-third Mrs Rollins slipped quietly into the Women's Lounge at ten-thirty, for a last look around and perhaps to indulge in a few nostalgic thoughts, she found herself surrounded by well-wishers. In their behalf, and in deep appreciation, Edna G. Peck presented her with a gift of money. Mrs Rollins accepted the gift with appropriate remarks, and we might add with the poise and ease of a seasoned speech maker. Then all had a chance to wish her well in her days of leisure. And where was Mrs Rollins on the first day of her retirement? At the CAMELOT BAZAAR "investing" some of her gift!

That her future days may be bright and happy is the wish echoed by all her friends at the B.P.L.

* * *

Mrs Rollins was guest of honor at a luncheon given by her fellow workers on April 20th. There she was presented with a token of appreciation by her friends and well-wishers.

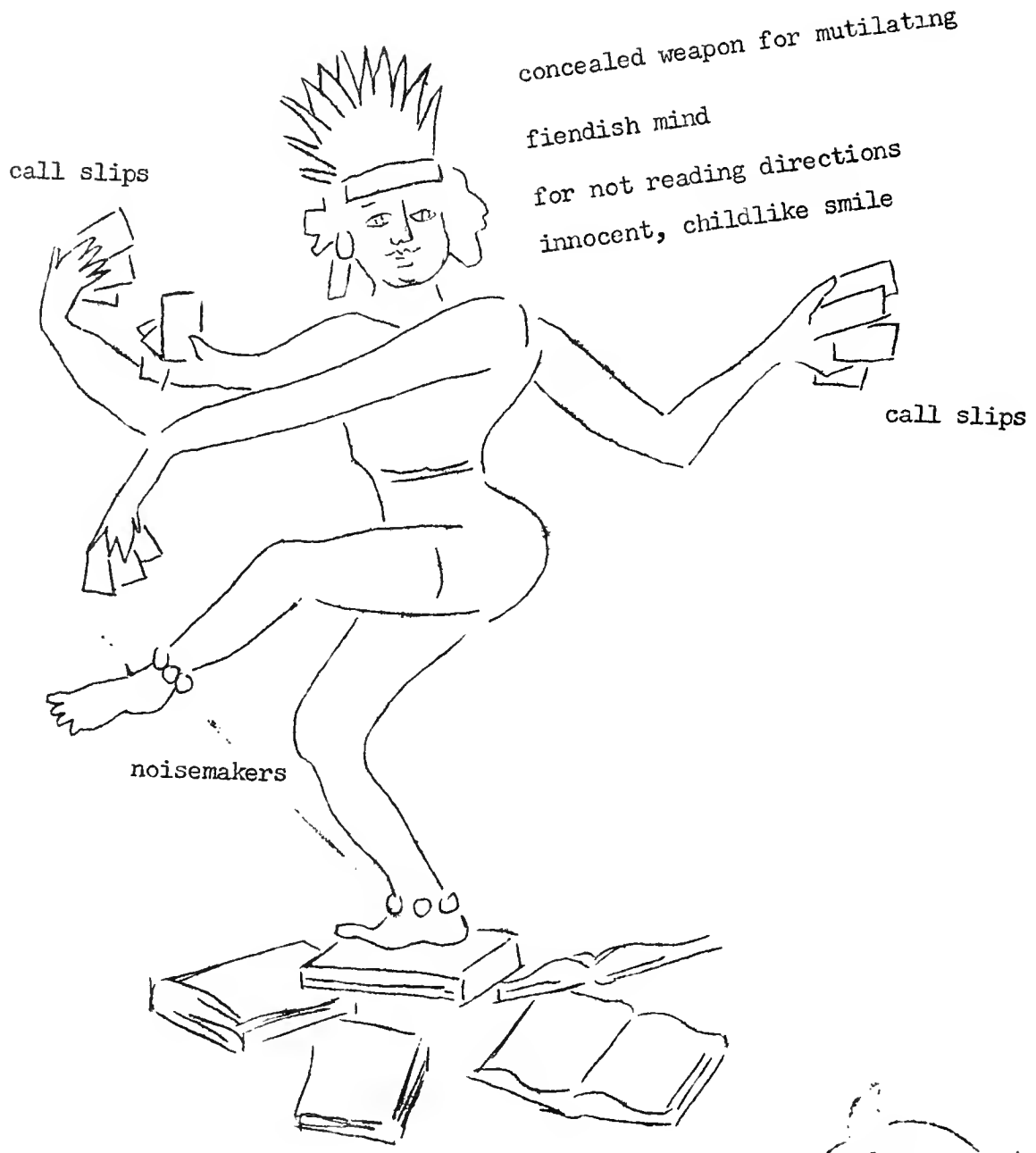
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BEST WISHES!

To Esther and Macy Margolis [General Reference] on the birth of a second son, Jonathan Oren on 15 April 1964.

*** *** *** ***

NIGHTMARES OF OUR TIMES



A TYPICAL STUDENT
(A LIBRARIAN'S FANTASY)



NIGHTMARES OF OUR TIME

John M to her

How dare you
take so many
call slips!

I'm sorry but
it's not on shelf.

KARDEX

SUBJECT
HEADING

7 6 4 0 1 1 =



NOT AVAILABLE

A TYPICAL LIBRARIAN
(A STUDENT'S FANTASY)



LOUIS R. RAINS

Louis Rains, Curator of Engineering Sciences, after more than 30 years of Library service, has announced his retirement. From the time that Louis started as an "extra" in South Boston 34 years ago, he has been making warm fast friends of almost everyone he has been associated with.

Many of us would like to know his secret. Whether it is the fact he was born in South Boston and was a resident of East Seventh Street [being from South Boston is usually an assurance of political success]. Or that wide friendly grin. Or that luxurious moustache. We suspect the reason is that everyone knows that Louis is most sincere, has a genuine concern for everyone's feelings, has the courage of his convictions, and never forgets a friend.

Louis's wide Library experience included duty in the Office of Mr. Orlando C. Davis, Chief Librarian of the Circulation Division; the Branch Catalog; the Kirstein Business Branch; the West End Branch Library, the Director's Office; Bates Hall, and General Reference Department before he went to the Science and Technology Department.

Louis is more than a top-notch librarian. On military leave of absence from September 1942 to November 1945, he served as a "medic" in the United States Naval Reserve. He was a Chief Petty Officer when he returned to the Library. Because of his competence in this work, he was selected to conduct a course for Library employees in first aid, and was often called upon to render assistance in emergencies when the Library Nurse was not available or when she needed assistance.

The Library staff will never forget the excellent job he did in directing the Library Centennial Musical Revue, Free to All. The success of this musical, certainly one of the most pleasurable memories that we have of the Library and its staff, was due largely to Lou's insistence on a high level performance, and his gift of getting the cast to extend themselves to limits of their talents. Everyone liked working for and with Louis.

Louis worked on a host of Staff Association Committees, particularly on the Personnel Committee, through which he was most influential in bringing about many beneficial changes for the staff. The

staff elected him an officer of the Staff Association many times, as President three times, more times than any other person has ever been President. It would have been many more than three times, if Louis had not been constantly fighting off Nominating Committees trying to get him to allow his name to be entered on the ballot. He was elected as a member of the Steering Committee of the American Library Association's Staff Organization Round Table, and represented this Library at SORT meetings at the ALA National Conferences. He is a very active member of the Boston Chapter of the Special Libraries Association serving in many capacities including Treasurer, and was elected Vice President and President-Elect.

Who can forget the numerous parties and picnics organized by Louis, as the guiding genius of the Chowder, Chatter and Marching Society? The beach parties at Durbury on June 17th were always successful regardless of the weather because of all the work, organizing and planning which Lou and his gracious wife Lee, did. The parties at the China Star, which hardly needed a reason for being, were a Rains specialty.

How can the Library get along without Louis? The truth of the matter is we cannot. So Louis contrives to come back on business once or twice a week so that we can bask in the glow of his smile and admire the moustache and the Brooks Brothers suits he wears so well.

He has accepted an appointment as Librarian of the Research Division of AC Spark Plug in Wakefield but he will always be one of us.

The staff honored him at a retirement coffee hour in the Staff Lounge and again at a CCMS retirement party at the China Star, but we are glad that his retirement is really a continuation of a most successful career in librarianship.

Louis Rains, our congratulations on your success! Your countless friends salute you as a prime example of How to Succeed as a Librarian Without Losing a Friend. [Behind every great man... We knew all along that Lee Rains, Louis' charming wife is responsible for only 90% of Lou's success, but take a bow for the other 10% Lou.]

The noise emanating from a celebrated Quincy restaurant on the evening of April 12, 1964 was not the sound of a jet plane breaking the sonic barrier, but the sounds of tables being turned with a vengeance. For this was the evening when the tattered remnants of the once glorious legions of the C.C.M.S. gathered to pay homage to the celebrated party-giver of Science & Tech - Louis Rains. The role of Elsa Maxwell for this soiree was undertaken by Ed Peltier of Audio Visual. Ed, who has all of Elsa's talents tho little of her girth, proved to be an arranger par-excellence. Even the pre-celebration collection was a huge success because of the large bills so generously donated by friends of the grand old man. There were three telephone bills, a water bill and a ticket for two dress shirts held in escrow in a South Boston laundry. There wasn't a dry eye in the China Star as an overflow crowd gathered in the famous Elbow Room to pay tribute to the leader who had so often exposed them to virus pneumonia on the frigid beaches of Duxbury. Tributes to this glorious leader were fulsome and the gifts were even fulsomer. Among the items received were a combination sword-cane and king size swizzle stick designed for stirring stabbing, or supporting him while in line for unemployment benefits, a life-time pass to the Stack Six washroom, a set of plastic pizzas [for people allergic to cheese] and a twenty volume set of General Administrative Notices bound in alligator skin. High spot in the evening's festivities was a magnificent off-Broadway production of "That Was The Life That Was". Against the melodic background of the twin glockenspiels played by two ex-members of Lawrence Welk's orchestra who had been dismissed for failing to smile during a commercial, a little group of thespians who were long on enthusiasm [if short on rehearsals] dramatized some of the lesser known episodes in our hero's dramatic rise to obscurity. Mr. Rains was so overwhelmed by the presentation that he announced with spontaneous generosity, that any of his former friends could have a free set of AC sparkplugs simply by tearing off the top of their car and mailing it to him with \$10.00 to cover postage. Even those allergic to rice [which included most of the married men] had to admit that this was the saddest and best gathering of all.

*** *** *** ***

On the very wet evening of April 8th, the staff of Mt. Bowdoin Branch braved the elements and met at Jimmy's Harbor-side for a farewell dinner in honor of Miss Anne Coleman, who has been transferred to Faneuil Branch.

We were happy to have former staff-member Miss Marie Kennedy join us for the occasion. We emerged, hours later, so replete with food and fellowship as to be undaunted by the still-rainy weather.

After seven years at Mt. Bowdoin, Miss Coleman will be greatly missed by members of the community. Our best wishes follow her to Faneuil.

* * *

The Camelot Bazaar was a great success - financially, socially, and as a morale booster! We at Adams Street Branch suggest having one every year to benefit a scholarship fund or several charities. Does anyone agree! Everyone does agree that it was an immensely enjoyable event.

[signed] Elinor Conley
Rhoda Blacker
Anna Gallivan
Patricia Glancy
Agnes McDevitt
Jo Ann Mitchell
Sadie Rotondo

* * *

On Saturday morning, April 25, Jeanne M. Fitzgerald [KBB] was married to Paul McGerigle [formerly KBB] at the Sacred Heart Church in Belmont. The ceremony was performed by Father Norman O'Connor, well-known jazz critic, who made a special trip from New York for the wedding.

Phyllis Patrick [KBB] was the matron of honor and Sheila Stevens [Cataloging, R&RS] the bridesmaid.

Jeanne was an exceptionally lovely bride and Paul an exceptionally proud and happy groom. After the reception at The Town Line House in Lynnfield, the couple flew to the Virgin Islands for a ten day honeymoon.

* * *

FIRE-ESCAPE

A long iron stairway
 Covered with red rust
 Reaches from floor to floor
 A visible bridge
 From one level to another.
 In some places
 The paint has weathered away
 And dry scaly rust marks each spot.
 The steps are evenly spaced
 But not well worn
 Like those leading up to an attic.
 At each level
 Dirt marks the footprints
 Made by some person
 Fleeing from within.
 The very top cannot be seen
 Only its bottom
 And distant sides.
 Only the pigeons
 Or an occasional fireman
 Ever seem to go up there.

g m a Cumming

*** **

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Mr. and Mrs. Walter Erickson [Rhoda
 O'Donnell Erickson, formerly of Home
 Reading Office] on the birth of a 5lb.
 14 oz. son, Stephen Carl, on May 13.

*** **

WORLD'S FAIR

"Libraries and librarians will be on display this summer at the World's Fair in New York. There, professional librarians from all over the country will staff a computer-equipped reference library for fair-goers. Facilities will include a ready reference service for visitors via some 2,000 standard reference books, supplemented by an electronic information retrieval system; a collection of 2,500 children's books; a theater for storytelling and audio-visual presentations to introduce young folks to the world of books; and a browsing area where adults can relax and examine a duplicate of the President's Library to be established in the White House and in the Blair House in Washington. Sponsored by the American Library Association, the automated library will be one of the features of the U.S. Government Exhibit."

Saturday Review / April 18, 1964

*** **

DUES DUE

P L E A S E
 DO NOT
 F O R G E T

YOUR

B.P.L.S.A. DUES

SEE YOUR STAFF

REPRESENTATIVE

NOW!

*** **



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

To the Soap Box:

In a vertical file, I found some examinations used in the former BPL training program. I was impressed with what the staff was expected to know, and also I could identify various functions of the different departments.

The BPL no longer has a formal training program. Courses in Library Science help a part of the staff to acquire some necessary knowledge and skills for working in the Library, but library school in

itself does not entirely eliminate the need for an active program within the system.

This is especially true because the operation of a large institution is a complicated and fragmented procedure. Without in-service training it is very difficult for any individual to know as much as he should about the Library's operation. Without such knowledge, one is imperfectly aware of the broader functions and aims of the library. This deficiency applies to both professional and non-professional staff members. Aside from in-service training more intensive orientation is needed. In this way the staff member becomes more familiar with the administrative functions of the institution and with the requirements of his own position as well as with those of others. A more detailed staff manual would obviously improve the situation. The orientation program of two years ago was one slight step in the right direction, but the other foot apparently never left the ground.

The new building and new regional system seem to offer opportunities and reasons for an in-service training program which would clarify the operating functions and purposes of the library.

CURIOUS

To the Soap Box:

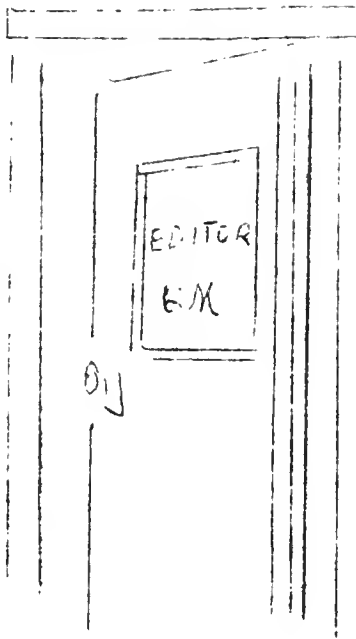
Can't something be done about the lighting system in Central? Some of it is good, but there are parts of the stacks where lights are out, and have been out, for at least several weeks.

The Music and Social Sciences Departments are almost like caves, they are so dark, and there is one department (Periodical), not well-lighted at the best of times, where many of the ceiling lights are usually off.

I hope that something can be done about this soon.

SUZY

JOIN ALA IN 1964



WELCOME

Ask the Editor

LIBRARY LIGHTING

In this current year new lighting systems will be installed in the Fine Arts Department, the Science and Technology Department and the Periodical and Newspaper Department. Steps will also be taken this year to improve the lighting in the Music Department, after the room has been repainted. Other areas of the Library needing to have improved lighting will receive attention as funds become available.

In the book stack areas, an arrangement is in effect whereby burnt-out lamps are replaced as soon as a report is made by the Chief of Book Stack Service to the Superintendent of Library Buildings.

Division of Library Operations

*** *** *** ***

The question of in-service training for IAs is under discussion at the present time with the Staff Association and the Division Heads. A program of this type is, however, dependent on two factors: (1) stability in employment, i.e. less turnover than has been the case; (2) sufficient time for training; a program like this takes up a great deal of time.

The old idea of training professionals by having them work in four to six departments during their first two years of service [this is in addition to a degree, of course] was a good one, and deserves to be considered again. But this presupposes a series of well-staffed departments which will be able to support such a turnover. This situation tends toward the ideal, and is not in existence at the present time.

Although in-service training, of whatever type, is very important, more faith is put in it than is warranted. It is an established principle of learning that any training in order to be effective must be reinforced by repetition and experience. Otherwise it is wasted. This is especially true when a person is taught material that does not directly relate to his job, and is given information which he seldom uses, or which he does not really need to know. Formal in-service training is not the cure-all it is sometimes thought to be.

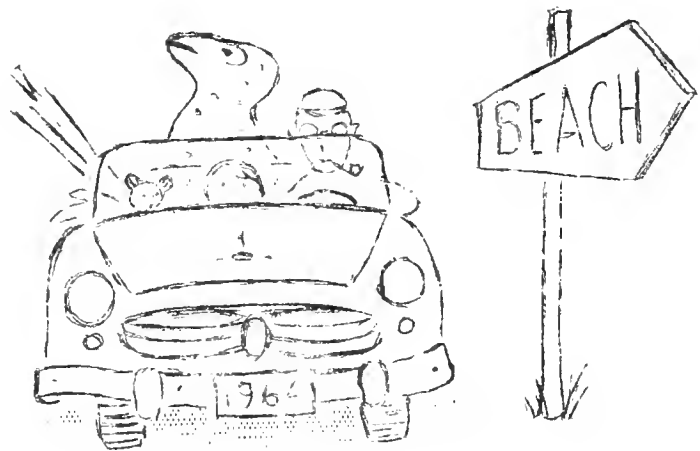
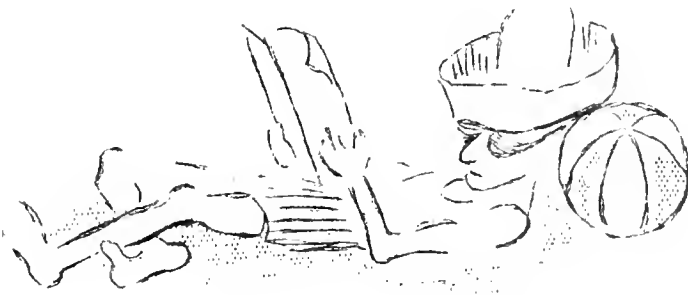
Often, good supervision is an adequate substitute. Here a person, through on-the-job experience, will learn what is essential to his position, as well as how his work relates to that of others. This is sometimes more effective than taking extra courses, because certain types of work, particularly that done by the IAs, are very much the same regardless of department; only the details differ.

Division of Personnel

*** *** *** ***

Before you play
won't you pay

GIVE TO CARE



CARE COMMITTEE

Anne Dray, Roslindale
Marie Cashman, Open Shelf
Rhoda Blacker, Adams Street
Selma Horwitz, Chairman
Roslindale

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ...

THE GRAND FINALE OF THE CAMELOT BAZAAR

Mrs. Rose Kennedy

will speak on

PRESIDENT KENNEDY AS A BOY

and

PLANS FOR THE JOHN F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Features of the program will be ...

Presentation of the gift of the employees of the Boston Public Library to the Kennedy Memorial Library.

Introduction of the new Staff Association Officers and Executive Board.

Come to the ...

Spring Professional Meeting of the B. P. L. S. A.

Friday June 5, 1964 8 p. m.

Lecture Hall, Central Library

Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

THE
Question
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

JUNE 1964

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIX Number 6

June 1964

Publications Committee:

Michael Arnold; Jean Babcock; Barbara Bachrach;
Jane Manthorne; Sheila Stevens; Mrs. Bridie
Stotz; George Scully, Cartoonist; Sarah Usher,
Indexer; Edward J. Montana, Jr., Chairman

Publication date:

The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:

The tenth of each month

When Mrs. Kennedy spoke to us a short time ago, she stressed her son's devotion to the cause of world peace and understanding. She said that the furthering of this ideal was to be the principal purpose of the Kennedy Memorial Library. Therefore, all peoples would be encouraged to have a hand in its establishment. The President's choosing to further his dream through the foundation of a library is significant because it implies that he felt that a library must be a living, growing, changing organism, as it would have to be to fulfill his purpose.

This implication should be of vital interest to all librarians because one of the essential attributes of a living organism is change, a word, it seems, that many of us do not like to admit even exists.

Libraries are for people, and people change. Libraries are agencies for education and recreation, the methods of which are dependent on such impermanent factors as attitudes, finances, habit and custom. It is pretty obvious, then, that libraries (and librarians) should also change. Unfortunately this is often not the case.

Many people apparently feel that each library is a universe in itself. They do not know what is going on in the outside world and what is more, they do not care. They are sometimes not even interested in the library as a whole, but only in their own department, which is, in the manner of the 18th century, the best of all possible worlds. Perish the thought that anything more than an incidental improvement could be made or that regular practices could be carried out differently than they are. "It's always been done THIS way" is the cry. And that is that. The speaker gives no reason, usually because he cannot think of one and would not bother to try anyway. This would require thinking, which is an effort (we are all much too busy for that), and also might cause us to have to admit that perhaps the old way was not the best after all. This is tantamount to heresy in some quarters.

It is much easier to pass off a new idea as one of the delusions of the "younger crew", who will be, after twenty-five years or so in the Service (if they last that long) worn down into the same pattern. Fortunately many librarians are still "young", regardless of their years, this being the reason why some systems or units are good and others are not.

There is nothing so sacred that it cannot be re-evaluated. Perhaps the conclusions will still be the same, but perhaps not too. So, before we all settle into our hammocks for the summer, or rush off to the mountains or the beaches, we might give a little thought to the work we do and the way we do it, whether it is charging methods, the status of our personnel, or the set-up of our own departments. Maybe by Fall we will have some fresh ideas, which are not as dangerous as some would have us think.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

My sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the Staff Association program on June 5th. To Lana Mayberry, Chairman of the Program Committee who exhibited a talent for diplomacy and sheer hard work. To Jane Manthorne whose story about young Paul not only charmed the audience but gave added significance and inspiration to Mrs Kennedy's talk about her sons and the importance of encouraging young people to broaden their interest in and their knowledge of the world which they will someday inherit. My thanks also to Jean Babcock, her committee members and to Helen Sevagian, whose behind-the-scenes activity contributed greatly to the evening's success.

I have nothing new to report on the LA salary situation except that it is our understanding that there is not enough money in this year's budget to allow for any overall increase in LA salaries. The Executive Board and I met with Mr Gaines recently and we emphasised the membership's viewpoint on the need for a reasonable and early solution to this longstanding problem. Mr Gaines expressed an interest in and sympathy for our concern and outlined some of the difficulties involved in reaching an equitable solution.

The Executive Board has appointed a committee to gather material which will provide information on the advantages and disadvantages of unions which will accompany the poll to be sent out to the membership early in the fall.

At the May business meeting, a motion was made and passed that the membership be assessed \$.50 in addition to the regular annual dues of \$.50. This assessment is necessary in order to keep the organization solvent until a constitutional ammendment raising the annual

dues can be passed in January 1965.

MARY T. CROWE
President

PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered:

- James H. Bracy - Book Stack Service
- Patricia A. Stevens - Cat. & Class., R&RS (formerly part-time)
- Alvis H. Price - Egleston Square
- Sheila R. Swalnick - Branch Issue
- Mary Jo Campbell - Book Preparation
- Harriet C. McGrath - Personnel Office, (formerly part-time)
- Robert L. Kavin - Book Stack Service, (formerly part-time)
- Antoinette R. Calabresi - Charlestown, (formerly part-time; now a Pre-Prof.)
- James B. Lannon - Book Purchasing
- Carren Munde - Cat. & Class., R&RS
- Nancy Dubord - Director's Office

Terminations:

- Ronald Brewington - Book Stack Service
- George Moran - Kirstein Business Branch
- Shirley Drumgo - Director's Office
- Susan Moulton - Bookmobiles
- Edward Belsky - Branch Issue
- Catherine H. Farlow - Print Department
- Barbara J. Gorczyca - Division Office, HR&CS
- Susan Polit - Cat. & Class., R&RS
- Barbara Flye - Division Office, HR&CS
- Fredericka J. Wyss - Mattapan Branch
- Mrs Catherine Richmond - Brighton Branch - to remain at home [to take care of Philip L. Richmond 3rd, who arrived in January]

Transferred

Michael F. Lynch - From Book Stack Service to Branch Issue
Robert A. Lane - From Central Charging Records to Book Purchasing
Evon Cairis - From Book Purchasing to Book Preparation

ANNOUNCEMENT

When the members of the BPLSA during the May business meeting voted to assess themselves at the rate of fifty cents per member they were acting within the framework set up by parliamentary procedure.

There was a quorum present. The motion was duly presented, seconded, and the vote was in the affirmative.

Since nothing in our constitution forbids such action, we find it legal and proper.

THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

CONGRATULATIONS

To Lana Mayberry and her committee for providing a wonderful program for the Spring Meeting; to Jean Babcock and her committee for delicious refreshments and elegant service; and to Jane Manthorne who gave one of the best speeches that this Association will ever hear. Unfortunately, Miss Manthorne did not put her thoughts on paper and so, like the orations of Pericles, they are lost to posterity forever.

SOCIAL NOTES

A Triple Celebration

Overlooking scenic Boston and the beautiful Charles River, the Five Chateaux Restaurant was the scene of a triple celebration on June ninth when Mrs Meredith McCulloch, Charlestown, was honored by friends and fellow workers. She was the recipient of congratulations on her newly-acquired degree in Library Science from Simmons, bon voyage wishes as she and her husband leave for a vacation in Europe, and good wishes upon her

appointment as Children's Librarian at the Tucson Public Library. As she assumes her new duties, Mr McCulloch will be attending the University of Arizona with a doctor's degree his goal. Mrs McCulloch, who was presented with a red patent leather dress bag and matching red rose lapel pin, will be missed not only by her fellow workers and the young adults at Charlestown but also by the Young Adult Book Selection Committee on which she has served ably for the past two years.

Bookmobile Bride-to-be

On April 26, Longwood Towers was the scene of a bridal luncheon and shower given to Marjorie McCabe of Charlestown by her co-workers on the Bookmobiles. Miss McCabe is to be married to Thomas Whalen of Charlestown, on June sixth.

The table was appropriately decorated with a bridal center piece and one of the features included a bridal cake baked by one of the bookmobile staff. A delightful luncheon was enjoyed by all.

Miss McCabe was given a money tree by the members of the bookmobile staff.

Our best wishes go with Marjie for a bright and happy future.

Bon Voyage, Mrs Miller

On the evening of April twenty-eighth, the Bookmobile Staff took Mrs Julia J. Miller, Bookmobile Librarian, out to dinner at the Coach Grille in Cambridge Square on the occasion of her future departure on April thirtieth for a trip to Europe. It was a very happy occasion and an excellent dinner was enjoyed by all.

When Mrs Miller left Logan Airport on the evening of her flight to Rome, many of the Bookmobile staff were on hand to wish her an enjoyable flight and they presented her with a corsage of tea roses. Many of her friends and relatives were there also, to see her off.

Mrs Miller is back with us now. She had a marvelous trip.

Since it is impossible to acknowledge the many cards and notes on the birth of our son Stephen, I wish to thank all of my library friends for their kind tokens of congratulations to my husband and me.

It's just another reminder of the happy years I spent at the B. P. L.

Thanks again, one and all.

RHODA and WALTER ERICKSON

To my library friends:

Retirement parties are apt to be frightening in prospect and so it was with mine. I just didn't want to think of it. But when the day came and so many co-workers, past as well as present, arrived at the Red Coach Grill to join in the luncheon celebration, I began to feel differently. In fact, the time spent there on May 28th was very pleasant and will be one of my happiest B.P.L. memories.

My heartfelt thanks to all for your good wishes and their tangible expression. The bag will be a delight to use and the contents a reminder of much generosity on your part. I wish all whose names are on the satin ribbon could have enjoyed the delicious luncheon.

Do look me up this summer if you are in the vicinity of Boothbay Harbor - Juniper Point Road, West Boothbay Harbor, Maine. I'll be seeing you sometime in the future, I hope, in or out of the library, so this is au revoir.

Sincerely,

PEARL SMART

MISS HERZIG RETIRES

Why has Roslindale attained and retained first place in branch circulation for the past ten years? Perhaps, for several basic reasons, but certainly because of the inspiring leadership of its Librarian, Marion R. Herzig. With her, personal service to the public took precedence over every other aspect of library routine. For 18 years, in crowded, unsuitable quarters in the Municipal Building, with a busy gymnasium overhead, she and her staff managed to attract patrons of all ages. Seating was limited, but reference

and book selection demands were heavy, and circulation soared; in 1958, it topped all other branches with 167,377.

Finally, came a busy year of transition, 1961, and Miss Herzig realized every librarian's dream, a spacious, new, well-appointed library. In 1962, the circulation reached 227,539. The library's all-purpose room buzzed with activities, Friends of the Library, films, story-hours, Young Adult Programs, and other community use. Outstanding exhibits attracted city-wide attention. All of this continues, and represents hard work, intelligent planning and total staff cooperation. Working by their side, Miss Herzig provided calm, decisive, inspiring direction enabling her fellow-workers to perform their busy schedules, and subsequently to enjoy the satisfaction of providing quality and quantity in service.

Marion's friends know her to be a serene, feminine woman, with the happy capacity to put people at their ease. Her relations with her staff always seemed intimate and informal, with every possible occasion warranting a social get-together. I believe this pleasant habit was one of her keys to staff solidarity and group achievement. Over the years, Extras always warranted recognition and her personal interest. In that capacity, as a new extra, I first met Marion Herzig at East Boston, 43 years ago; it was her first year in the full-time service. Then, as now, she was clear-thinking, well-oriented, and generous in assisting and instructing those in her charge. Her own aims never prevented her from speeding others to their goals.

East Boston, Mattapan, and Roslindale have been the areas in which Marion Herzig served during her long, commendable career, but the hundreds of assistants she helped to train are serving all over our system, and in other libraries. These, and all her library colleagues, and the large number of friends she has made in Roslindale extend sincere wishes for good fortune, good health, and enjoyable activity for many years to come.

Acceding to her wishes, no general Division party was held in Miss Herzig's honor, but her many friends throughout the library system could not let her depart without expressing their good wishes in tangible form. On her last day of work at the Branch, she was presented

with a large bouquet of spring flowers, a handsome pocketbook containing a sum of money for the purchase of something she has always wanted to own, and a card with the names of her host of friends on the traditional white satin ribbon.

MARY K. HARRIS

B.P.L.S.A. SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the Boston Public Library Staff Association was held on the evening of June 5th in the Lecture Hall. This year it served the dual purpose of introducing the newly elected officers of the Association and of bringing to a close the Camelot Bazaar which was held last April.

On this evening, the proceeds of the bazaar, over 2,500 dollars, were presented to Mrs Joseph P. Kennedy for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library to be built on the banks of the Charles River. It was a rare and unique privilege to have had such a distinguished lady in our midst. In the initial planning stages of the bazaar it was the committee's hope to have some member of the Kennedy family present at a date after the fair to accept the proceeds which were expected to be around 1,000 dollars.

Late in April Senator Kennedy was asked if he would come for the acceptance, but he had to decline because of a previously scheduled trip to Europe to raise funds there for the Kennedy Memorial Library. Not to be discouraged, the bazaar committee decided to ask Mrs Rose Kennedy. Her address was obtained from Senator Kennedy's secretary who was doubtful that she would come because 'she didn't do things like that'. However a letter was sent, Mrs Kennedy consented by telephone, and a date of June 5th was arranged.

At the library, Mrs Kennedy was met by Mr Lord who accompanied her onto the Lecture Hall stage. Welcoming and introductory remarks were made by Mary Crowe, President of the Association and Lana Mayberry, Chairman of the Program Committee. Jane Manthorne, who was instrumental in arranging the Camelot Bazaar, presented a check to the late President's mother.

In her remarks Miss Manthorne spoke of two 'cues' which set the tenor of the

Bazaar. She cited Senator Mike Mansfield who said, "He had a heart from which the laughter came," and President Kennedy's favorite Broadway musical, Camelot. Using these two ideas, the bazaar committee determined to translate a feeling of loss into one of purpose and hope. The actual day of the fair was described: the colorful booths, the gaiety, and the pictures of our eminent forefathers staring down on the mad scene - an image which it was felt would have given pleasure to the President.

Leaving unsaid feelings that were best left unsaid, Miss Manthorne told about one of her young patrons who had earned by his ingenuity an opportunity to study behind the Iron Curtain. She spoke of his need for the Boston Public Library, for the Boston Athenaeum (to which he had access), and of his foreseeable need for the type of material that could be found only in an institution such as the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library.

Mrs Kennedy in her talk used this incident to comment on the value of study abroad for her own children, especially the two older boys, Joe and Jack. Rather than talk about the late President's early boyhood, Mrs Kennedy preferred to look ahead and described some of the plans for the memorial library. She explained that it would be more than an archive. Plans were being made whereby visitors would be able to select and see actual films of events that occurred during the President's tenure in office, such as the Cuban crisis and his meeting with Khrushchev. Included also would be personal mementoes like the famous coconut which he used to save his life in the South Pacific. The Library would be dedicated to 'living history'.

Following Mrs Kennedy's speech and departure, a film, THE JOHN F. KENNEDY STORY, was shown. The presentation of the officers of the Staff Association concluded the meeting which was followed by a reception in the Puvis de Chavannes Gallery. Surely it was an evening not easily to be forgotten.

WILLIAM D. WARDE

JOIN S.L.A. IN 1964

BOOKS AND BEATLES

We are witnessing our teen-agers in the grip of Beatle-mania, buying records and bracelets and sweat-shirts suitably embossed with their hirsute heroes. One dedicated fan we know - a girl who had never before tried the lady-like art of embroidery - cross-stitched a Ringo profile on one of her mother's fine percale pillow cases. Another modern lass made her first voluntary excursion into reading for fun with - you can guess the book - John Lennon's IN MY OWN WRITE

As we witness the power of fads and the shape of heroes which seize young minds, it becomes difficult sometimes to credit the age group with very profound thoughts or individual tastes. So many times they seem to melt together into one shifting mass of inscrutable jelly, as directionless as the paramecia they study in beginning biology.

If we take this well-publicized, loudly-lamented view of teen-agers as the real thing, we err indeed. Proof of the seriousness and purpose of multitudes of young people is at hand, especially in libraries. Particularly worthy of attention is a poll conducted by Warren Harrington, Young Adult Assistant of the South Boston Branch Library during National Library Week. The poll asked students of South Boston High School what books had most influenced their lives. Questionnaires were distributed among student leaders - class officers, National Honor Society members, captains of teams - to determine, in addition to influential books, whether teen-age leaders are readers.

Mr Harrington received in all twenty-two answers, responses well worth the scrutiny of adults and librarians. The selections ranged from the traditional choices which mothers and fathers of the respondents might have cited twenty-five years ago, books such as TALE OF TWO CITIES and LITTLE WOMEN, to very timely literary pieces by Orwell, Salinger, and Golding, who appear repeatedly in polls of young adult reading as the favorite authors of teen-agers.

The poll revealed overwhelming evidence of an inclination to public service, concern for human beings everywhere, and desire to make right moral decisions. The voters showed resolute belief in preserving human rights and serving

others, and they looked for reinforcement of their ideas in the books they read. They found examples of altruism in novels such as Douglas' MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION and Connolly's MISTER BLUE as well as in biographies.

From TALE OF TWO CITIES a senior class representative "learned how much wrong a person does when he infringes upon the rights of others". For a National Honor Society member LITTLE WOMEN proved "how important unselfishness is". LORD OF THE FLIES brought home to a Glee Club member "the need of rules and regulations". CATCHER IN THE RYE showed another reader the temptations and moral decisions facing his age group.

In evidence, too, was worry over greed, corruption, and poverty in this country and the aggrandizements of Communism abroad. Influential was Robert Kennedy's THE ENEMY WITHIN with its exposure of racketeers in America, whereas Orwell's ANIMAL FARM showed "in symbolic style, many aspects and characteristics of 'the other side' in the cold war".

The poll revealed that the heroes of teen-agers are Dr Tom Dooley (four voters chose his books), Dr Albert Schweitzer, and the people who made up John Kennedy's PROFILES IN COURAGE. For the captain of the basketball team Bob Cousy was of heroic stature. He saw in Cousy an example of wonderful perseverance. He met "hardships in his youth which might have stopped many people from attaining greatness".

This sampling of local young people's tastes is only step one in a nation-wide poll sponsored by the American Library Association. Results will be analyzed and publicized during National Library Week, 1965. It will be interesting to compare the youngsters of "Southie" with their counterparts in South Chicago or South Carolina. For the time being we have adequate proof that Beatle-mania does not prevail.

JANE MANTHORNE

READERS ADVISOR FOR YOUNG ADULTS

LENOX - June 11 and 12

The Massachusetts Library Association conference here had the theme: "Library Service to Students of all ages." Studying students didn't seem to stymie Dr Edwin Castagna, the Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. He rehearsed the first of the Daiches fund studies, the one on student use of the Baltimore Library. It documented what librarians had long observed: that there are lots of students trying to learn loads of things in libraries.

Dr Castagna stressed five suggestions made in the report. First, there should be a review of the purposes and methods of reading in the learning process. Second, paperback books can play a large part in relieving demands on libraries. Third, teachers and pupils should be instructed as to what the library can do. Fourth, school library hours should be extended. Fifth, there must be established lines of communication between school and public librarians, among all libraries and all schools. The Enoch Pratt Free Library has established a Coordinating Council and a School Liaison Librarian.

The President of the Adult Education Association of Massachusetts, Dr Anita L. Martin was chairman of an afternoon symposium. E. Porter Dickenson, Reference Librarian at Amherst College, Alice Buckley, Librarian at Jamaica Plain High School and Arthur J. Kissner, Librarian at Fitchburg Public Library were symposium members. Mr Kissner's remarks seemed to sum up the topics of discussion when he called for improvement of all aspects of library services (collections, personnel, buildings) as the best solution to the student use problem.

Rod Nordell, Feature Editor of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR engaged the banqueters with his reminiscences of meeting "Writers Face to Face".

At the annual business meeting the officers of MLA for 1964-65 were elected. Mr Milton Lord, new Vice President of MLA, moved that the Massachusetts Library Association resist the encroachments and pressures of the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission. Including a grant of extraordinary power to the President of MLA, the motion was passed unanimously.

A workshop of planning to meet student needs was directed by Dr Martin. She

outlined five points of consensus of the conference. They were: 1) that communication inside and outside of libraries be improved; 2) that teachers be trained in the best ways of using the library as a pedagogical aid; 3) that libraries and librarians gather facts and figures on the student use of libraries; 4) that public relations be emphasized and improved; 5) that practical politics be mastered by all librarians.

The discussions which followed were to answer the question: "How can the ideal relation among libraries in a community be organized?" The suggestions of participating groups were recorded and will be the subject of a forthcoming report.

The last speaker to deal with the conference theme was Pauline Winnick, Specialist of Services to Children and Young Adults at the U. S. Office of Education. Speaking on "Serving the Visible Student in the Invisible Community", Miss Winnick outlined the national scene. Libraries from Austin to Boston, from Minneapolis to Indianapolis are attempting to serve young people. New Haven sees the library as a cultural center, another city offers a coke and coffee break.

Both Dr Castagna, in his Keynote address and Miss Winnick, in her closing address urged the library profession to be aware of the President's War on Poverty and its implications for libraries.

WARREN HARRINGTON

CARE

The Committee and Chairman of CARE would like to remind the Staff Representatives to collect their contributions and to please send them to Selma Horwitz, Chairman, at Roslindale Branch.

HOW'S THAT?

The other evening, a man holding in either hand a pre-school child entered South Boston Branch. The bigger tot, about four years old, looking around in amazement at the library, still bright and beautiful despite the seven years of service it has seen, announced to her father in those resounding tones of early childhood: "This is the Kennedy Library!"

AND THEN AGAIN --

Many a day has passed
 With
 And then again -- without
 A clean clear sky.

 Many a night has passed
 With
 And then again -- without
 A bright moonlit sky.

 The pale grey clouds
 Hid the sun today
 But not the heat.
 Throughout the darkless day
 It rained
 And then again -- did not rain.
 The rain was dirty
 And the drops were large
 As they fell down
 Smashing and splattering
 Upon the sidewalks.
 When it was dry and hot again
 The air tried to hide
 From the heat
 But only tied itself
 Into huge invisible knots.

Tonight
 The moon stayed in bed
 Too tired and lazy
 To inspire
 A few frenzied lovers
 Lying in the dry dusty grass.

 * * * * *
 Out in my back yard
 The dust lies quietly
 Waiting
 For some one
 To walk by
 To stir it up in to
 Fine grey-white clouds
 That cling to the leaves
 And dirty my little brother's face.

g m a cumming

DON'T

FORGET

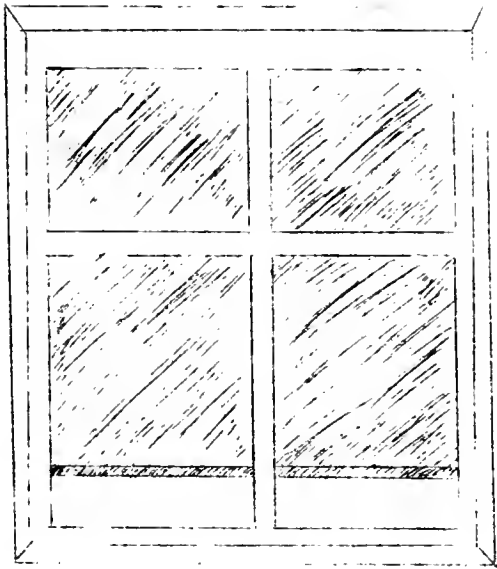
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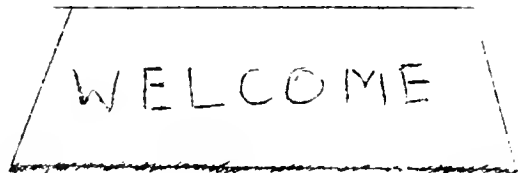
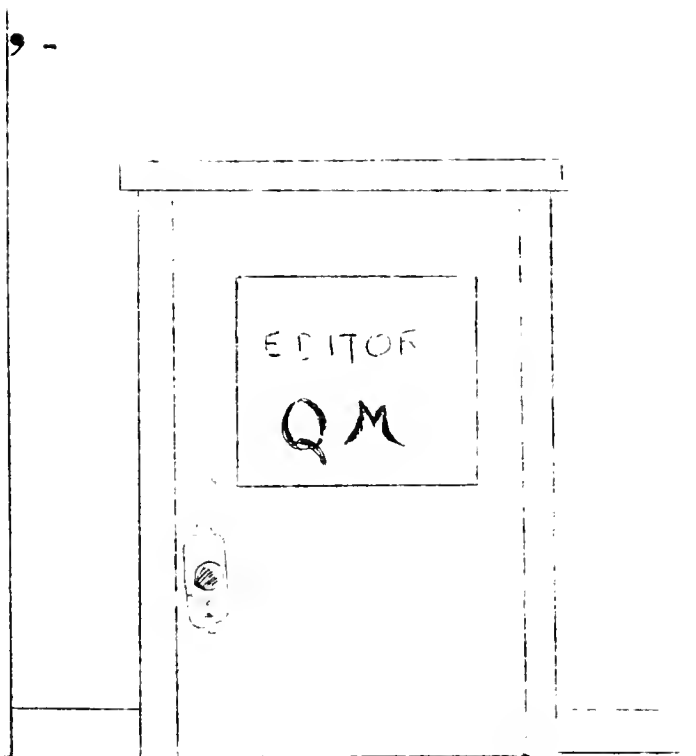
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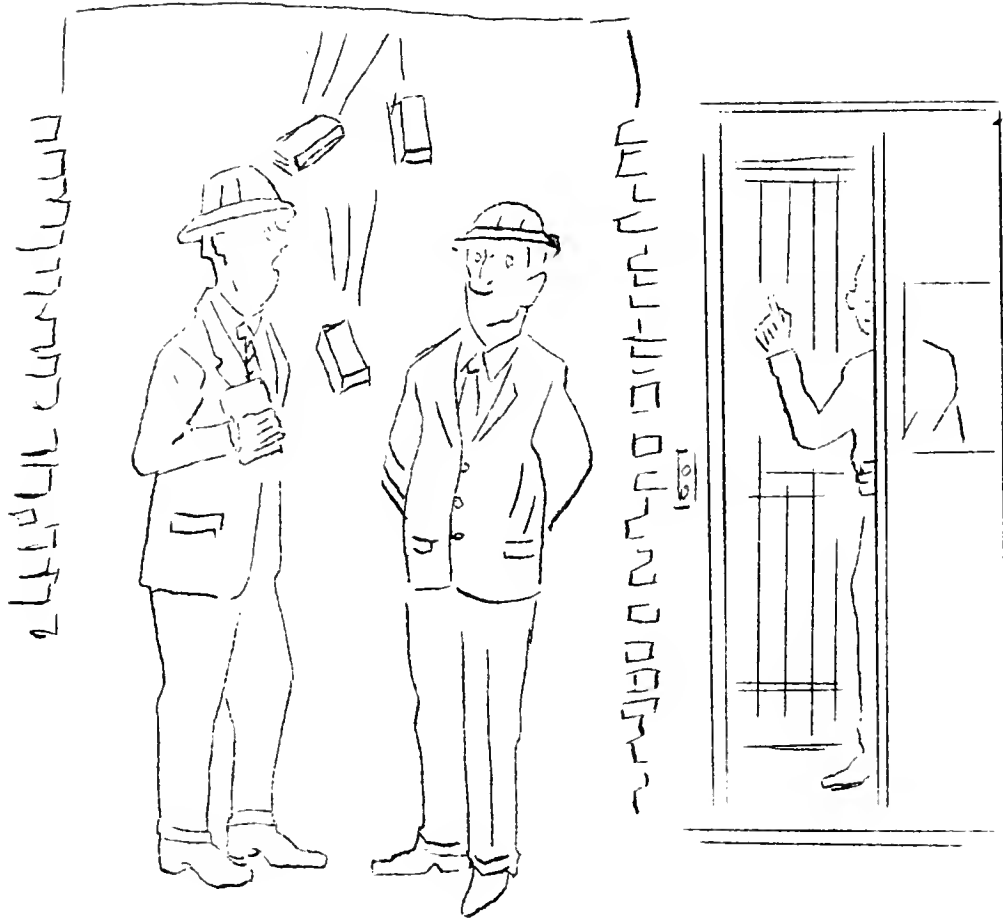
SCAF DOX



ALL

is

QUIET



Just wait till they start tearing down the annex!!

THE
Question
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

JULY 1964

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIX Number 7

July 1964

Publications Committee:

Michael Arnold; Jean Babcock; Barbara
Bachrach; Jane Manthorne; Sheila Stevens;
Mrs. Bridie Stotz; George Scully,
Cartoonist; Sarah Usher, Indexer;
Edward J. Montana, Jr., Chairman

Publication date:

The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:

The tenth of each month

July and August are the lazy months, the hot months of the year, and your Committee is as well aware of these conditions as anyone. Therefore, in keeping with the spirit of the season, this editorial will be short and non-controversial, and the August issue of the QM will be omitted altogether.

By the time we resume publication in the Fall we expect that there will have been many changes. We hope that the newbook elevator will be finished by that time, and that the Regional System and State Aid will be in full swing.

There will also, no doubt, be some new faces on the Staff and some old ones will have left us. In this regard we say goodbye now, and wish them well. They will all be missed.

As for the rest, relax, enjoy yourselves and have a wonderful summer!

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I have very little to report now that the sailing, traveling and climbing season has arrived. The next meeting of the Executive Board does not take place until the end of July.

The committee which was appointed in June, by the Executive Board, to gather information on the pros and cons of unions will make their report to the Board at our July meeting. The information they gather will accompany the poll which will be sent to the membership early in the fall.

I recently returned from the AIA Convention in St Louis and while the weather was far from ideal, I saw and heard a great deal which should mean a good many changes in the future concepts of public libraries. At one of the SORT meetings I was called upon to give a brief outline of the activities of the BPLSA. I naturally took the opportunity to tell the group about the success of the Camelot Bazaar and the later presentation to Mrs Kennedy. I am pleased to report that their response was very enthusiastic. A great many questions were asked and amazement expressed that such a large group could cooperate so completely and so harmoniously. One of the members of the group was so intrigued by the idea that she asked many specific questions with an eye toward planning a program in her own organization. Someone from out West wanted to know if all the members of the BPL staff were Democrats!

The Executive Board and I extend our sincere best wishes to Mr & Mrs Gaines for success and happiness in his new position in Minneapolis.

MARY T. CROWE

THE STAFF IN PRINT

The latest number of The Book Collector (Summer, 1964) contains a Note, "Lord Byron and Mr Coolidge of Boston," by Ellen Oldham, Curator of Classical Literature, describing a presentation copy of Byron's Marino Faliero, Doge of Venice, recently acquired by the Library.

HIGH FLYING PROSE
(from a graduate student).

Letter received by a Reference Department

"Blessings on you! In writing a dissertation one frequently has to resort to letters to clear up certain questions because limited resources simply prevent one from frequent and wide travels, and most of the time one has to deal with confused nincompoops of a singularly uninteresting variety. Therefore, your quick, full, marvelous reply was simply astounding and much, much appreciated. If there is a scholars' heaven, you deserve it; if there is a seventh heaven, you have earned it. ... Maybe I should wish you a lovely place in the Elysian Fields and desire (as Milton would have it) the flowery-kirtled Naiades to escort you there. (Not now, of course. Only after many, many fruitful years.)..."

THANK YOU

We, the Publications Committee, would like to take this opportunity, mid-way through the year, to express our gratitude to all those who have taken the time to write articles or notices for the Q.M. Without your cooperation our magazine would consist of not much more than an editorial and a cartoon. Thank you.

The humid air
Clings tightly
A wet jacket
That refuses to dry.

The smell
Of rain and sweat
Covers everything.

A fallen raindrop
Lies on the dirty street.

Yet, it has stopped raining.

g m a cumming

PERSONNEL NOTES

William C. Maiers

Entered:

- Assunta Donisi - Book Selection
- Sheila M. Powers - Book Purchasing
- M. Elixabeth Friermood - South Boston
- Susan Ann Smith - Book Stack Service
- Maryfaith Sullivan - Hospital Library Service
- Lois B. Lyman - Washington Village
- Ruth Goddard - Cat. & Class. - Ref.
- Lucia L. Blackwelder - Print Dept.
- Martha L. Parker - Cat. & Class. -Ref.
- Sharon Haines - Book Preparation
- Katherine Ann Herron - General Reference

Terminations:

- Alberta K. Decker - Branch Issue -another position
- Mrs. Carol A. Feurstein-Bookmobiles -to be home
- Donna J. Bennert- West Roxbury -moving out of city
- Mrs. Mary H. Collazzo - Central Charging Records
- Blanche Lynch - Hyde Park -move out of state
- Richard Vesey - Branch Issue - return to college
- Ruth Friedman - Uphams Corner - another position
- John J. Cronin - Stock and Supplies - military leave
- Ronald McLeod - Audio-Visual - military leave
- Christine M. Schultz - Book Preparation

Transferred:

- Joan L. Vallee to Rare Book from Cat. & Class -Ref.
- Edward Simone from Book Purchasing to Kirstein

Married:

- Jennie M. Femine (Mt. Bowdoin) to Stanley Kielczewski, (Adams Street), June 21.
- Christina Jaffe (Information Office) to Edward Nee (former employee), June 17.
- Lana M. Mayberry (Division Office HR&CS), to David W. Reed, June 20.
- Marjorie McCabe (Bookmobile) to Thomas J. Whalen, June 6, 1964.

Retired:

- Arthur Mulloney - Government Documents
- Marion R. Herzig - Roslindale
- Pearl Smart - South End
- Taimi Lilja - South Boston

Those staff members who knew William C. Maiers, were saddened by his passing, on July 4, 1964

The pristine new Copley Square building had been opened to the public but two years, and horse cars were still the main means of transportation in the city, when in 1897, a bright young lad presented himself to the library as a potential employee. His alert appearance won him immediate acceptance by Mr Herbert Putman, who was then the Director and who later won international fame as Librarian of Congress. He was employed as a "runner" at \$3.50 per week. The ability of young Maiers did not go unrewarded; six months later in March, 1898, his salary was raised to \$5.00 per week! During his fifty-two years with the Boston Public Library - (he retired in 1949) Mr Maiers made an outstanding contribution to the library. He served in the Fine Arts, Music, Issue and Rare Book Departments before his appointment as Chief of Book Purchasing Department in 1933. He was a "book" man in the truest sense of the word. The library as an institution has benefited greatly by his astute sense of book values and his many practical innovations in the purchasing processes. To the staff, however, Mr Maiers will be remembered with affection for his soft heart, well-hidden by a gruff exterior, and for his wonderful sense of humor. Those who were privileged to work closely with him will consider that experience one of the most enriching of their lives. He once said he had "contentment in retirement". We know he had contentment and a sense of great accomplishment in his work. The library will long feel the impact of his personality.

EDNA G. PECK

The cool air
 Blows over the trees
 Bringing spring-smell
 Each gust
 Each invisible eddy
 Stirring
 Spread the scent.

g m a curming

Charles J. Gillis

This library suffered a severe loss when our Deputy Assistant Director, Charles J. Gillis, died on July 3, 1964. His death was a serious loss to his family as he leaves his wife and three boys. "Charlie", as we all called him, worked here when he was in high school and went on a full time basis in February 1927 in the Branch Catalogue where he served as Second Assistant and First Assistant until he was appointed Chief of Central Charging Records in June 1956. In 1962 he was appointed Deputy Assistant Director.

Charlie was a veteran of World War II, serving as an artificer and also did radar work. He was very interested in that phase of operations and attended classes at Northeastern and Franklin Technical Institute. While in the Navy he went to the Radio and Material School in Chicago, the Massachusetts Technical Institute in Lowell and the Hallberry School in Lexington.

Charlie was very active in the old Employees Benefit Association. He also served as vice-president of the Staff Association and was Editor of the Question Mark. Charlie had an excellent sense of humor and was the most reliable of employees. He will be missed by all.

*

Working in the B.P.L. came naturally to the Gillis family. Margaret (Mrs Gillis) was an employee here before her marriage, and the oldest of the boys, Malcolm, served his term in the Patent Room. We look forward to the coming of David and Charles who will, no doubt, carry on the family tradition.

*

A TRIBUTE

Charles J. Gillis - his military bearing brightened our corridors for many years. I like to think as I walk up the stairs to Stack 3 that he's just around the corner out of sight.

His sense of humor was whimsical and gentle. If you stop beside a group of staff when they're gathered at a lunch table, in the courtyard, in front of the building, you will hear us remembering

around some of the many times he made us smile. He made us smile with our hearts as well as with our lips.

Those of us who worked for him have a special legacy. We remember his fairness, his understanding, his rocklike serenity. We are tied to him by a bond of respect, trust and affection.

It's hard to understand the tragedy of his death. But until we do, I like to think as I walk up the stairs to Stack 3 that he's just around the corner out of sight.

See you later, Beauty Boss.

SOCIAL NOTES

Taimi Lilja

As the sun won its hesitant battle with the enveloping clouds on the morning of June 9, South Boston Branch Library emerged from the threatening fog, and in all its shining splendour became the focal point of interest for many B.P.L. staff members. This was indeed "the day that was" - for on this lovely day in June Taimi Lilja observed her "graduation" as a Boston Public Library staff member. Her wide contacts with her staff associates when she served over the years as a worker with both children and adults had won for Miss Lilja a wide circle of friends. As they gathered from all the units of the B.P.L., and far beyond its confines, these friends became aware anew of the beauty and charm of the South Boston Branch Library building and its charming garden.

Mrs Irene Tuttle and her staff served as most gracious hostesses. The dainty buffet luncheon attests to the fact that librarian and cook may well by synonymous terms. The focal point of the dainty salads, tempting sandwiches, delicious cakes, including the special 7-layer cake by you know who, refreshing punch, tea and coffee, was a centerpiece bearing a "farewell" cake, surrounded by flowers from the South Boston garden. Mrs Tuttle and her staff were assisted by several members of the Mattapanock Woman's Club with which both Mrs Tuttle and Miss Lilja have been associated for several years. Miss Lilja who looked charming in a

rose-hued summer gown.received her guests with gracious pleasure.

Mr J.M.Carroll, Chief Librarian, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, with his usual candor-spiced-with-wit, presented the guest of honor with an appropriate retirement card, containing a substantial amount of green folding paper bearing the photographes of Grant, Hamilton and other national dignitaries. Mr Carroll expressed appreciation to Miss Lilja for the outstanding contribution she made to the B.P.L. during her years of service, and spoke for her friends and associates when he wished her well in her forthcoming busy retirement.

Bon voyage to Taimi Lilja as she goes out into the world on this, the second stage of her career.

EDNA G. PECK

On Tuesday, July 14th, Miss Phyllis Sutton resigned from her position as a Library Assistant in the Open Shelf Department to assume her new duties as an assistant at the Rotch Architecture Library at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A luncheon was given in Miss Sutton's honor at the Town Room of the Sheraton Plaza by members of the department. Miss Sutton was presented with a corsage and a copy of Boston: Portrait of a City, by Whitehill. She plans a vacation with her family in Cleveland, Ohio before starting her new assignment on August 3rd.

We are sorry to see such an efficient and dedicated young librarian leave the Open Shelf Department and the BPL. Her intelligence and charm made her an asset both to the public and to her co-workers. We wish Miss Sutton every success in her new position.

A member of the staff jokingly wrote GONE in the now empty space on the daily schedule following Miss Sutton's name. Shortly afterwards another member added to it - BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.

DAVID WILSON

SHADES OF NIGHT

The day has turned
And walked away ---
An unfinished job behind.
The night creeps up
Looking
For something to hide
To keep for itself
Till it returns.

*

The cold wind
Rushes by
Screaming
And lashing out at everything
While the night sighs
In disgust
Over a bitter friend.

*

The cold figures
Hurry by
Forgetting everything
Even the rose bush
Because it is night.

g m a cumming

Reference Services Division

The Reference Services Division sponsored a program on the publication and reference use of U.S. government publications in the field of law. Carper W. Buckley, Supt. of Documents, complained about the complaints he received. Kate Wallach, Louisiana State University, read a scholarly paper on the use of government documents in legal reference work. Miss Wallach cited several instances in which government publications contained the key information to solve legal tangles. Luther Evans, Columbia University, said we cannot discard government publications. We may have to put them in warehouses, but the best method of preserving this material for future generations seems to be by the use of microfilm.

The Interlibrary Loan Committee had a panel discussion on the changing pattern of interlibrary loan. Doctoral dissertations are proving to be a dilemma, partly because there is no publication that gives adequate information on, or indexing of, completed dissertations. In spite of the agreed policy not to request dissertations on interlibrary loan if they can be purchased from University Microfilms many libraries are not abiding by this agreement.

Schuyler C. Mott, Bernardsville Public Library, reported on the program that was necessary to educate librarians in New Jersey on the potential and use of interlibrary loan. The resulting code provides that delinquent borrowers are not given interlibrary loan privileges and the borrowing library attempts to get the book back if the borrower does not return it.

David W. Heron, University of Nevada, surveyed the use of photocopy as a substitute for interlibrary loan. His study showed that interlibrary loan would be more effective if it required less book-keeping and less correspondence. The major cost seems to be in bibliographical identification and in transportation. The majority of libraries substitute photocopy for interlibrary loan, would accept for themselves the automatic substitution of photocopy for interlibrary loan, and believe the minimum cost should be one dollar.

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At the Council meeting on Monday, June 29, President Frederick H. Wagman reported that fifty-three agencies will cooperate in a conference in March 1965 on student use of libraries. It will be concerned not only with service to those already committed to library use, but with illiteracy and potential library users through the anti-poverty legislation proposed by the President. The prospects for federal aid to libraries have improved.

Treasurer Arthur Yabroff disclosed that the Association exceeded its budget by \$35,000 because the cost of data processing was underestimated [the machine system is not working well]. Income from different sources was consolidated in order to allocate the budget more effectively. The increased income from higher membership dues may be levelling off and other sources of income must be sought.

The Council approved the applications for affiliation with AIA by the Medical Library Association and by the American Documentation Institute.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee, Archie L. McNeal, chairman, reported that the problem of segregation was of paramount concern. Book selection was important too, with representation of all points of view on controversial questions desired. One difficulty is the time lag between the incidence of a problem and AIA's taking action on it. Mr. McNeal said that proposals for reducing the time lag would be presented.

David Clift discussed the reorganization of headquarters, with the grouping of like responsibilities together in order to make better use of staff abilities. Salaries were revised last autumn for grades 13 through 16, with an average increase of 11 percent. Grades 1-12 needed to be improved but increases were not included in the 1964/65 budget. Forthcoming staff changes include the retirement of Mrs. Grace Stevenson next spring.

The Council, on Friday, July 3, heard a report on the establishment of research facilities at AIA headquarters. Funds will be available for an Office for Research as of March 1, 1965. The Committee on AIA Publishing found that chaotic bibliographic control and distribution of AIA publications existed. The funds

AIA Council cont.

were insufficient for the existing and future expanding publishing program. There was a need for experts rather than amateurs to expedite publishing and secure a wider range of professional literature.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws submitted several amendments that would allow state and regional library associations to attain or withdraw from chapter status.

Honorary memberships for life were voted for, and accepted by, Joseph Wheeler and Keyes Metcalf.

The Membership Meeting followed the conclusion of the July 3 Council meeting, with several reports repeated at this meeting. A letter protesting the National Library Week award to the Mississippi Library Association was refuted as an AIA award since the awards are made by the Steering Committee of the National Book Committee.

A motion was then made that AIA officers and headquarters staff should refrain from visiting state association meetings in their official capacity, or at AIA expense, when the state association is not a chapter of AIA. This was directed at state associations that do not allow negroes to join. After an hour's pro and con discussion the motion was approved.

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Catalog Code Revision Committee

The Catalog Code Revision Committee held a two-day pre-conference meeting preceding the AIA Conference. Present at the meeting were Noel Sharp and Philip Escreet, representatives of the Cataloguing Rules Subcommittee of the [British] Library Association. The Committee discussed the rules for uniform titles [principally the Bible] and for legal materials.

One of the decisions made was to depart from the Anglican canon of the Bible with respect to Apocrypha. The individual books of the Apocrypha will be entered like other books of the Bible under the heading Bible. O.T., discarding the term Apocrypha. Collected editions of Apocryphal books will be entered under the editor, with appropriate subject entry.

The term for a version of a Bible will precede the publication date in the heading, bringing all editions of the same version together in the catalog.

Testing the form for personal names at the Library of Congress showed the desirability of filling out initials when there is a conflict, or likely to be a conflict, in names. The use of dates, instead of unused forenames, was also approved.

On titles for nobility the British point of view prevailed, keeping the title, as in the 1949 code.

The British subheading corresponding to our Laws, statutes, etc. and Ordinances, etc. is Laws, byelaws, etc. In the interests of simplicity and uniformity the Committee voted to use Laws, etc. under all jurisdictions. Other changes proposed by the American Association of Law Libraries were accepted, especially those for court rules..

Summer Spalding, the editor, will prepare a draft for Midwinter that will be reasonably final, but the Committee can make changes. Rules for non-book as well as for book materials will be included. The descriptive Cataloging Committee, under the chairmanship of Bernice Fields of Yale, is making good progress and hopes to have its report ready for incorporation with the rules for entry. However, the Catalog Code Revision Committee is facing a financial crisis since its funds will run out this autumn.

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Membership Committee

The AIA Membership Committee learned that there were 25,112 members on May 1, 1964, compared with 22,929 on May 1, 1963. This represented a 7.3 percent gain in membership. An \$8,000. increase in the membership promotion budget has been requested, but final approval will not be given until November. With this increased allotment it is hoped to reach many of the sixty percent of American librarians who do not belong to AIA.

Ray Granberg, Data Processing Supervisor at AIA, reported that the IBM system was twice as expensive as projected. Consequently the information on the IBM membership cards will be reduced and simplified.

AIA Membership Day has been scheduled for October 28, 1964.

MILDRED C. O'CONNOR

Children's Services Division

The Newbery-Caldecott Awards Dinner was first on the program of events planned by the Children's Services Division for the ALA Conference at St. Louis. It was a gala affair held in the Khorassan Room of the Chase Park Plaza. Librarians from all areas of service came as did publishers and authors. Altogether there were about twelve hundred people in attendance; they came to enjoy the dinner, to meet old friends, to renew acquaintances, but primarily they came to witness the presentation of the awards, to hear the gracious acceptance speeches and to meet the award winners.

Mrs Emily Cheney Neville was awarded the John Newbery Medal for It's Like This, Cat, the story of a modern boy growing up in New York. Author-illustrator, Maurice Sendak, received the Randolph Caldecott Medal for his picture book Where the Wild Things are, a tale of Max, sent to bed supperless for behaving like a "wild thing" and how he found solace in the world of his imagination.

Both award winners in their acceptance speeches recalled something of the background and experience that went into the making of their prize winning books.

It was a most delightful evening.

The membership and business meeting of the Children's Services Division was held on Wednesday evening at Kiel Auditorium.

Several changes were suggested in the CSD By-laws. They were put to a vote, and accepted by the membership. See May issue of Top of the News pg. 320.

The CSD election results were announced and the new officers were presented. They are Helen R. Sattley, Director, School of Library Service, N. Y. City Board of Education, the new president; Mrs Sarah H. Wheeler, associate professor, School of Librarianship, University of Washington (Seattle), vice-president and president-elect; Anne R. Izard, children's consultant, Westchester Library System (Mount Vernon, N.Y.), treasurer.

Reports by various committees brought out the fact that they have been engaged in some interesting and exciting activities.

The Division has worked on book lists for several projects, among them program series such as "Discovery '64", "Exploring", and "Carnival of Books". At the request of the U.S. Junior Chamber of

Commerce the Division set up an Advisory Committee to help the USJCC develop its national "Good Reading for Youth" program. Books have been assembled to form an exhibit. A pilot program to use the exhibit in state wide demonstrations has been developed.

Report was made on the use of books for educational television programs. There has been in many cases difficulty in clearing permissions for use. The Bowker Company has been experimenting with an arrangement for simplified handling of ETV permissions and will publish a series of "Available Rights" catalogs which will list books which participating publishers have cleared for use by ETV stations under specified conditions.

The report on periodicals for children was not read but the May issue of Top of the News, pg. 307, has an interesting article by Elizabeth Johnson of Lynn Public Library and chairman of the CSD Magazine Evaluation Committee.

Following the business meeting there was a preview of the film Island of the Blue Dolphins based on Scott O'Dell's Newbery Medal book. This film endorsed by the Division will be released for general distribution late in July. Boston Children's Librarians had opportunity to view this film at a showing in the Spring.

Thursday evening at the Khorassan Room, Chase Park Plaza Hotel, the CSD presented an unusual and charming film produced especially for this program meeting by the Weston Woods Studios. The title of this excellent film is "The Lively Art of Picture Books".

The film narrated by John Langstaff and featuring Robert McCloskey, Barbara Cooney, Maurice Sendak as well as the work of other artists is a joy to see.

It is a film for librarians and educators, for parents and other adults. We hope it can be made available for showing to B.P.L. staff members during the coming year.

R.M.H.

Public Library Administrators:
Committee on Interlibrary Cooperation

This series of three presentations were very interesting and pertinent in terms of local events. Each program highlighted one speaker followed by a question and answer period. On Monday, Mr. Harold Hacker spoke about New York State regional experience in general and the Monroe County Library System especially. His library system serves 4,000 square miles and some 200,000 people. New York State depends on "gradualism," building up strong central libraries with a collection of some 100,000 volumes, excluding fiction. The present systems only became possible after eight years of missionary effort that resulted in the law of 1958. Four years later the state had 16 systems in operation. There are now 22 systems in operation. The role of the regional library in New York State is largely that of coordinating in the fields of planning and offering leadership. The Regional Libraries do have a role in fiscal planning, consultation, public relations, liaison between state and local libraries, and so on. Nothing is taken away from the local library. The regions are operated on the theory of a system-wide uniform card, with liberal return privileges. Interlibrary loan arrangements are maintained. They have offered certain new services such as audio-visual aids and bookmobiles, although it is preferred to encourage better libraries than to fill in with bookmobiles. The regional system offers in-service training and exhibit assistance. A delivery service is basic. Per capita local support has gone up 300%, local tax support has gone up 420%, state aid has gone up 1,600%. Mr. Hacker said that the three things needed to get a regional system working are missionary zeal, good planning and teamwork.

The second day was given over to Miss Maryan E. Reynolds of Washington State Library. Miss Reynolds supplemented Mr. Hacker's three essential concepts with a fourth - execution. She then described a system that had everyone sitting on the edge of his chair. No doubt circumstances vary greatly between New York and the state of Washington, but it was very interesting

to hear Miss Reynolds speak of an effective regionalism that required total amalgamation of the local library into the system. The local library signs over title to its building, its book collections, its hiring of personnel, and so on. Washington started on a demonstration basis and its brand of regionalism has caught on. A library can withdraw from a system but it would have to negotiate for what it could recover from its original incorporation into the region. The general idea seems to be that such superior service is made possible by pooling into the region that such issues as local autonomy become academic. The local library is called a "Community Library" so they will not feel like a branch, which they are. No compromise is allowed for the good of the library service as a whole. Another cohesive element is the tax basis which, through a county system and a state grant, made regionalism financially attractive. Seattle and King's County make up one system. The questions largely concerned book selection, which seemed to be thoroughly centralized, and how Washington was able to get such capitulation from the local library.

The third day Mr. Robert Ake spoke of practical methods used in advancing the state legislative program for library service in Maryland which might well have pertinence elsewhere as well. There, a library would not hesitate to hand out a message in bookmark form, urging the borrower to write to the legislators to support certain bills. The Maryland Library Association did not hesitate to use lobbyists. Money was budgeted for personal expenses, entertaining, etc., from the State Library Association funds. Mr. Ake spoke of the practical pitfalls of trying to get along without legal counsel in writing a bill, or getting along without practical guidance in shepherding a bill through the legislative process. His final admonition was never to relax until the bill was truly signed, sealed and delivered - as you wanted it. Three practical expositions based upon practical experiences.

Association of Hospital and Institution Libraries

This group of dynamic professional librarians had a program that would have been rewarding for anyone to have crashed. Once they had completed their business meeting, and their membership meeting, and had had their coffee break, they turned their meeting over to a very dynamic speaker from the American Red Cross, Miss Gloria Oberstein, who gave, in thumbnail fashion, guidance on the American Red Cross system for a very successful volunteer program, all of which seems applicable to any personnel relationship. Define the job; establish the community need; recognize that the individual being recruited must remain an individual; give the person satisfactory training; check for performance; have a manual; be flexible, etc.. She mentioned such things as orientation, making the staff member feel welcome, showing the whole picture. In the speaker's personal situation, one professional is coordinating 600 volunteer workers serving 360,000 people! Mrs. Selma Gale of the United Hospital Fund in New York had some very practical information about the way the patient and staff hospital libraries in the New York City area have been able to provide service by recruiting volunteers, offering centralized training, using a film therein as well as workshops for both volunteers and librarians. Some of the training occupies a three day seminar. A third speaker, Eleanor Brandt of the Dallas Veterans Administration Hospital, spoke of her practical experiences using volunteers, supplementing, not replacing, the professional staff. Her situation might be thought to be a little different, since patients were involved for therapy purposes as well as for library assistance.

During the discussion period you got all shades of opinion from those who would offer no services in the ward at all, rather than send in a volunteer, to those who thought the right volunteer was the happy solution. The question of tactfully advising the volunteer that her services were no longer helpful came up. The question of personalities, especially within the wards, came up. The question of turnover and personal

plans of the volunteer's family taking precedence over volunteer commitment came up. There followed a generally optimistic point of view as to the contribution volunteers could make, with a practical enumeration of some of the shortcomings involved.

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Resources and Technical Services Division
Cataloging and Classification Section

A major topic of the convention was the innovations and advances in the methods of reproducing catalog cards and catalogs themselves. This, among other aspects of data processing, was the subject of a three day pre-conference meeting. Papers at the convention meeting were necessarily brief but startlingly illuminating. Mr. Joseph Becker, Mr. Wesley C. Simonton, and Mr. Ralph Esterquest, in about an hour and a half, led one from the development of the punch card and hand tabulating applications in library work through the applications of the card-activated camera and into the areas of the uses of the computer in cataloging, with a facility of expression that allowed one to feel flatteringly intelligent about the matters being discussed. The message seemed to be that by unifying computer storage machines, coded recall devices and rapid scanners and printers, that remote communication of information over great distances, faithfully recorded, could be accomplished. The question was, is it economically feasible? Through computer storage techniques and rapid printers, the book catalog faces a revival. Basic to all these aspirations is the preparation of the material (catalog cards?) to be fed into the computer or camera. These must be manually filed, manually coded. This gives rise to two administrative questions. Should work once done be done over? Can descriptive cataloging be done when the book is ordered and the same text used throughout the computer process? Mr. Esterquest of the Harvard Medical Library pointed out that Harvard's participation in a joint computerization project led to a minimization of the

repetitive activities, great accuracy of reproduction, and resulted in phenomenal speed in reproduction of materials. For example a finding list that used to take a day to prepare can now be fully produced through the computer in thirty minutes at a cost of \$25. In their particular project, only current material is being computerized since it is estimated that 75% of use falls on that material.

In another meeting, Miss Margaret Brown of the Philadelphia Free Library explained how Philadelphia has progressed toward putting out multiple book catalogs in place of card catalogs. Again, there had to be a starting point. With the development of their regional libraries, each served some 400,000 people, new inclusive collections were put together. By having a policy that allowed no extension agency to buy a title unless it is in Central, a centralized book catalog is made more possible. This system produces a catalog which is very helpful in book selection, reading guidance, and certain general information areas, as well as serving as a union catalog. Los Angeles County expects to spend \$600,000 in the next five years in further developing its book catalog. Basic to this operation, again, is the preparing of good copy. Philadelphia maintains two card catalogs basic to the book catalogs. In a summarizing review of developments in the book catalog field prepared by Andrew D. Osbon, it was pointed out that a new code may have to be designed for cataloging for book catalogs and that libraries face problems of having to make heavy outlays under any circumstances. For example, the New York Library may have to fact the expenditure of \$500,000 in the near future to improve its present card catalog "after 25 years of neglect." By 1972, the Library of Congress may be automated, but at the cost of \$125 million. If this comes about the provisions of IC cards will then be a service provided for subscribers only, not for the Library of Congress itself.

J.M.C.

"Librarians," said Francis Keppel, "are rather like mosquitoes in a nudist colony. They see how much has to be done; they just don't know where to begin."

With such frolicsome similes, the U.S. Commissioner of Education lightened the torpor of a warm St. Louis night. His talk at the opening session of the ALA Conference contained not only humor, however, but a serious, urgent message for librarians. Librarians, he stressed, are desperately needed in the war on poverty because, with books and stimulating personnel, libraries can move deprived people from the wasteland of apathy.

Dr. Keppel cited three libraries who have already enlisted in the fight against poverty and ignorance: Brooklyn Public Library has cooperated with the New York Department of Labor on "Operation Second Chance", a literacy program for native-born and Puerto Rican functional illiterates; Boston Public Library has lent facilities for tutorial programs; and Minneapolis Public Library has sent bookmobiles into slum areas. More and bigger library programs are needed -- and anticipated--and they will be financed by the Economic Opportunity Act which has provided for special library services.

Second of all, libraries must devise new ways to deal with the overwhelming flood of printed material. The information explosion necessitates: greater ingenuity in use of funds; establishment of regional resource libraries; more research on library organization. Library automation is on its way in. Information scientists will replace librarians if librarians aren't alert to the challenge. However, librarians can be trained in automation, as the report of the National Library of Medicine already envisages.

Today, Dr. Keppel concluded, is an exciting time for all who are creative in the library profession. For them, the future is unlimited.

The mysterious process of reading

was explored at the joint YASD and ASD meeting on Thursday, July 2nd. In the morning Dr. Robert G. Carlsen, Professor of English and Education, State University of Iowa, ventured an intriguing theory concerning the reading done by young adults. However sophisticated or unsophisticated the reading level, he contended, college-bound adolescents (in this case, those from sixteen to twenty years old) read to obtain the same kind of experiences. They read, he indicated, for content only, not in appreciation of the style or literary artistry. They seek and respond to these kinds of themes: 1) the search for values, identity—who am I?—for this reason they read: The Razor's Edge; A Burnt-Out Case; A Separate Peace; 2) evocations of social injustice; social maladjustment—thus, Black Like Me; Ugly American; To Kill a Mockingbird are among their favorites; 3) bizarre characters and situations—their preference for Waugh's The Loved One; Kafka's Metamorphosis, and Rand's The Fountainhead are illustrations. 4) stories that move the adolescent into early adult life—Arrowsmith; Great Expectations; Betty Smith's Joy in the Morning are all popular with young people.

The above themes are not the themes of great literature. The mature themes of an individual caught in the web of his own decisions (done so well in Shakespeare), the exploration of the bounds within which life must be lived (Hawthorne), the helplessness of man before fate (Hardy) cannot be appreciated by the adolescent. Reading maturity cannot — and should not be force-fed, Dr. Carlsen warned. It can come only with time. It is natural for a twenty-year old to idolize Golding. Shakespeare comes later.

The Challenge to Libraries

The recent national concern with poverty and its companion, ignorance, was reflected in the ALA Conference and in the thinking of prominent library leaders. Dr. Keppel sounded the theme in his opening address. The National Library Week meeting carried it forward with a program on "Libraries and Literacy" and an indication that the plight of the illiterate might be highlighted during National Library Week.

William Kottmeyer, Assistant Superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools, gave the following information concerning illiteracy. Approximately 11 million people over 25 years of age in this country cannot read at the 6th grade level. Over one-half of the nation cannot read at the level of Time or Newsweek. The serious materials in newspapers are written at the 11th and 12th grade levels. And, as all librarians know, no materials exist for the beginning adult reader in the subjects he needs most—job opportunities and training, human relations, and home-making.

Chester Stovall, Director of the St. Louis Public Welfare Department, specified these ways in which libraries could help: 1) by direct leadership participation of library trustees and staff in pushing for more funds for libraries and materials; 2) careful placement of libraries in areas accessible to illiterates; 3) more concern for adults—more reaching out to them; 4) provision of facilities for basic reading courses, adult tutoring, audio-visual centers, family programs; 5) scheduling more evening hours to make the library more available to working people.

Germaine Krettek, ALA Washington Office, saw libraries participating in the many projects being launched by the Economic Opportunity Act. Under Title 1, the Training Centers for a Job Corps (modeled after the CCC)

will need libraries. Public libraries can help to build or provide these libraries. Those young people who stay at home (under the Work Training Programs) could work in clerical positions in libraries with little, if any, expense to the libraries. Under Title 2, General Community Act on Programs, libraries are expected to work with other community agencies in developing Adult Basic Education programs and other community projects. The funds, the support are available - all that is needed is creative library thinking.

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Adult Services Division

At the Adult Services Division afternoon meeting on July 2nd, Dr. John Diekhoff, from the Center of the Study of Higher Education, University of Michigan, raised some provocative points concerning reading. Reading, he insisted, and even literacy itself, is not good in and of itself. At the same time he questioned the hierarchy of reading that is implicitly established in every reading survey. Commenting on a "Summary of Research on Reading Interests and Habits of College Graduates", (which will be published in January as a University of Illinois Occasional Paper), he decried the tendency to regard the reading of a book as better than the reading of a newspaper; of Harper as better than Time of Daedalus as better than Harper. Much depends on the reader-- what he brings to his reading, what he takes away. The same book may not yield fun, knowledge or insight to two different readers. The idea that only the best is good is not a valid one.

Dr. Diekhoff then quoted Dan Lacy, Director of the American Book Publishers Council, to the effect that libraries are being used more for purposive reading and less for recreational. Applying this statement to the college graduate, Professor Diekhoff saw the

library as the logical institution to provide for his life-long learning. The college, he felt, could not undertake this role but could cooperate with the public library in providing for the continual education of its alumni.

K. H.

ALA AWARD WINNERS 1964

Aurianne Award
Emil Liers for Black Bear's Story

Beta Phi Mu Award
Charles C. Williamson, Greenwich, Connecticut

Randolph J. Caldecott Medal
Maurice Sendak for Where the Wild Things Are

Melvil Dewey Medal
John W. Cronin, director, Processing Department, Library of Congress

Grolier Inc. Award
Inger Boye, Highland Park, Illinois, Public Library

Joseph W. Lippincott Award
Robert B. Downs, Graduate School of Library Science, University of Illinois

John Newbery Medal
Emily Neville for It's Like This, Cat

Scarecrow Press Award for Library Literature
Edward G. Holley for Charles Evans, American Bibliographer

H. W. Wilson Company Library Periodical Award
California Librarian, California Library Association, Henry Madden, editor

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The Special Libraries Association held its 55th convention at the Sheraton Jefferson Hotel, Saint Louis, Missouri, June 7-11, 1964. The convention theme was "the Special Librarian as a Creative Catalyst". The speakers at the general sessions dealt with various aspects of the theme.

In his keynote address, "The Education of a Catalyst", Dr Don R. Swanson, Dean of the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, said librarians should not be content to become operators of library systems. Instead of special librarians working as research assistants they should help design systems that will provide a new kind of intensive, improved indexing. It is important for future librarians to specialize in mathematics or physics as disciplines that deal with the world about us in abstract terms, a type of training that is needed in order to design systems. The catalytic function can be effected without automation. Librarians should regard computer salesmen as criminals and avoid them as such.

Dr William Stephenson, School of Journalism, University of Missouri, thought "The Creative Person" should have a happy-go-lucky disposition combined with curiosity, drive, technical skills, and ingenuity. Creativity depends nine-tenths on hard work and one-tenth on an agreeable personality. Dr Stephenson considers Robert Burns a model creative person.

Dr Daniel Green of Grove Laboratories, St. Louis, in his talk on "Creative Organization: The Librarian as a Manager", said that management is getting things done through people. Management is an attitude that is goal oriented and is not synonymous with administration. Following Dr Green's excellent orientation lecture on fundamental managerial practices there were workshop sessions with members arranged in groups according to the size of their library staff. Specific management problems were discussed in the workshops and summaries of the discussions were reported at the reconvened general session. The greatest problem seemed to be that librarians are not always recognized as managers. The suggested solution was that it was up to the special librarians to improve their image by finding out management's plans (sometimes by roundabout methods) and anticipating the

company's library needs. If this is not done the library may be wiped out in the next economy wave.

At the business meeting one of the major reports was on the excellently written manual on standards for the Special Libraries Association prepared by Miss Ruth S. Leonard during her sabbatical leave from Simmons College School of Library Science.

The Social Science Division had several good programs on urban renewal. Vivian Sessions, Librarian, New York Public Library, City Planning and Housing Library gave behind-the-scenes peeks at her part in urban renewal politics, including budget and personnel problems. A bus tour of existing and planned urban renewal projects in Saint Louis explained the unusual wide-open spaces in the heart of the city.

Rudard A. Jones, University of Illinois Small Homes Council-Building Research Council, believes private enterprise should be responsible for housing and its planning, with government involved only when private enterprise fails. Today developers are building town houses, a new name for row houses, in order to make maximum use of land, with the elderly and the young married couples creating a boom in apartment building. New building processes, with pre-fabricated components, put up houses in several weeks. The planning and building of housing has become a cross discipline between social sciences and engineering.

Roy Wenzlich, of Wenzlich Research Corporation, Saint Louis, the oldest real estate research organization in the United States, reported on his interest in the factors affecting the demand and supply for real estate. Demand depends on population, but population forecasts are wrong because of the highly fluctuating birthrate. Mr Wenzlich discovered that if one considers only already existing age groups, one can forecast with some accuracy. The 30 to 34 year age group is at present shrinking rapidly, yet this group represents the major home buying public. On the basis of his studies Mr Wenzlich determined when this age group will increase in size again and predicted that the next big real estate boom will reach its peak in 1979.

R. Buckminster ("Bucky") Fuller, an

architect best known for his "Geodesic dome", in speaking on "Trends in Structure and Mechanics of Libraries", foresees the day when libraries will have encyclopedias on everything, explaining even Einstein in language a child can understand. The problem of libraries is communication. With two-way TV coming up Mr Fuller believes there will be documentary libraries around the world to which anyone may dial for information. The problem of housing books will be met by having shelves on sprockets, a revolving device, which will expand the storage capacity as shelving may be six feet or sixty feet high.

New nations begin their development at the highest level of developed nations. Because of this China will be the leading industrial nation by 1975. The United States will be forced to admit automation and send the replaced workers back to school. There will be a continuing process of getting out the next wave of higher capability and big cities will be just a major university. The Library's part will be to keep going this program of building human resources.

The Documentation Division was responsible for a comprehensive display, and explanation, of electronic equipment showing computer-generated book catalogs and records. One of the more interesting was that of Sylvania Electronic Systems in Waltham.

The Documentation Division also arranged a workshop and demonstration on flow-charting and programing that was both fun and a challenge. After some excellent instructions in procedures, problems were assigned to the group. The instructors later gave the correct solutions. It was amazing how much could be learned in a three-hour session.

On the lighter side, there was an evening trip down the Mississippi River on the steamer "Admiral" for the benefit of the SLA Scholarship and Student Loan Fund. Many, including Louis and Lee Rains, enjoyed dancing in air-conditioned comfort to the smooth music of a good orchestra.

A night at the open air Saint Louis Municipal Opera, Forest Park, presented a colorful, excellent performance of "My Fair Lady". Unfortunately a heavy thunder and lightning storm rained out the last three scenes.

Saint Louisans always ask visitors

what they think of the Saarinen Arch. This will be a key structure in the rebeautification of the central city and lies between the Old Saint Louis Cathedral and Old Capitol Building. At present the two arms of the Arch are about three hundred feet high, with the top yet to be built. There has been some difficulty with the shrinkage of the concrete in one arm so that the natives are convinced that the two arms of the arch will not meet, but will result in an arch within an arch.

MILDRED C. O'CONNOR

CRLC - June 25, 1964

Librarians meet in the darndest places! The Spring gathering of the members of the Charles River Library Club was held in the white and gold Louis XV ballroom of the mansion on Commonwealth Avenue now occupied by the Boston Center for Adult Education.

Next year's officers were chosen, and B. Gertrude Wade, Branch Librarian, Memorial and Mt. Pleasant, was chosen as Vice-President and President-Elect.

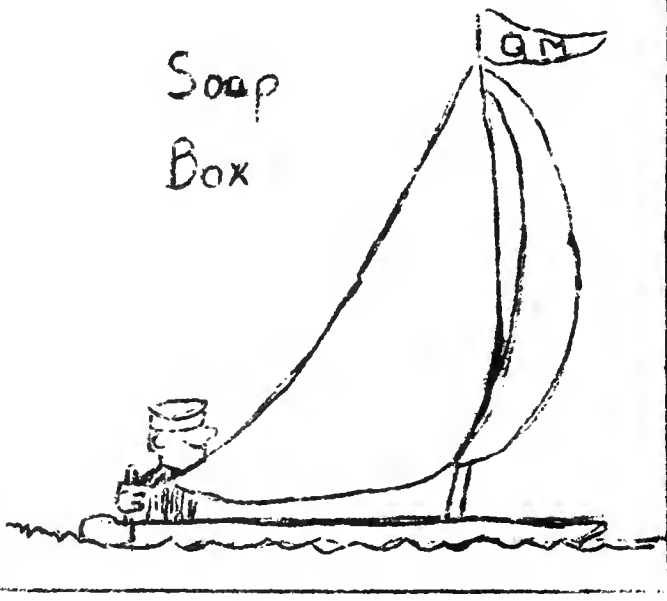
The main speaker was George Dergalis, Lecturer, Boston Museum of Fine Arts and De Cordova Museum, Lincoln. Mr Dergalis spoke on trends in contemporary art, comparing so-called "modern" art, artists and methods with those of the Renaissance. The contrasts which he stressed were striking, and we all came away with a clearer understanding of what is often referred to as "those blobs on canvas".

The meeting adjourned to the Public Gardens and the Arts Festival, parts of which were better appreciated than they had been before.

E.J.M., Jr.

GIVE TO CARE

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

would have chosen another field. I have therefore named this species WROWAC [WRONG WAY CORRIGAN]. One WROWAC here, during the London Blitz, said the bombing was a good thing because it wiped out the slums. He did not consider the human beings and Wren churches who were destroyed at the same time. A female WROWAC said she hated to see "her" books go out because it meant hiring boys to put them back on the shelves. And one current WROWAC says that a person unsuccessful in getting a book at the Central Library must be treated as if he were at a branch - leave a postcard and wait two or three days, even if 5 or 6 copies of that book are available in another department here. A bas WROWACS and POFLS

HARRY ANDREWS

SUPPORT

YOUR

STAFF

ASSOCIATION

IT

IT

SUPPORTS

YOU

To the Soap Box:

Some time ago, in an uncharitable moment, I was looking for the reasons which still keep our Library some furlongs from perfection, and discovered a small species of bottleneck which I identified and named POFL [POUND OF FLESH LIBRARIAN].

Recently I came upon another such species, again with very few members, but who are in a position to inhibit the proper functioning of the Library and who give us a bad name. They are maverick-like, their reasoning takes a non-sequiturous twist, and they act contrary to their library professions, else they

DON'T

FORGET

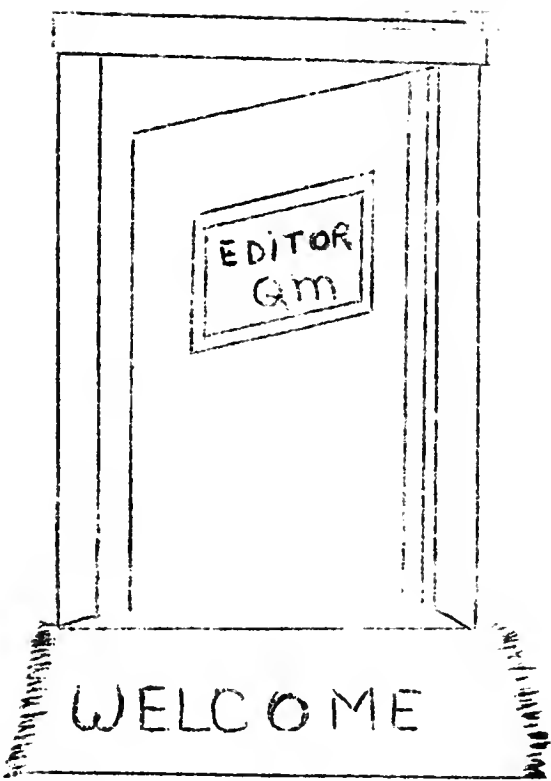
TO

PAY

YOUR

DUES

(AND THE ASSESSMENT, TOO)



Ask the Editor

To "Run" or Not to "Run"

Until May, 1954, the Open Shelf Department tried to "run" slips between the Branch Issue Department and itself for requests for books not on shelf in the Open Shelf Department itself or referred to the Open Shelf Department from other departments. According to an explanatory memorandum dated July 14, 1954, "The Open Shelf Department and the Branch Issue Department indicated that trips for special requests for individual members of the public [30 or 40 a day] were preventing a full degree of normal service to other users of the library..." On a busy day the 5% tail was wagging the 95% dog.

At that time, as now, there was a system to search for and deliver material from the Branch Issue collections to any unit of the library. Unsystematic telephone checking and "running" individual slips were monopolizing telephones and staff time so that organized Branch Issue service and other necessary activities

of the Open Shelf Department were suffering. Instead of being able to add staff to encompass this personalized service, we were in 1954 facing reductions, a situation that has occurred more than once since 1954. The July 1954 memorandum includes the sentences, "This is the result of full time and part time reduction of service. We are not happy about it."

The policy adopted was intended to give uniform service at all times of the day to all users of the Open Shelf Department - or the Branches, or the Bookmobiles - which the Branch Issue Department has a large responsibility for serving - and not vary from hour to hour, according to the lunch hour coverage or the night coverage or the familiarity of the staff member with the Branch Issue holdings, etc., which confused the public.

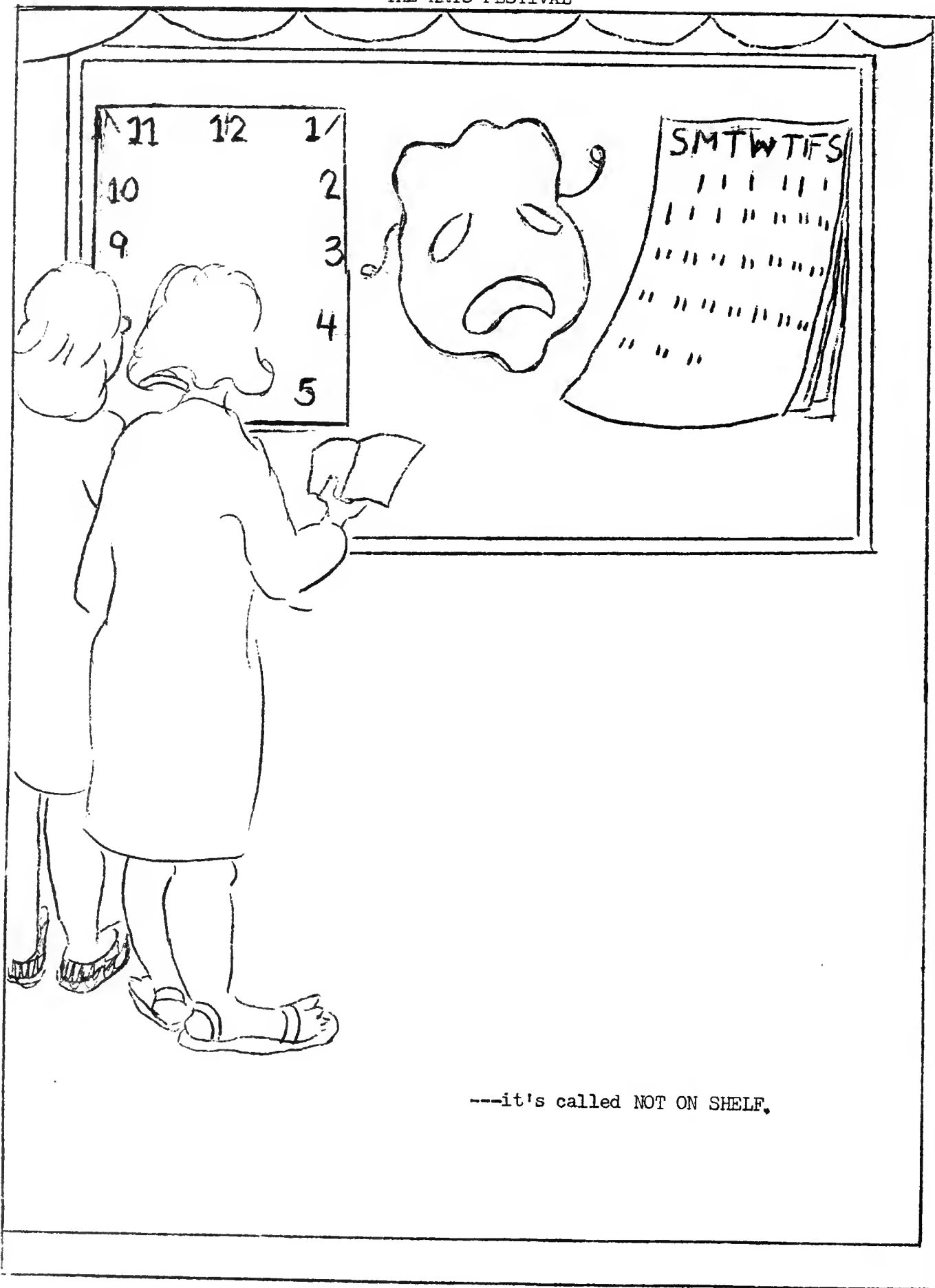
Ten years later we can surely re-examine any practices that a staff member wants to discuss. Optimistically we may be able to find a way to give this service, although it must be pointed out that coverage has not become more robust of late, in general.

Division of Home Reading and
Community Services

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fisher (Helene alias Rusty of the Personnel Office) on the birth of a six pound ten-and-one-half ounce baby girl on July 24. Both mother and daughter are reportedly doing fine (although we hear that the baby does not have its mother's russett-color hair).

THE ARTS FESTIVAL



---it's called NOT ON SHELF.

THE
Question
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

SEPTEMBER 1964

Publications Committee: Michael Arnold; Jean Babcock; Barbara Bachrach; Jane Manthorne; Sheila Stevens; Mrs. Bridie Stotz; George Scully, Cartoonist; Sarah M. Usher, Indexer; Edward J. Montana, Jr., Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

On one of our recent, but infrequent balmy days, we were sitting around musing on a variety of subjects, some real, some fantastic. One of the questions that crossed our mind was "What would happen if there were no Staff Association?"

Admittedly this thought was pretty far-fetched, at least for the present, and no one needs to be told what effect it would have on the formal relations between the Staff as a whole and the Administration. But unlikelier things have happened before, and it is a truism that everything, no matter how large or how small, contains the seeds of its own destruction. Several of those seeds have been flying around the BPL lately.

Perhaps the most important one is that too many members take the phrase "your Association" too literally. They apparently need to be reminded that the BPLSA exists for all its members, and like any similar organization must be interested more in broad principles and programs and less in individual details, if it is to accomplish anything. The Administration has to work out its policies in the same way. In both cases everyone is satisfied as much as possible, but somebody always gets hurt, and because we lost the Garden of Eden long ago somebody always will.

Anyone who has attended Executive Board meetings knows how hard the Officers work in supporting the Staff's position. Anyone who has been on the Nominating Committee knows, for this reason, how difficult it is to persuade a member to run for office. So, the complaints of those who felt they were slighted by the recent salary adjustments, insofar as the Association is concerned, are not justified. To refuse to pay your dues because you did not get exactly what you wanted is pretty selfish, because if nothing could have been done for you, a great deal was done for your friends.

But the "seed" that best illustrates this point is that concerned with the reaction in certain quarters to the recent assessment of fifty cents. It was voted in an open meeting, and the Constitution Committee has declared it completely legal. The Association certainly needs the money. It is a small amount and for a good cause. So why the fuss? Some members are just slow (come on you, hurry up. The Treasurer is getting nervous.) Others have paid, under protest. This is alright too. They followed the ruling, even though they did not like it, and put their reasons in writing. It is perfectly respectable to have a difference of opinion and to support it; more people should do the same thing. If they are still not satisfied, we hope that they say so at the next meeting, and offer an amendment if they want to.

However there is another group which does not follow this procedure. Its members do not complain, at least not in the right places, and they do not try to alleviate the situation. They merely Oppose. No matter what it is, or how good it is, if you are for it they are against it. If they were around when our

remote ancestor first came up with the idea for the wheel, the poor guy would never have had a chance, and we would all still be walking. They just sit behind their desks, clench their fists and Oppose. Well, so what? As long as that is all they do, what difference does it make? Ah, but that is the point. They have to get out of those chairs sometime, and when they do, then you really see some action. This occurs during those sacred periods of the day Relief and Lunch (or Supper as the case may be). They scoot through the building chattering and jabbering like so many defective tape-recorders until they roost and begin to tear someone or something to pieces. This time it just happened to be the assessment.

But surely no one pays any attention, and there cannot be many of them. Right on the second point, wrong on the first. Because some of them have been here long enough and are old enough to know better, they invariably impress at least one person. And that person has a friend. And before you know it you have a Movement going, and people are walking around muttering, "They can't do this to me;" "I've got my rights;" "Who do they think they are?"

The last is a good question. Who do "they" think "they" are, and who are "they." Well, look in the mirror and you will see who "they" are. "They" are you, the person next to you, and all of your friends. The Association has three business meetings. The QM is published eleven times a year. If you have any complaints, get them out. Nothing is going to be solved by beating the air. If you do not like the way something is done, complain, write a letter to the Board, propose an amendment, run for office, but DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE. The Officers and Chairmen are really a very friendly group. After all, they were "only members" once too you know, and will be again.

In the last analysis when you support the Association you are supporting yourself, and your friends. That ought to be good enough reason for anyone.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I have very little to report to you at this time since the activities of the Executive Board have been curtailed because of late vacation schedules.

The Board intends to work very seriously at our next meeting on the extremely thorny problem of the LA salary schedule.

Last week a notice was sent to all units of the Library stating that a training and indoctrinating session on branch library routines will be held late in September. This is a much needed step in the right direction which we hope will lead eventually to the establishment of an in-service training program. It is to be hoped that the establishment of such a program will include the adoption of a new, up-to-date and uniform method of work procedures.

The poll concerning unionization is in the process of being completed and should be sent out to the membership very

shortly. A statement concerning the pros and cons of unionization is also being prepared and will accompany the poll.

I would like to add a few words to the excellent editorial written by the Editorial Staff of the QM. We have every right to be proud of the Staff Association. This was brought home to me when I attended the recent AIA Convention. In making comparisons with staff association representatives from other libraries, I found that we have accomplished a great deal in realizing the goals which are outlined in the Constitution. I also found that our relationship with our Administration is much more cordial, cooperative and fruitful.

For those of you who may not know or who may have forgotten, I would like to remind you of the object of the BPLSA as outlined in the Constitution:

Cont.

President's Notes Cont.

It shall be the object of the Association:

- a. to foster professional Librarianship;
- b. to further the common interests and welfare of the bibliothecal staff;
- c. and to promote greater efficiency in Library service.

However, we cannot afford to be complacent about our past, we must consider our present and more important, our future. I cannot emphasize too much the need for every member to play a more active and vocal role in the Association and to remind you that it is your Association and that we, the members of the Executive Board, were elected by you to serve you. We cannot achieve the objectives of the Association unless you tell us what your needs are and problems are. We welcome any questions and suggestions you may have.

I would like to point out to you that the Association does not serve as a grievance Committee. We do not have the right or the desire to function as a union nor was the Association formed to serve as a bargaining agent.

MARY T. CROWE
President

PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered:

- Elizabeth Jordan - Mattapan
- James R. Sikes - Mattapan
- Ernest A. Di Mattia - Science & Technology
- Laura Lewis - Book Purchasing
- Margaret Thrasher - General Reference
- Elizabeth Drake - Government Documents
- Doreen L. Greenwood - Book Purchasing
- Laurence H. Curtis - Book Purchasing
- Mary A. Campbell - Adams Street
- John J. McLanus - Government Documents
- Jane Rust - Cataloging & Classification - Reference
- Donna Atwood - Mattapan
- John M. Pelose - Central Book Stock
- Elinor M. Wing - Roslindale
- Tina M. Ferri - Central Charging Records
- Paul E. Rossetti - Central Charging Records

Mrs. Kathleen Knuettel - Bookmobiles
George H. A. Cumming - Periodical and Newspaper [former Library Aide]

Married:

Veronica T. Yotts [Audio-Visual] to Gerald Silverman, August 1, 1964.
Brenda Hemingway [Mt. Pleasant] to Edwin Thomas Jr., August 29, 1964.

Military Leave:

William Scannell - Book Purchasing

Transferred:

Alice H. Waters from Government Documents to Open Shelf
Linda Ponticelli from Book Selection HR&CS to Records, Files, Statistics
Barbara Stenglein from Washington Village to Charlestown
Antoinette Calabresi from Charlestown to Allston
Michael Tiorano from Book Purchasing to Audio Visual
James B. Lannon from Book Purchasing to Periodical and Newspaper
Columba N. Bartolini from Memorial to North End
Ruth M. Wall from Roslindale to Jamaica Plain
Estelle Hite from Roslindale to Egleston
Margaret Zindler from East Boston to Egleston
Mary V. O'Brien from Mattapan to Brighton
Maureen Wilson from Brighton to Codman Square
Judith Grohe from Open Shelf to Codman Square
Juliann DeKoning from West Roxbury to Brighton
Maria C. Consoli from Egleston to East Boston
Helen M. McDonough from Codman Square to Memorial
Mary T. Crowe from Jamaica Plain to South Boston
Sally Lee Shoemaker from Egleston to Cataloging and Classification [R&RS]

Terminations:

Howard P. Harris - Periodical & Newspaper - to move out of state
Frederick D. Hill - Book Stack Service - return to school
Martha McDermott - Bookmobiles - move to California
Mrs. Audrey Anderson - Audio Visual - move to Texas

Cont.

Personnel Notes Cont.

Phyllis M. Sutton - Open Shelf - to work at MIT
Meredith McCulloch - Charlestown - move out of state
Sandra Lee Meissner - Audio Visual - teach school
Michael Lynch - Branch Issue - Resigned
William Holmes - Book Stack Service - to move to California
Leona Brabowski - Cataloging & Classification [R&RS] - attend nursing school
Assunta Donisi - Book Selection [R&RS] - to attend college
Gloria Falthzik - Mattapan - scholarship to college
Irene Halstrom - Central Charging Records - teach school
George F. Weinstein - Book Stack Service - to attend college
Joseph T. Shea - Central Charging Records - teach school
Arthur Wolman - Mattapan - another position
Ruth McNamee - Parker Hill - retired
Marion R. Herzig - Roslindale - retired
Frances Williams - Hospital Library Service
Pauline Winnick - Home Reading - resigned
James Lannon - Periodical & Newspaper - return to school
Peter McCallion - Government Documents - another position in school library
David Morrissey - Government Documents - to teach school
Frances E. Spencer - South Boston - another position
Linda Sheehan - Cataloging & Classification - to attend college
Carren L. Munde - Cataloging & Classification - to attend business school
Evangeline Guzelis - Brighton
Alice Frazzini - Cataloging & Classification - to stay at home
Nancy McCormick - Book Stack Service - to attend college
Susan Lee Bragan - Book Preparation - to attend college
Susan A. Smith - Book Stack Service - to attend college
Shirley Dent - Book Stack Service - to attend college
Philip W. Wong - Book Purchasing - to return to college
Carol Ann McClellan - Book Preparation - to return to college
Leonard Gold - Book Stack Service - to attend college

Bernard Hrul - Book Stack Service - to attend Wentworth Institute
Gloria M. Randall - Records, Files Statistics - another position
Roderick Slowe - Bookmobiles - resigned

MARY C. TOY

It was with a deep sense of personal sorrow and loss that we learned of the death on August 6 of Miss Mary C. Toy, Chief, Emeritus of the Young People's Room. Though she retired in 1951, after a forty-eight year career in the Boston Public Library, her influence will long be felt by those who had the privilege of knowing her, and sharing in her delight in bringing good books to the children of our city.

The high standards she required of those who served with her were a reflection of her own character and professional pride. Beyond that, however, was a special pride in the Boston Public Library, in whose service she would accept nothing less than the best.

Miss Toy was a gentlewoman in the true sense of the word. Her quiet dignity often concealed a warmth and generosity of spirit which casual acquaintances failed to suspect. Those of us who knew her better will cherish the memory of her quick sympathy for those in sorrow, as well as her delight and pride in the successes of those who worked with her and achieved distinction in this and other professions.

Handicapped for many years by poor eyesight, Miss Toy was a pioneer member of the Catholic Guild for the Blind, for whom she transcribed many books in Braille. Her doll collection was frequently displayed for the delight of visitors to the Young People's Room, where the many distinctive exhibits gave evidence of her concern that our Library should show forth the best because to quote Walter de la Mare, "only the best is worthy of our children."

It is comforting to know that Miss Toy's death came at the conclusion of a happy journey with friends. The sympathy of the staff is extended to her cousin Miss Mary Beran, and Miss Katherine Doyle, with whom she made her home at 1906 Beacon St., Brookline.

ANNE E. ARMSTRONG

"ELLIE" CONLIN

In 1933 Elena Conlin entered the service of the Library. She was assigned to the Director's Office for ten years. As her duties concerned time records and other personnel matters, she was transferred to the newly organized Personnel Office in 1943 where she was employed until 1948. She then left the Library, returning seven years later as secretary to the Director. In May of this year, for reasons of health, she retired. On September 8th she passed away, very suddenly.

Quiet, unassuming Ellie made hosts of friends in the Library over the years and she will be greatly missed. She had planned to go south to live and was looking forward eagerly to her new life there with her sister. It is very difficult to realize that we will not see her again. She has left her mark in the hearts of her fellow workers at the BPL.

MAY L. CROSBY

Miss May L. Crosby, who for many years cataloged books in the Reference Division, passed away during the month of August. Since her retirement ten years ago, Miss Crosby devoted much of her time to preparing books in braille for the blind. Her ready smile and gracious manner won her many friends during her years in the Library. Her death is a great loss.

The following was received at the Jamaica Plain Branch and we thought it was worth sharing with the staff.

DEAR MR. & MRS. BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY,

I am so sorry to have held your books so long.

We went down to visit my brother in Maine for a week-end, and, like "The Man Who Came to Dinner", stayed and stayed.

My sister-in-law was shaking some scatter rugs, tripped, and fell through the glass door of their sun porch. She cut her right arm and hand terribly, so badly that she will never have full use of her hand again, as tendons, etc., were sliced through.

Since her two small grandchildren are with her days and my brother, as a deputy sheriff, is out much of the time, we

stayed to hold the fort [the Alamo?] until things got organized.

If I sound facetious, it is the result of spending over 3 weeks in mountain air with spruce trees and pulling up tomato plants so the weeds can grow. We got back home yesterday, and I am ashamed to say we had forgotten everything until I found the card from you.

Also a squawk from the Landlord because we weren't here August 1st to pay the rent.

Also a holler from the milkman because we hadn't notified him.

Also a query from the P.D., if we were buried in the cellar.

Various other whoopings about: "where have you been?!"

Also, a check, which has helped silence some yelling --- and left me broke.

The most vociferous complaint is the one with whom we left our cat and new kittens. Rather new kittens. The kittens grew ---- I am afraid I shall have to buy her new curtains.

C'est la vie!

Alack! and Alas!

I must stop reading and write my own books again!

MONEY

Staff Association dues should be paid according to the following schedule: salaries \$7,000 and up - \$5.00, \$6,000 to \$6,999 - \$4.00, \$3,600 to \$5,999 - \$3.00, \$3,000 to \$3,599 - \$2.00. Part-time dues, \$1.00, are to be paid by those employees whose annual salary is more than \$3,000 pay the dues for their salary bracket.

Note: Reprinted from AD LIB [Indianapolis Public Library Staff Association Publication], August 27, 1964.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Epstein [Barbara formerly worked in our Judaica Section] on the birth of a six pound, twelve ounce baby girl on August 26. Their second daughter has been named Sharon Lee according to the latest report from Barbara and Michael, who now reside in New Jersey.

August 20, 1964

Dear Mrs. Reed:

I have just learned of the extremely generous contribution which was recently received from the employees of the Boston Public Library, and it is with my deepest appreciation that I write to thank you, and through you, those who made such a wonderful tribute to President Kennedy possible.

The President cherished the dream that a Library might be built -- some day -- and he had planned to devote much of his future time to such a project. Now we must do it for him, and I can assure you, it will be the finest President's Library ever.

The Library will serve as a perpetual memorial to him, and his family and I shall never forget that you have chosen to support the cause that is closest to our hearts.

Sincerely,

[signed] JACQUELINE KENNEDY

September 11, 1964

Dear Mrs. Reed:

On behalf of the Senator and myself, I want to express to you and to all of the employees of the Library our deep appreciation for your most generous contribution to the John F. Kennedy Library Fund.

The Senator was so pleased when he learned of this gift, and of the time and efforts of all of you toward the Camelot Bazaar which made the gift possible.

The Library was a project very close to President Kennedy's heart. With your warm support, his cherished dream will soon become a reality. We are so grateful.

Sincerely,

[signed] JOAN KENNEDY

(Mrs. Edward M. Kennedy)

NOTE: Knowing that everyone would like to know of the gratitude of the Kennedy Family for the gift of the employees of the Library to the Kennedy Memorial Library, we are reprinting two letters which we received recently,

Lana Mayberry Reed
Chairman, Program Committee

ALA PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE

"Introduction to Data Processing" was held at the University of Missouri on June 24 thru June 27. The sessions were not only an introduction to data processing, but more importantly in many ways a description of the present state of affairs, of very successful library data processing operations now in actual use, of completed studies which indicate the feasibility of information retrieval by computer in large public libraries especially those serving as reference and research centers for large areas or systems.

Joseph Becker, Assistant Director, Computer Services, U.S. Government, Langley, Virginia, who has written widely on this subject, gave a general introduction to the subject. He gave a brief history of the development of the automated record, and a description of the principal ideas and terms used in discussing the subject.

Dake Gull, Professor of Library Science, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, in his talk on "The Hardware of Data Processing" led us step-by-step from the basic keypunch through the standard machines used in punched card operation to the sophisticated computers, pointing out their capabilities and limitations.

With this background we were able to assimilate more readily the offerings of the experts who followed.

Mr Jean Perreault, Chief of Cataloging, Library, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida, discussed the ideas implicit in cataloging which must be made explicit in converting to "computerized cataloging". The key to effective computerized cataloging is systems design. The needs of the library in terms of cataloging completeness, and the capabilities of feasible automated components must be analyzed. How complete should cataloging be? What items should be included in the catalog? The decisions made will help in choosing the automated equipment to be used.

The design of the input document, the Catalog Input Record, will impose its own requirements on the choice of a system. Concisely, once the components of the system have been chosen, the amount and form of the information which may be entered on the input document is limited by the system chosen.

The input document, the Catalog Input Record, used at Florida Atlantic University is a form corresponding to the arrangement of an IBM card. Once the cataloger has entered the required information on this form, the keypunch operator may readily translate it into machine-readable form.

The substance of Mr Perreault's talk is given in much detail, including many examples of entries on the Catalog Input Record, in his article in the May 1964 issue of College and Research Libraries.

Ralph McCoy, Director of Libraries, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois presented "Computerized Circulation Work: Case Study, the 357 Data Collection System". This is the system which Southern Illinois is now introducing on their campus. Incidentally it is generally held that circulation is the easiest of all library processes to convert to computer operation.

Mr McCoy feels that the concentration of the circulation of books at one point made automation feasible. A big gain from this system is the book use statistics which are so readily obtainable from the system in addition to circulation control. First the 600,000 volumes in the library were coded in machine language. Sixteen specially trained students translated the call numbers of each volume on specially marked code sheets. These code sheets were recorded on magnetic tape and fed into a computer. Master cards were then produced for each volume in both plain language, and machine-readable language. These master cards become the book cards inserted in each book.

The advantages of the system include speed, accuracy, complete records, provision of a day-to-day inventory of library holdings, automatic preparation of overdue notices and release of circulation personnel from routine operations to more important library service.

The three items used in circulation control are 1) the borrowers identification number; 2) the call number; and 3) the date due.

The borrower's card used in this system is an embossed plastic card (similar to a gasoline credit card) which has the borrowers identification number punched in machine readable holes.

The book card is a master IBM card which has the author, title (abbreviated if necessary), and call number both in conventional printed form and in machine-readable holes. Only a portion of the card is used which permits folding of the card without interfering with the punched data.

The charging operation is very simple. The borrower's card is dropped in one slot of the 357 input station, the IBM book card is dropped in the other slot of the 357. When the second card enters the machine, the automatic processing starts. Two new IBM cards, transaction cards, are created, one pink, one yellow. These transactions have on them in both printed and machine readable language the author, title, call number and the borrowers identification number. The pink card and book card are placed in the book pocket, the yellow card is retained as a record of the transaction. The borrower's identification card is returned to him. Each transaction takes 20 seconds of which only 8 seconds is machine time. This machine time includes time spent in punching in the due date on an attached keyboard. With a fixed due date such as is used in the Boston Public Library, this step would be eliminated with a significant reduction in the machine time necessary.

This operation assumes a clerk will conduct the charging procedure, punching the due date, inserting the book card and reader identification card (library card) into the system, returning the library card to the reader, inserting the book card and pink transaction card in the book pocket and placing the yellow transaction record in a file tray.

However, Dr Parker of the University of Missouri hopes to make the system completely self-service, allowing the reader to charge his own books. This could be accomplished by using a fixed due date, and having the yellow transaction record card drop into a file tray at the back of the 357. The reader would place the pink transaction card and the book card in the book pocket, return his library card and would need only a check at the exit control to make sure the book has been properly charged.

When the book is returned the pink card is removed, and verified to make sure the transaction card is the correct card for

the book. This is easily done since the call number is printed in plain language on the transaction card and also on the book pocket.

The yellow transaction records had already been fed into the 1401 computer to keep a record of the transaction. The returned pink transaction cards are fed into the computer both to clear the record and to cumulate information on circulation. The memory of the computer stores information on how often books were used, who used what books, when the books were used, etc. Overdue books may be checked by the computer daily, notices made out, and fines assessed automatically.

A workable system has been tested, the hardware is available and may be improved.

Among the problems to be faced in changing to a system such as this are the cost, and difficulties of conversion. The University of Southern Illinois already had been using an embossed plastic identification card with the student's identification punched into it in machine-readable holes. Libraries using different types of cards would have to provide suitable plastic cards and devise suitable identification numbers. The present machine will read a number only up to 8 digits. IBM book cards must be prepared for all circulating books, with author and title entries abbreviated when necessary to fit the fields assigned to these entries on the IBM card.

As in most of these changes to automated data processing methods, the immediate costs of conversion must be weighed against possible eventual savings, increased efficiency and a greater exploitation of the library's resources.

Charles Austin, a "systems" man, not a librarian, discussed the Medlars project at the National Library of Medicine. Medlars stands for Medical Library Analysis and Retrieval System.

This system which is now in operation was designed to provide three main output products: 1) Index Medicas, the monthly subject and author index to 2500 medical journals; 2) fifty recurring bibliographies in special subject areas; 3) searches for complex bibliographies for demand requests.

First, there was a six-month study phase which determined what hardware would be needed. The next phase was ordering equipment and training personnel in its use.

The equipment now used includes thirteen Flexowriters, a Minneapolis Honeywell digital computer, the Grace photocomposer, and automatic film processers.

The Grace photocomposer has a font of 226 characters including upper and lower case, in contrast to the more limited fonts of other automated systems.

The scope of this project is amazing. 150,000 papers are now indexed annually. This figure is expected to increase soon to 250,000. The annual input in five years is expected to be 100,000,000 characters.

The searching for complex bibliographies is done usually on a day to day basis. A request received today is usually processed by the following day.

It should be noted that before the information is fed into the computer, it must first be carefully analyzed and cataloged by skilled professionals. The great advantage of the Medlar system is the speed with which the information in the computer may be manipulated, selected, and printed out.

Gilbert King, Vice President and Director of Research, ITEK Corporation, gave a fascinating discussion of the Library of Congress Project.

The question to be answered was: Is the automation of a large library practical?

The conclusions of the study were that automation would be a good thing for the Library of Congress; it would be more efficient and allow for greater ease of use. It would be technically feasible. The cost of conversion would be high but by 1970 the cost of running the automated library would be essentially the same as the cost of running an unautomated library.

The size of the Library of Congress greatly complicates its operation. A book misshelved is practically lost in 400 miles of shelving. The experience of small libraries do not necessarily apply to large libraries.

Mr King in determining how much personnel would be needed to exploit the information in the Library of Congress estimates that one person can know the contents of 10,000 items. The Library of Congress has ten billion items. It would require 1 million reference librarians to know the contents of these items.

Obviously we need some other method.

An automated system should be scalable and open-ended.

The card catalog in the Library of Congress is too large to be used efficiently, and it is not possible to include sufficient cross-reference in this catalog because of its size.

Automatic systems can be efficient and fast. The authority file, the subject file, and National Main Catalog are digital items, machine readable. Digital form allows the system to do simple processing at first, search and tracing at low levels.

The primary conversion will be on magnetic tape but in essentially the same form as catalogs are now, since there is nothing better now. Therefore, what we need is large digital memories, one trillion bit memories (averaging 30 bits to a word).

The feasibility is indicated by the probability that such digital memories will be available within two years.

Files of serials would be broken down into articles; this should be possible with little space or expense. While bibliographies would be generated it would also record bibliographies so that bibliographies generated by individuals would not be wasted. There is no reason why whole sets of encyclopedias could not be put into the digital memories.

Once the digital memory is acquired, how is it loaded? One million dollars worth of equipment needs one million dollars worth of programming. Likewise, the big cost is loading the memories. The conversion of the 14,000,000 Library of Congress cards at 50 cents per card would cost \$7,000,000. This is really too expensive.

Another difficulty is the limited size of fonts which are available in present automated systems. The automated system should not ignore items which are not in the Roman alphabet but should include all items which may make searches easier and more effective.

How do you read this information after you record it and recall it? Through consoles. But we do not yet have consoles with all the features needed. The display should be on tubes similar to TV receiving tubes but of higher quality. The font should be such that the display will look much like the IC catalog card. The console will have to provide speedy change

when scanning from one card to another — within 1/5 of a second. The console should allow for temporary storage of an item. You see an item you may be interested in — you ask the console to set it aside for later consideration. The console should provide for automatic transfer of display of items wanted to Delivery Desk so that books requested can be delivered. The console may also deliver "hard copy" of catalog items wanted.

A disadvantage of the console is that it must have a keyboard to instruct the memory. The reader then must learn the keyboard, so the keyboard must be kept simple.

The foregoing concerns hardware of the system. Costs are estimated at \$20,000,000 for the memory and \$20,000,000 for loading. Such high costs require exploitation of the system by having many people use the system. Wire connections between research libraries and the Library of Congress system with repeater consoles in these libraries could accomplish this. There could be added to the memory system the catalogs or special parts of catalogs of specialized libraries. These catalogs need not convert to the IC system as long as the information is in digital form.

Any automated library should have microfilm storage for those items which lend themselves by necessity, etc. to this form of storage. Reduction is feasible with reduction ratios of 300 to 400 to 1. Microfilm sheets are much more available than reels for random access. Speed is important especially if you are serving 1,000 consoles. The microfilm system should also have the capability of making hard copy of the material available almost immediately.

Mr King believes much more work must be done in communication between the librarian and the reader. Most persons ask "stupid" questions. The reference librarian must guide readers into asking intelligent questions. Much of this task should be performed by the memory system. For example, if the reader asks for material on transistors, the system should ask him, how many items do you need, do you want material only after 1960, do you want mathematical material, do you want experimental material, etc. The dialogue between the reader and the system should

follow a fairly standard pattern.

The vocabulary of the reader needs to be coordinated with the system. They have to be speaking the same "language". The words of the reader would be referred to a system thesaurus which would tell the reader how to address the computer in the proper language. Also the system should have the capability of translating foreign languages.

Mr King concluded that the automatic system would be of great value to the librarian. It would speed descriptive cataloging and so save librarians much of their cataloging costs. It would make it easier for the reader to make use of the library system's resources. The open-ended feature would allow new ideas to be introduced without any standardization required and without any changes in hardware. The purpose of the project would not be to make the Library of Congress a National Information Center.

Other subjects covered in the Conference were Computerized Serial Records, Data Processing in Acquisitions Work, Automatic Classification and Indexing, and Dissemination of Information. These we hope to report on at a later date.

B. JOSEPH O'NEIL

MORE ON THE SUBJECT

A decade ago "automation" was a marvel of the business world but strictly experimental for libraries. Since then it has become an increasingly popular topic of discussion at national and regional meetings. The volume of literature on the subject is now quite staggering, and many libraries (mainly research) have successfully automated. The publication of the results of a two and one-half year study - Automation and the Library of Congress - and the implications of the plan for large research libraries cannot be ignored. Locally, Harvard Medical Library, in cooperation with the medical libraries of Columbia and Yale, has already begun a completely automated program, with equal emphasis being placed on book catalog and listing production and on machine information retrieval.

Since I was quite ignorant of the whole subject of data processing and anxious to

acquire a basic understanding of what is taking place in other libraries. I was delighted to be able to enroll at Simmons School of Library Science for Machine Applications to Libraries - a course offered for the first time and taught by Dr Ralph Parker, Director of Libraries at the University of Missouri and a pioneer in the use of such equipment. It was a rugged three weeks, with two and one-half hour daily classes which passed too swiftly, followed by endless hours of reading - much of it new and fascinating. While Dr Parker's enthusiasm for the subject was irresistable, his approach was entirely practical, being extremely skeptical of the frankly experimental.

At the present time, the use of data processing equipment in libraries is generally confined to routine administrative record keeping. This includes book ordering, serial control, circulation control, and accounting. Using either punched cards or magnetic tape, information prepared as part of the book acquisition process serves also for purchase order, payment of invoice, book card for circulation control, machine prepared lists of new acquisitions, and ultimately for an entry into a machine maintained catalog. The more completely integrated the system, making fullest use of the computer, the more economical the operation becomes. Obviously there must be a minimum volume of activity to justify the cost, which runs to approximately \$5,000 per month rental for a small computer.

Tremendous technological advances have been made in this field in recent years and undoubtedly will continue. As new, more sophisticated machines are developed it is probable that mechanized information retrieval will become economically feasible and will provide results superior to those of conventional methods.

As preparation for an automated system, it is imperative that systems be analyzed and developed; flow charts be drawn and redrawn, and objectives carefully defined. These steps, even without automation, will bring about greater standardization, elimination of unnecessary detail and a fully integrated system which will provide increased efficiency.

While it is true that machines will eliminate the people who do routine, clerical jobs, they also create a need for skilled operators and technicians.

Brain power cannot be replaced by machines, but machines can be used to save brain power, freeing professional librarians for professional work.

This was a very stimulating experience which completely revitalized my thinking.

G.A.

SOCIAL NOTES

Library Romance Consummated

What indeed is so rare as a day in June--especially a wedding day--and a beautiful, sunny, June 21st it was that saw Jennie Femino and Stanley Keilcweski successfully launched onto the sea of matrimony in St Lazarus Church, Orient Heights. At least it was apparent to all observers that Jennie and Stan were at sea.

The beautiful bride was radiant in a street-length gown of white lace and organdy with a matching headpiece of double and triple fold veiling. She carried a bouquet of white orchids and and stephanotis. Lillian Gallagher of the library was Matron of Honor, and truly a vision of loveliness in blue.

The bridegroom (victim of all this radiation) wore a triumphant smile, but looked handsome and virile in his dark suit, white shirt with matching cuffs and collar, and he carried a bouquet of Four Roses (we're only kidding Stan).

After the ceremony there was a grand exodus to Caruso's Diplomat in Saugus. There the wedding guests were treated to a magnificent roast beef banquet; bottles of chianti on every table; dancing; and entertainment. A truly bacchanalian rite which no one wanted to leave, including the bride and groom.

This was a library romance in the best traditions of the B.P.L.; Stanley works at Adams Street Branch, and Jennin, formerly of South Boston Branch, now works at Mt Bowdoin. There were a number of "Library People" in evidence at the reception, which no doubt accounts for the elegant, dignified tone of the affair.

It was a grand wedding, and a most enjoyable reception. We all hope Jenny will do it again sometime.

L.I.

A Fine Farewell

Not even a sweltering July afternoon that all but turned the Women's Lounge into a veritable Turkish bath could deter the staff of the Boston Public Library from gathering together to wish Ervin J. Gaines well and to congratulate him on his new position as Director of the Minneapolis Public Library.

The Coffee Hour, held on Tuesday afternoon, July 28th, was sponsored by the Boston Public Library Staff Association in honor of Mr Gaines, our Assistant Director (Personnel), and it proved to be a highly successful if somewhat steamy affair.

In spite of vacation schedules and coverage problems, many of the staff in both Central and the Branches found time to come in and wish Mr and Mrs Gaines good luck on their westward venture. Miss B. Gertrude Wade, on behalf of the staff, presented Mr Gaines with an attractively gift-wrapped book (which he assumed might be Fanny Hill) and a few words of fond farewell: warm, sincere, and abounding in sympathetic understanding of the many trials and tribulations that are bound to besiege any personnel director.

In his farewell speech, Mr Gaines expressed his fondness for Boston and its people and graciously extended an open invitation to anyone from B.P.L. who might be travelling through the Midwest to be sure and stop at the Gaines' domicile. He had instructed his wife to reserve a "special room" for guests from Boston---presumably even those who had read The Pit and the Pendulum.

All-in-all, a very successful affair, and perhaps, ironically enough, never had the rapport between the staff and their Personnel Director been greater. Although they engendered much heated discussion, there can be no denying the many worthwhile changes instituted by Mr Gaines in the name of practical efficiency and common sense. At this, the hour of departure, the staff realized they would miss Mr Gaines, and certainly would never forget him---his immortality being assured in that "Big Black Book", The Personnel Manual.

L.I.

On September 30, 1964 Pearl Smart retired from the staff of the Library as Branch Librarian of the South End Branch Library.

Shortly after graduation from Wellesley College, Miss Smart began her career in the B.P.L. during which she worked in some seven Branch Libraries and for a period of fifteen years in the Personnel Office.

The culmination of her career as a Branch Librarian came with the presentation to her in 1961 of a Neighborhood Award by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The Award was made in recognition of the classes in English proposed by Miss Smart for the Puerto Rican immigrants to the South End and organized in cooperation with the Federation of South End Settlements and the Harvard Language Research Institute which provided the teaching materials.

Miss Smart has wide interests outside of her profession. One of these is her sponsorship of foreign students through the International Fellowship Program of the American Association of University Women. For many years she has sponsored an Indian, Chinese or European student whom she has introduced to American ways and to whom she has given friendship and hospitality. These individuals have remained her friends through the years since returning to their native lands.

A second great interest is her Camp Booth Bay Harbor in Maine to which she retreats whenever possible and where she is now awaiting the fall foliage.

We wish her every happiness in her retirement.

ELIZABETH WRIGHT

WELCOME BACK!

We are happy to report that Charlie O'Connell [Police Officer], who fell while pruning a tree and suffered broken ribs in the ordeal, is now back on the job.

Also back in the fold after an accident in our Bindery Department is Steve Baxter who suffered a badly cut hand in the mishap - no more "cutting up" Steve /PULEEZE!

known your ideas and your expectations, tempered always with charity and good will.

For everything -- but especially for knowing you and working with (or against?) you -- my deepest thanks.

[signed] ERVIN J. GAINES
Personnel Office

To the Soap Box:

To Miss White and the Staff of Branch Issue a public note of thanks in appreciation for the fine work they have continued to do, especially in relation to Young Adults' Summer Reading requests. Although many schools are now more flexible in their demands, we are still faced during school term and vacation alike, with almost endless multiple requests for a limited number of titles, mandatory on the student's list or too popular to be overlooked. Since we have increasingly publicized the value of submitting written requests for books to our patrons, we are delighted, as are they, with the great degree of success of the procedure. Another year couldn't offer much more of a challenge than this past one has - so again, thank you!

Very truly,
(signed) HELEN E. COLGAN
Uphams Corner Branch



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

Dear Soap Box:

As I leave the Library, I cannot resist the temptation to have my day in Soap Box, mostly because this is the one place I'm sure a farewell will be read. When Miss Wade, on behalf of the staff, presented me with a copy of Practical Administration in Public Libraries I concluded that you must think I need it. I will carry it to Minneapolis with me, read a chapter a day and thereby grow wise in the ways of libraries.

You have not spared me when I needed chastising; you have taught me much. I leave with fond memories of battles hard fought and warm friendships which will endure. I hope you will continue to make

SCHOOL IS OPEN



HERE THEY COME

Li

THE
Question
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

OCTOBER 1964

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIX Number 9

October 1964

Publications Committee: Michael Arnold; Jean Babcock; Barbara Bachrach;
Jane Manthorne; Sheila Stevens; Mrs Bridie Stotz;
George Scully, Cartoonist; Sarah Usher, Indexer;
Edward J. Montana, Jr., Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

Many times during the past few months we have been filling small places in the QM with slogans like "Join ALA in '64", "Join MIA in '64", etc. Many of you probably feel that we did this just so there would not be a series of blank spaces staring you in the face. To a certain extent that is true. But we could have put in riddles, little cross-word puzzles or any number of other fillers instead. We chose the slogans. Why?

There are no statistics available but it is known that the number of staff members who belong to professional organizations is very small. We feel that each person to whom this applies is losing a great opportunity, LA's and Professionals alike.

Several reasons are given for not joining; money is a favorite one. To belong to a group of organizations is expensive. To belong to one is not. Dues range from \$1.00 up to over \$15.00. There is, then, a club to fit everybody's pocketbook.

Some think that meetings are dull, that only officers belong, and then only because they have to. But these people were not always officers. They started at the bottom like everyone else (but they did not confine themselves to their own libraries; they broadened their horizons first and then moved up). And, after all, programs are not such that members have to be dragged to them by their heels. We have been to quite a few and found them very enjoyable.

Officers attend, and non-officers attend for one reason: interest. They are interested in their own jobs and how to do them better, and in the library profession as a whole. They know that sticking to your own desk all day, every day, can be pretty confining; that parochialism, narrow mindedness and rampant self-interest as the one and only goal, may be the result. If you know what other people are doing (and tell them what you are doing), and are willing to learn about the new trends, improvements that have been made, and so forth, you advance the cause of librarianship and are more likely (also) to advance yourself.

It is a little early for New Year's resolutions, but better early than not at all. Resolve to join a professional organization in the near future; and don't just join, participate. You'll soon wonder why you hadn't done so long ago.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the May business meeting the question of the possibility of a union for bibliothecal staff members was brought up for discussion. In order to obtain an expression of feeling from the staff, the union poll which has been distributed to all bibliothecal staff, was proposed and seconded. This poll is merely a preliminary investigation into a problem which the Executive Board feels might be explored. If there is enough interest in a union, this may be the subject of a fall program.

It should be kept in mind that the poll is merely an expression of opinion not an actual vote for the establishment of a union or for the dissolution of the Staff Association. The Staff Association cannot be dissolved without a majority vote of the membership in accordance with the constitution.

At our last Executive Board meeting, we met with Mr Ettele. Among the many topics discussed, foremost among them was the need for a salary increase for the LA service. It is not possible to realize an increase for 1964 but we urged most strongly that salary increases be included in the 1965 budget. Mr Ettele was favorably inclined toward LA salary increases but also said that there was a greater need for every staff member to be placed in his proper place in the salary scale. He also expressed the opinion that greater efficiency could provide the money for salary increases and that improved organizational structures are badly needed. He cited as an example the consolidation of the Catalog Departments and suggested that the staff be encouraged to make suggestions for such improvements.

The question of in-service training was also discussed. Mr Ettele said that he was in favor of a program and said that he believed that a Training Director should be appointed. He also agreed that work procedures manuals should be brought up to date and are needed for an effective program.

Mr Ettele expressed the opinion that all staff members, including LAs, should be encouraged to join professional organizations but stressed that an LA should not expect membership to matter in his advancement. He feels that the professional librarian should go out into the community, be active in associations and advance by educating himself in what is going on in the professional world.

Congratulations to Ed Montana on his appointment as Library Publications Officer. I am sorry that Ed could not continue his excellent work as Editor of the Question Mark.

MARY T. CROWE

PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered:

Mrs Anna Gardner - Book Preparation
Mrs Elizabeth J. McGillicuddy - Book Preparation (former employee)
Mrs Brenda Brewington - Central Charging Records
Miriam C. Oester - Book Stack Service
Thomas E. Logan - Book Stack Service
Alfred J. Valentine - Book Stack Service
G. Roger Loncich - Book Stack Service
Donna M. Boucher - Book Stack Service
Edith M. Petzold - Book Stack Service
James Driscoll - Kirstein Business Branch
Paul T. Romano - Book Purchasing
Margot M. Timson - Government Documents
Arleon K. St. Aubin - Catalog and Classification, R&RS
Margaret C. Gardiner - Catalog and Classification, R&RS
Mrs Ruth Kaplan - Catalog and Classification, HR&CS (formerly part-time)
Dianne M. Mullally - Memorial (formerly part-time)
Mrs Fredericka Wyss - Mattapan (reentry)
Kathleen A. Whelan - South End (formerly part-time)
Frederick A. Aufiero - Book Stack Service
Carmela Aufiero - Audio-Visual (formerly part-time in Information)
Mrs Mary Fiumara - West Roxbury
Dorothy A. Banner - Mount Pleasant

Transferred:

Laura A. Lewis from Book Purchasing to Catalog & Classification, R&RS
Dona Atwood from Mattapan to Audio-Visual
Julia DeKoning from West Roxbury to Brighton
Mary Anne Campbell from Adams Street to Memorial
Raymond Collins from Business Office to Duplicating Section
James M. McNiff from Exhibits Office to Book Stack Service
Mrs Frances McArthur from Print Department to Fine Arts

William G. Verry from Book Stack Service to Periodical and Newspaper
Jeannette Dupis from South End to Parker Hill

Terminations:

- Leonard Gold - Book Stack Service - to attend college
- Linda Anne Sheehan - Catalog & Classification, HR&CS - to attend college
- Bernard Hrul - Book Stack Service - to attend Wentworth
- James H. Bracy - Book Stack Service - to attend college
- Mrs Arna Lee Cohen - Audio-Visual - to stay at home
- James Sikes - Mattapan - resigned
- Mrs Mitzi Filson - Science and Technology - another position
- Mrs Christine Umana - Science and Technology - to stay at home

Retired:

- Pearl Smart - South End
- Tiami E. Lilja - South Boston

I FEEL...

strongly about reading. I think everybody should read to understand. Read anything, from road maps to Shakespears, and I'm saddened when 'C' says to me that he "didn't have the time" to take just a few minutes to find something that would sate his reading hunger in a library with many thousands of books, but somehow manages to squeeze in ten minutes deciding that nothing I have will suffice. To me, there's no such thing as a bad book. Everything that is written serves a purpose. A book or story that I find doesn't satisfy me because it's poorly written, or, in my opinion, just plain trash, has said quite obviously, "move up".

The library's the place. Listen to this, if you really want something to read. It's got biographies, Bibles, histories, mysteries, geographies, geologies, diction, and science fiction. Not to mention Parkman's Works, Stoddard's Lectures, fifty years of National Geographic, Steinbeck, Hemingway, Agatha Christie, Shakespeare and Peanuts, and truckloads more, all different, all worthwhile. How can I compete with that for variety and choice?

The next time you're tempted to give forth with a "Got anything to read?", consider this: anything he's got to offer couldn't begin to match the reading wealth in the library. Your neighbor would do you a monumental service if he told you to "make it" to the library.

That is if that is what you meant by "Got anything to read?"

WALTER WILLIAMS
from the MENTOR, Sept. 1964
published at the prison, Walpole

THANKS TO CARE

The following was received by the President of the BPLSA. It was written in Spanish, and graciously translated by the Keeper of Rare Books:

HEREDIA COSTA RICA
STAFF ASSOCIATION
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOSTON 15, MASS. U.S.A.

20 October 1964

Esteemed Sir:

Your name appears amongst the donors of the motor and tool equipment which our college received through CARE.

Your disinterestedness on behalf of our college is very encouraging and gratifying; it makes us think with optimism of the future of "Universal Solidarity" and gives evidence that, in spite of everything there will always be standard bearers of knowledge and progress in the world.

Be confident that by your gesture, you contribute to make the world somewhat more worthy a place to live, and also that you show us and make us understand that solidarity and human brotherhood are not a myth but a reality readily maintained.

With sincere greetings, I remain

Cordially,

(signed) EDUARD CHAVES ALFARO
Director
Heredia Vocational College
Heredia, Costa Rica

The following report was discussed in detail at St. Louis this past June. Because of its importance and great interest, we are reproducing it for the benefit of our readers.

*

FACTS RELATING TO THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT (P.L.88-269)

(Prepared with the cooperation of the Library Services Branch, U. S. O. E.)

MAJOR PROVISIONS OF THE ACT

Public Law 88-269 amends the Library Services Act of 1956:

(1) By increasing Federal financial assistance to promote the development of public library service (Title I) to all areas (urban and rural) without public library services or with inadequate services.

(2) By adding a new provision for Federal assistance for the construction of public library buildings (Title II) in areas lacking the facilities necessary for the development of library services.

Both titles will apply to urban and rural areas after July 1, 1964.

The State Library administrative agency in each state prepares state plans and submits these to the U. S. Commissioner of Education for approval.

Title I (Services):

Funds may be used for salaries, books and other library materials, library equipment and other operating expenses, including costs of administering the state plan for construction.

Authorizes \$25 million for fiscal 1964 and such sums as Congress may determine for fiscal years 1965 and 1966.

The minimum allotment which must be matched is \$100,000 for each of the states.

To remain eligible for a Federal grant, a state must maintain its expenditures for all public library service at least at the same level as in fiscal 1963; and state and local expenditures for public library service must not fall below the 1963 level.

Title II (Construction):

Construction is defined as meaning the construction of new public library buildings and the expansion, remodeling, and alteration of existing buildings for public libraries and initial equipment of such buildings. Architect's fees and the cost of the acquisition of land are also included in the definition.

State plans will describe criteria used for insuring that construction projects are for facilities to serve areas, as determined by the State Library administrative agency, which are without library facilities necessary to develop library services.

Authorizes \$20 Million for fiscal 1964 and such sums as the Congress may determine for fiscal years 1965 and 1966.

The basic allotment is \$80,000 for each of the states.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE LIBRARY SERVICES ACT?

- * Approximately 38 million rural residents have had some measure of new or improved public library services
- * All 50 states, plus American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands have developed plans and contributed matching funds
- * More than 370 Bookmobiles have been placed in operation
- * Over 12 million books and other informational materials have been purchased
- * The state library agencies have strengthened their leadership capacity by adding more than 140 professional field consultants to their staffs
- * Seven states have begun or greatly expanded programs of grants-in-aid to local libraries
- * In 22 states, programs of scholarships or other grants for education in librarianship are in operation. In-service training programs have been substantially increased.
- * In the fiscal year ending in 1963, \$26.9 million in Federal, state and local matching funds was spent in the program. Almost half of this went for salaries, 31% for books and other materials, and the rest for equipment and other operating expenses
- * Of special significance is the fact that state appropriations for rural public library services by mid-1964 had increased 180% from \$5.5 million to \$15.4 million. Funds from local governments have risen by 185% since the Act was passed (Table 1)

Table 1. Funds Available for Public Libraries in Rural Areas
(Fiscal year data)

Government	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Millions of dollars									
Total	29.4	34.0	47.7	54.1	60.1	71.2	74.6	82.7	90.7
Federal	---	1.4	4.9	5.4	7.1	7.4	8.3	7.4	7.4
State	5.5	6.2	8.6	9.5	10.1	11.5	12.8	14.4	15.4
Local	23.8	26.4	34.2	39.2	42.8	52.3	53.6	60.9	67.9
Percent									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Federal	---	4.2	10.3	9.9	11.8	10.4	11.1	8.9	8.2
State	18.9	18.2	18.0	17.6	16.9	16.2	17.1	17.4	16.9
Local	81.1	77.6	71.8	72.5	71.3	73.4	71.8	73.7	74.9

* For more detailed information, consult Indicators, March 1964, published by the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; and State Plans Under the Library Services Act; Supplement 3. (OE-15012-61) (U.S. Office of Education Bulletin 1963, No. 14)

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE?

- * In 1960 there were still 18 million persons who had no readily accessible public library service and 110 million more with access only to libraries which are inadequate according to minimum state standards
- * Sixty million of the people with inadequate libraries and 1.5 million with no public libraries at all are in urban areas of the nation. They were not eligible under the terms of the Library Services Act to benefit from Federal funds, but will be under the new ISCA
- * The great majority of public library buildings today are characterized by advanced age, lack of usable space, inefficient design, and expensive maintenance. Nearly one-half of the larger public library buildings were constructed before 1921; a quarter of those date from 1865 to 1900
- * Book prices have increased 82.4% since 1947-49, and 80.5 million more books are needed to meet standards, but the percentage of the total budget allocated to book purchases has dropped from 15.6% in 1950 to 12.8% in 1960

WHERE IS THE MONEY COMING FROM?

- * Table 2 shows the sources of income for public libraries for three representative years, and illustrates the change in percentage coming from each source

Table 2. Distribution of Public Library Income by Source: 1940, 1956, 1964

	1940	1956	1964 (estimated)
Total (in millions)	\$50.0	\$186.0	\$352.0
Local Government			
Amount	\$43.7	\$162.7	\$287.8
Percent	86.7%	87.6%	82.0%
State Government			
Amount	\$ 0.3	\$ 5.0	\$ 30.4
Percent	1.9%	2.7%	8.4%
Federal Government			
Amount	--	--	\$ 7.4
Percent	--	--	2.1%
Endowment			
Amount	\$ 3.0	\$ 8.0	\$ 12.3
Percent	6.0%	4.4%	3.5%
Other Sources (1)			
Amount	\$ 3.0	\$ 10.0	\$ 14.0
Percent	6.0%	5.5%	4.0%

(1) Includes funds raised by women's clubs, civic organizations, Community Chest, fines and miscellaneous income

- * The amount spent on public library service is three-quarters of 1% of the total state and local operating costs of government; and in 1960 was .065% of the national personal income

Introduction to Data Processing. University of Missouri, June 24-27, 1964

"Computerized Serial Records", presented by Don Culbertson, Librarian for Research and Development, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Mr. Culbertson pointed out that as an institution's files of serial titles grow in number above 1000, the location of the files tends to be decentralized and requires expensive duplication of information. The greater the number of serials, the greater is the variety of kinds of serials, and the more exceptions to recommended practices by publishers in noting information necessary to the librarian and in placing this information in a standardized convenient location in the serial. Studies have been made and recommendations have been offered to publishers to standardize this information and its location. Little hope is held out for implementation of these recommendations unless these standards are tied to second and third-class mailing privileges.

It is necessary then to deal with serials as they are and not as they might or ought to be. Because of the activity of serial files, the lists presented to agents for bidding on subscriptions, expiration of subscriptions, failures to receive issues necessitating claim lists, serial titles being added or dropped, mergers, sending unbound issues to the binder, changes in title, varying frequencies, and all the other things that require the serial record to be continually updated and extended, the serial record is considered to be the most complex of library operations for conversion to automation.

Before the conversion program can be initiated, there must be a definition of goals and considerable study and planning. A total systems approach is recommended. There should be a complete study of the present system. There should be a complete listing of all the kinds of information which ought to be included on the automated serial record. The resulting program should be complete down to the last period.

The experience of several libraries which have undertaken such a program has shown that it is not practicable to convert from a conventional serials record form directly to an automated record. An

Intermediate Serial Record was found to be essential. This is a form designed for serial information in a format from which key punch operators could readily transfer the information to machine readable cards for machine processing or for input to a computer. In some cases the careful correction and completion of the serial records and bringing them together in a centralized file have brought such order, accuracy, and efficiency to the serial record as to rival the benefits derived from the actual conversion to automation.

It was emphasized that the most complete information should be assembled on the Intermediate Serial Record. All information which might be useful to any of the functions established as goals of the automated program should be recorded. The uses to which the automated record may be put may be affected in an evolutionary manner, but the information for all the purposes to be accomplished should be collected as far as possible on the Intermediate Serials Record, or at least provision should be made so that the information can be readily added to the record. Information which has been found to be necessary and useful on the Intermediate Serials Record includes full title, abbreviated title, price, source, current volume number, current issue number, frequency, language, number of issues per volume, subject codes, holdings, history statement, cross references from title variation or subjects, volume index data, and a code number for title [to speed sorting and searching]. The Intermediate Serials Record will also be used to denote what spaces on the IBM cards then may be used in producing the magnetic tape for the computer.

It is possible to have an automated record using IBM cards and standard machines such as sorters, collaters, interpreters and accounting machines, but the limitations as compared with a computer system make the card system seem relatively slow, crude and cumbersome. It is not necessary for a library to own a computer, but only to have access to one. The incredible speed of the computers allow the work to be completed in such a short time that the cost of the computer time is surprisingly low. The computer project at the University of California, San Diego at LaJolla, has had access to a Control Data Corporation

model 1604 and to the smaller CDC 160-A. The processing time per month has been only 34 minutes, with computer costs under \$40.00. The CDC-1604 has an internal speed of one five-millionth of a second for one operation. In this 34 minutes the computers brought up to date the master tape for 1500 serials, prepared one card for each issue of each serial scheduled to be received in the following month, produced holdings lists by subject and location, and lists of current receipts of serials by location. These lists are prepared by a high speed printer at 1000 lines per minute. This copy may be a single copy, with carbons, or on masters for multilith reproductions. Other lists which may be generated are bindery lists of all serials received unbound [which the computer indicates are complete and ready for binding], claims lists, non-receipt lists, expiration of subscription lists and lists according to supplier.

The method by which current serials are checked in is of interest. First the computer is instructed to produce IBM cards for all issues of serials which could be expected to be received during the current month. As each issue is received, the corresponding IBM card is removed from the file and placed in a "received" file. At the end of the month the "received" cards are fed back to update the master tape in the computer. These "received" cards may also be used to produce monthly, weekly, or daily, lists of serials currently received. The cards left at the end of the month may be used for producing claim lists.

The big costs are not the operation and maintenance of the automated serials record but the conversion cost from the conventional serials record. The pioneer conversion programs have taken years to develop. During the conversion process the manual serial record must be maintained until the mechanized or computerized program is "debugged". Decisions must be made as to what kind of information is needed and in what detail. Will the holdings list contain a one line title or will each item contain more information than you would find on a catalog card? What will be the definition of serial? Will it include government documents? Will your holdings lists contain only current titles or will it also include dead titles? Will you use

the complete title or an abbreviated title? Will you use cross references from one subject to another and from variations in title? How completely will you list your holdings? Will you show volumes only, volumes and years? Will you indicate that volumes are incomplete? In what detail? Many of these choices are not mutually exclusive. You may wish to be able to use either an abbreviated title or a complete title depending on the use you are going to make of the output list. In general, the computer system will encourage collection of the most complete information. Programming will allow you to take from the computer those items and in the arrangement best suited for your purpose. The limited amount of information which can be stored on each IBM card, 80 characters, the quality of printing, the restricted font type and size, relative lack of flexibility, and much slower operation make the user much more conservative in the amount and detail of information he would store in the system. The advantages, including relatively low costs of using high-speed high capacity computers, make it uneconomic for a large and expanding system to plan to use the punched card equipment except as adjuncts to the computers in serial work.

There are several excellent descriptions of projects involving changes from manual to mechanized or computerized serial records. The Winter 1963 issue of LIBRARY RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL SERVICES has a lengthy article on the operation at University of California, San Diego, LaJolla: "Computer Processing of Serial Records", by George Vdovin, Melvin J. Voigt, David Newman and Clay Perry. The BULLETIN OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION for July 1963 has a detailed article on the project at the Washington University Library of Medicine at St. Louis: "Mechanization of Library Procedures in the Medium-Sized Medical Library", by Irwin H. Pizer, Donald R. Franz, and Estelle Brodman. Joseph Becker in the June 1964 ALA BULLETIN in the article: "Automating the Serial Record" gives a brief summary of the project at University of California, San Diego, La Jolla.

Mr. Culbertson mentioned a project at Purdue involving 10,000 titles, and M.I.T.'s lists of Serials produced by a large scale computer.

The holding lists and lists of current receipts, both of which may be produced in several copies, can make the serials card catalog unnecessary. The completeness and the frequent up-dating of these lists make available directly to the reader information which under the manual system he would in many cases have to request from a staff member. The checking-in process is simplified, the claiming process is simplified. Both are greatly speeded up. The possibilities of the system in exploiting the library's serials to a far greater degree than is now possible, for expediting exchanges, for completing files, for quicker, fuller, and more effective service are encouraging and stimulating.

B. Joseph O'Neil

SOCIAL NOTES

On Saturday, September 5, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Weston, Miss M. Elisabeth Frierwood, assistant in the Children's Room at South Boston Branch, was married to Herbert Henry Franck. The bride wore a floor length gown of white peau de soie and a shoulder length veil gathered to a fresh gardenia which matched the bridal bouquet.

Weather cooperated when a cloudy day turned to sunshine so that the reception could be held on the lawn of the church. The bride was given away by her father, Dr. Harold Frierwood. Her mother, also Elisabeth Frierwood, author of juvenile and young adult books, was once a Children's Librarian and is pleased that her daughter has chosen the same profession.

Irene H. Tuttle

A WING-DING AT THE WINDOW SHOP

At a time when members of the library staff seem to be leaving with the frequency of trains from Park Street Under, it is often difficult to mark the occasion of their parting with more than a firm handclasp and a tearful nod. One solution to the problem is to save all the goodbyes until a mammoth "bash" can be arranged in honor of the entire group of departees. This was the situation

which prevailed at Codman Square after a roll call revealed that four members of the staff had either left already or had one foot outside the door.

On the final Tuesday of the month [a day long reserved for transfers and dis-continues] the staff migrated from Codman to Harvard Square like Birnam Wood to Dunsinane. Here, at the Window Shop, where the atmosphere is reminiscent of Old Vienna at its gayest, a cheerful throng of brightly attired females [and one solitary male] ignored the rain clouds outside and proceeded to make the evening memorable for the parting guests.

The bill of fare was a varied one which provoked some lively trading in order that as many delicacies as possible could be sampled in the course of the evening. A bottle of sparkling wine added a lilt to the conversation and zest to the conviviality.

High spot of the festivities was a Christmas-in-September presentation of four brightly decorated packages. For the brides to be, Marjorie Pistorino and Mary Ryan, the farewell tokens [representing several past occasions] were a beautiful pair of Hummel lamps and a handsome traveling bag. Mrs. Helen McDonough, who has taken up residence at Memorial Branch, unwrapped a sweater whose many radiant hues made Joseph's garment pale by comparison. The solitary male, William Casey, who is moving on to Connolly Branch, was rewarded for his gallantry as an escort with an impressive briefcase for transporting his copy of the Staff Manual.

The party reluctantly disbanded only after the waitresses began moving chairs and putting out the lights [does that sound familiar?] but all were in agreement that it had been a memorable evening.

MARY HARRIS RETIRES

After forty-three years of service to the Boston Public Library, would that we could all display the vitality, the poise, and just plain joie de vivre that emanated from Mary Kavin Harris on the occasion of her retirement luncheon at the Red Coach Grill on October 1, 1964. Neither bowed nor bent was the gracious, attractive woman who stood before her many friends and reminisced about the "good old days".

Mary Harris first entered the portals of

the BPL at East Boston Branch on October 27, 1921. From an extra assistant she soon rose to the imposing title of High Grade General Assistant. Taking courses at Simmons; dipping into languages, including Russian; passing all the library in-service training courses; she became Acting-in-Charge at Jeffries Point in 1929. From there her career included such branches as Orient Heights, East Boston, West End, and Tyler Street where she became Librarian in 1935, and where she was quite active in the Chinese community. From Tyler Street she went to South Boston in 1937 and from there to Charlestown Branch in 1943, where she was Branch Librarian until her retirement on October 31, 1964.

Mrs Harris has always been a librarian in, of, and for her community. No shy, introverted, cloistered librarian she-- , but always an integral part of her community. The residents of any community she ever worked in never had any doubts as to the identity of their branch librarian. Mrs. Harris was a librarian on the go...her breathless approach and departure were her trademark. Her library was a neighborhood clearing house of information. Her office was constantly besieged by the professional people of the community: doctors, bankers, priests, ministers, teachers, etc. In Charlestown especially, she was actively involved in local civic organizations; church and school groups; the Historical Society; the Garden Club; Urban Renewal; etc. Her Friends of the Library meetings were the social events of Charlestown, well attended and strongly supported.

It is a rare privilege to be able to eulogize someone who is so very much alive. Her staff were always glad to see her arrive each day, but equally as glad to see her go. Hers was the vibrant, high octane personality one could only take in small doses. But her virtues abound: intelligent; poised; self-assured; gracious; always attractive and tasteful in dress; an inveterate reader with a penetrating knowledge of books; a gift for public speaking; a keen, analytical mind; a shrewd judge of people; and a sense of humor nicely balanced her tendency to become overwhelmed by "little things." Mrs. Harris was an excellent administrator, but fortunately her demand for perfectionism in her staff was tempered by an underlying trust in their

ability to think for themselves.

Mary Harris' personal generosity is well known to all her friends; there is no one whom she has refused a helping hand, and many times she has slipped a few dollars to a staff member to carry him through to pay day. Although she may never leave this world burdened by riches, she will certainly leave it well remembered. She is a hostess, sans pareil, officiating at hundreds of luncheons and dinners given for her staff and library. As to her own tenth commandment, neatness, let it be said tactfully, that her desk and office were obviously those of a working librarian -- and neatness could only denote the sterility of do-nothingness.

So Mary Karin Harris has retired, but only from the library, certainly not from life -- as her recent trip to Europe will testify. Even now her community of Charlestown is planning a gala testimonial for her. As she so well put it herself, before she would become a candidate for the screen and shawl, she would retire honorably from the field of battle, with all banners still flying, and with both her wits and pencils sharpened. But one feels there is something missing from the good old BPL --- a tone, a style, a dash of color -- a unique personality. So God speed and good luck MKH, may the years ahead be as fruitful and as exciting as those of the past, and may they be as numerous and as varied as the titles from the world of books you are now leaving.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear B.P.L. Friends:

I am most appreciative of your many friendly messages as I retire, somewhat reluctantly, from your good company. I shall cherish the memory of the abundant warmth and friendliness I felt in your midst at the farewell luncheon you tendered me on October first, at the Red Coach Grille. If you remember, it was a beautiful day, bright and sunny, and every one seemed to bring in to the party some of that sunshine and gay, buoyant spirit. Excellent food, good fellowship, and short speeches made for a most enjoyable time.

I was happy to have a chance to chat with many of you who were present, but I wish it were possible to thank personally all who contributed to the occasion and

remembered me so considerately with a beautiful evening bag filled with a most generous gift of "green notes". Among my souvenirs, I have an attractive card with a white satin ribbon bearing a long list of names, a pleasant reminder of the kind thoughtfulness of my many good friends.

Affectionately yours,
MARY K. HARRIS

October 1964

WE REGRET ...

that in the September issue of QM we neglected to CONGRATULATE Mr. and Mrs. Michael Venezia [Mike hails from our Patent Room] on the birth of their 3rd daughter, Kathryn Rose, on August 4th.

GET WELL QUICK!

John Tuley, Superintendent, Fire Control is in Carney Hospital for a dental operation. His condition is steadily improving and he hopes to be home soon.

Ruth Foley, Book Stack Service, who is now convalescing at her niece's home in Everett. We know Ruthie would like to hear from her many BPL friends so we are taking this opportunity to give you her present address:

Miss Ruth Foley
c/• Aucello
57 Buckman Street
Everett, Mass.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 18 - Certification examination for Professional Librarians, Massachusetts Department of Education.

VOTE

ON

ELECTION

DAY

NOVEMBER 3

THE
Question
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 1964

T H E Q U E S T I O N M A R K

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIX Number 10

November 1964

Publications Committee: Michael Arnold; Jean Babcock; Barbara Bachrach;
Jane Manthorne; Sheila Stevens; Mrs. Bridie Stotz;
George Scully, Cartoonist; Sarah Usher, Indexer;
William T. Casey, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

Against the distracting background of a magnificent Indian Summer day, we were endeavoring with small success to produce an editorial, when something happened and the editorial wrote itself.

This particular "something" was a small and rather frightened boy who suddenly appeared at the registration desk in one of the branches, clutching a letter which he solemnly presented to the librarian. We have taken the liberty of reproducing that letter, because it seems to express far more eloquently than any words we could muster, the essence of library service in the fullest meaning of that term.

To it may concern

Could you please give Joseph My Son,
7 years old.

He gose to ---- School (2nd grade)
Birth 3/22/57 year,
a library Card please.

He needs reading & trying to have him to
reading class.

I am unable to come myself because I just
had a baby.

Please I would appreciate it thank you

from Mother ----- (only)
no Father.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

For the past several months the Executive Board has been devoting a great deal of time and energy to the problem of LA salary increases. This matter will be brought up for full discussion at the November Business Meeting. I hope to have more definite information for the staff at that time.

The results of the Union Poll have been tabulated and will also be presented for discussion at the next business meeting. Since the results of the poll indicate a majority of anti-union votes, this will not be the subject of the fall professional meeting.

It has been brought to my attention recently that many Staff Representatives do not know what their responsibilities are. I would like to clarify this situation by calling to their attention the notice to Staff Representatives which was sent out to them in March, 1964. This notice outlines the duties of the Staff Representative very clearly. If any Staff Representative does not have a copy, I will be very happy to provide one.

At the last Executive Board meeting the Board voted to instruct the Personnel Committee to make a study of an In-Service training program and an Orientation program.

MARY T. CROWE,
President

PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered:

- Thomas E. Logan - Book Stack Service
- Alfred J. Valentine - Book Stack Service
- Maureen E. Hanlon, Book Purchasing
- Kenneth H. Hilliard, Jr. - Book Stack Service
- Assunta Donisi - Book Selection R&RS (re-entry)
- Bernadette F. Collins - Science and Technology
- Laura Liebowitz - East Boston
- Christopher Ivusic - Periodical and Newspaper
- Louise M. Watson - Central Charging Records

Transferred:

- Mary Anna Campbell from Memorial to Uphams Corner

- Susanna M. Gill from East Boston to Egleston
- Harriet McGrath from Personnel Office to Home Reading Division Office
- Michael Tiorano from Audio-Visual to Central Charging Records
- Helen Harrington from Book Purchasing to Book Selection R&RS

Returned from Military Service:

- Edward Stenberg - Exhibits
- Ronald McLeod - Audio Visual

Terminations:

- John R. Finnegan - Book Stack Service
- Mrs. Helene Fisher - Personnel Office - to stay at home with daughter
- Camille Gaudette - Cataloging and Classification R&RS - getting married and leaving the city.
- Mary F. Colpas - Egleston Square - another position
- Mrs. Brenda Hemingway Thomas - Mt. Pleasant - moving out of city.
- Noreen Quealey - Parker Hill - to devote more time to studies

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The New England Unit of the Catholic Library Association held its fall meeting at Assumption College Library in Worcester, Mass., on Saturday, October 24, 1964. Fair, cool weather added to the enjoyment of the day for the two hundred or more persons who attended.

The meeting got under way at 2:30 p.m., with a panel discussion by four faculty members of the college on "Ecumenism and the printed word." The speakers, who were, Rev. George Bissonnette, Rev. Ernest Fortin, Rev. Denys Gonthier, and Rev. Joseph Pelletier, stressed the need and importance of books and libraries in the fulfillment of the proposals put forth by the Second Vatican Council for the furtherance of Christian Unity.

Lunch was available before the meeting in the Taylor Dining Hall for those who wished. After the program, tours of the Library were taken and refreshments served. The day ended about five o'clock with unanimous agreement of all who attended that it was one of the finest programs we have had.

HARRY FLETCHER



EDNA G. PECK RETIRES

Mention the name EDNA G. PECK and you are bound to conjure up a dual image, and which picture comes first depends upon the hour of the day which you indulge in reminiscing. If it is at tea time, the first picture must inevitably be of a seven-layer cake resting majestically and still uncut in its special carrying case, or already cut into the right-size pieces by the master hand which created it and adorning one of the fancy tea trays reserved for parties. At other times, the picture is of a gracious lady with gray hair piled high on her head like a crown; with blue eyes capable of sparkling with joy or burning with indignation, whichever emotion the immediate situation might evoke; but always hurrying along the halls with short, staccato steps as though to be sure to get there in time for a front-row seat should the Library be visited, suddenly, by a delegation from Mars.

Graduation from Acadia Academy in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, a two year period of teaching in Linden Hall, a private school among the Mennonites in Pennsylvania, and another period of Librarianship at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, preceded Miss Peck's entry into the Boston Public Library in 1928. Those newcomers to the Branch System in those days who were introduced to its intricacies under the gentle yet firm supervision of Mary E. Ames at Fellows Athenaeum were indeed a privileged group. Miss Peck was fortunate enough to be one of them.

Brief periods of experience at Memorial and Dorchester were followed by transfer to Tyler Street where she tarried only two years. Then began the six-and-one-half years "on the periphery" at Phillips Brooks where, in October 1931, she was appointed Branch Librarian. On the staff at that time was Edith H. Bailey, an individual possessed of rare insight and perception. Her ability to see events in their true perspective gave greater meaning to the many experiences they shared and placed those years in a special category.

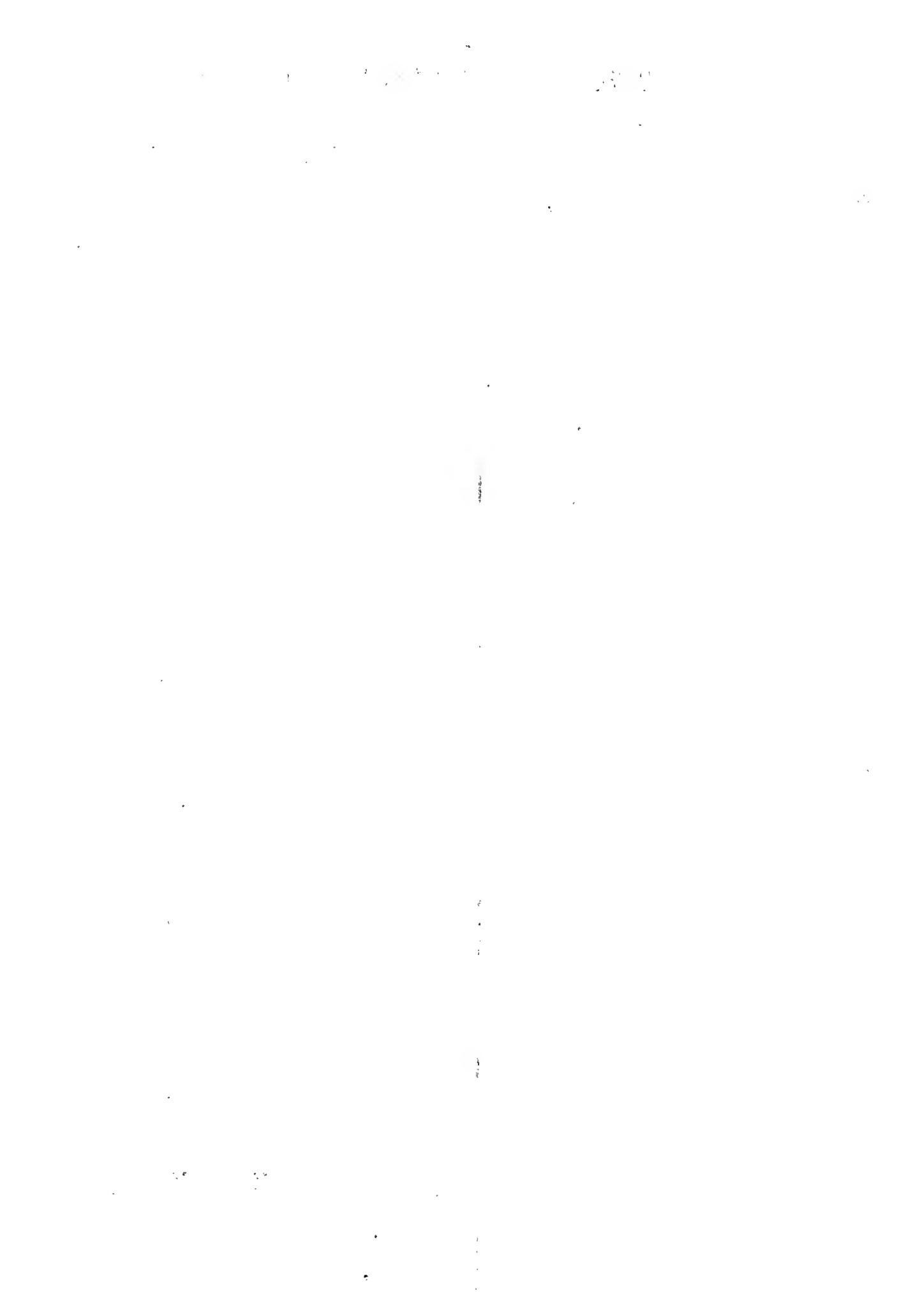
Miss Peck's outstanding book reviews in the Book Selection Class taught by Bertha V. Hartzell in Training Class days made her a natural choice to head the Book Selection Department in the Circulation

Division, the duties of which position included book reviewing for the Branch Librarians at their regularly scheduled meetings. So, in December 1937, she left the friends she had made at Phillips Brooks, where the congenial atmosphere of a small community just naturally developed a relationship more personal than that which usually exists between Branch Librarian and borrowers. To exchange the warm and vibrant contacts with the public for the behind-the-scenes position must have meant a drastic adjustment, but Miss Peck took it in stride and Book Selection became the richer for her guidance over many years. She, on the other hand, was compensated in large measure by association with two persons of such high caliber as Christine Hayes and William C. Maiers, Jr.

Probably few persons on the B.P.L. staff are known as individuals to so many of the public it serves as is Edna G. Peck. Through the many book talks which she gave in Branch Libraries and elsewhere throughout the city, she has delighted hundreds who look forward eagerly to her appearance at meetings of Friends of the Library, Never Too Late Groups, local church groups, and professional organizations.

Her speaking career has expanded in recent years to include book reviewing in most of the New England States, an activity she will continue in her retirement. But, her real career in public speaking began in 1936 when the M.L.A. entered into the field of radio and arrangements were made whereby fifteen minutes of educational time were allowed by WEEI weekly for a program titled MEET THE AUTHOR. As head of the Radio Committee, a sub-committee of the Publicity Committee of the M.L.A. Planning Board, Miss Peck was responsible for securing authors and for introducing them on the air.

Since the organization of the Boston Chapter of WNBA she has been active in all its undertakings, serving her term as president, and also as chairman of the first two highly successful Book and Author luncheons, which have become a tradition since they have opened National Library Week for five successive years. Because as a member of A.L.A., M.L.A., and B.P.L. S.A. [twice Presidnet; once Editor], she carried to success any committee work she undertook, she was frequently approached to serve and always accepted without hesitation.



Can one ever truly assess the personality which is Edna G. Peck? Probably not. But, those who have worked with her under varying circumstances would agree that she has been richly blessed because over more than three decades they have found her to be -- a generous, outgoing person, filled with the joy of living; endowed with so ready a wit that she was never at a loss for the appropriate rejoinder; always on time [or ahead of it!] so that Peck and punctuality became synonymous; willing to fight to uphold the principles and policies in which she believed; efficient and capable in the running of her department so that she was accorded the respect and cooperation of her staff; possessed of energy unlimited; sympathetic and understanding with those who suffered or encountered trouble; an inveterate party instigator; a devotee of the Coffee Shop where she was the inspiration for more than one "special"; a happy traveler; and always a loyal friend.

When finally convinced that she meant what she said when she announced her impending retirement, the spontaneous reaction was that there should be a party which would be the BEST. Whether she felt that the tea at the Women's City Club on October twenty-fourth met this high specification, only she knows. But we know that over thirty alumnae joined more than one hundred fellow workers in honoring her, and they came from Washington, D.C., Brooklyn and Garden City, New York, and from all points in and around Boston. The old Boston house overlooking the Common provided a perfect setting; the food was delicious and plentiful; the flower arrangements were beautiful; the guest of honor was at her best and her reminiscences were a fitting climax to an afternoon shared with friends. Mr. Carroll was delightful in his presentation of the tangible evidence of the high regard in which Miss Peck is held. It was a black evening bag containing a check and accompanied by a card with the traditional white satin ribbon on which had been typed the names of a long, long list of friends.

And now as she starts out on a new and challenging road, her friends wish her the very best and join in this toast:
 To E.G.P.--"Wherever you travel, may a star lead you; the wind be at your back, the road rise up to meet you, and God hold you in the hollow of his hand."

SARAH M. USHER

WITH SINCERE THANKS

As I look back upon October 24th, from a pinnacle of ten days, it seems to me that my fellow workers staged the perfect Boston Tea Party. The Committee in charge is to be congratulated. The beautiful weather [for this the Committee gets full credit;] the ideal setting; the handsome floral decoration; the delicious refreshments; the host of friends of today and yesteryear; the spirit of comradeship that prevailed - everybody seemed to have a good time, especially the guest of honor - and the gift! I am still overwhelmed. The dainty evening bag and its amazing contents almost, but unfortunately not entirely, left me speechless.

What shall I buy with such a munificent sum? I have not definitely decided. I need very much, and may buy, a lovely comfortable chair in which I can sit and enjoy the television which the Book Selection Committees and other close associates gave me about three years ago - I thought that was to be my "graduation" present. A chair has another attraction. I can "sit on" the staff for the rest of my life.

For all the planning and work on the part of the Committee, for Mr. Carroll's gracious presentation, for the handsome "memory" book made by the Bindery Department and for the generous contributions of some two hundred and fifty staff members, according to the traditional "ribbon", I am truly grateful.

I leave you with regrets but regrets overshadowed by gratitude for thirty-six years doing the work I enjoyed among associates who have become my friends.

EDNA G. PECK
 November, 1964

PLEASE ATTEND !

The November Business Meeting of the B.P.L.S.A. will be held on Friday, November 20, 1964 at 9:15 a.m. in the Lecture Hall. We urge all members, who can possibly do so, to attend.



MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Report on meeting of New England Chapter, Music Library Association, October 15, 1964, at Wentworth-by-the-Sea.

by David Nevin with back seat driving by Ruth Bleecker and Natalie Palme

It was a lovely day: we were all very pleasantly surprised to see how much later the fall colors had remained in the warmer, coastal area. But following an extremely eye-appealing ride via less-traveled routes through Rye and Hampton, N.H., and despite muffled threats to for- sake 'our duty' to spend the remainder of the day bird-watching or simply enjoying the beauty of the New England coast, we arrived at Wentworth-by-the-Sea. After registering and receiving our green name tags, we proceeded to the hotel's Cote d'Azur Room for the meeting of the New England Chapter, Music Library Association.

Therese Mueller, Music Librarian of Wellesley College and Chairman of the New England Chapter, began the afternoon's program with welcoming remarks and introduction of speakers. The first of three talks on "Phono-records and Tapes as Library Materials" was given by Miss Mattie Barclay, Music Librarian of Milford, Connecticut's, Taylor Public Library, who spoke of the selection and processing procedures used in their small circulating collection of phonodiscs, and quite glow- ingly of the appreciation of their patrons and the value of both musical and spoken word recordings in the public library. The next speaker, Miss Ethel Bacon, told of a different medium, tape recordings, and of a different environment and clientele in her duties as Music Librarian at the Uni- versity of Hartford [Conn.]. The success of their present installation consisting of a four-tape-deck console with twelve listening positions was attested to by the fact that plans are currently in forma- tion for the addition of four more machines, increasing the total number of listening positions to forty-four. Her explanation of the problems and solutions in the programming of specific composi- tions, especially during pre-examination review periods, and of their project to tape record all campus concerts for pres- ervation were particularly interesting (and at times, amusing). The highlight of the afternoon was a talk given by Mr. Charles P. Fisher,

President of Cambridge Records, Inc., of Wellesley, Mass., in which he ex- plained how a small record company forms a philosophy for selection of a particu- lar type or form of music for reproduc- tion, much as a book-publishing house is known for its emphasis on a particular type of book or subject coverage. Some of his most interesting remarks were on how closely his particular company at- tempts to work with the recording artists and how the editing of a recorded per- formance could actually make the phono- disc version 'better than real'.

Although all the speakers participated in the question-and-answer period which followed the talks, a question on the problem of stereophonic versus monaural recordings elicited a thought-provoking observation from Mr. Fisher. He said that although monaural recordings will probably still be in use, the combination of improved stereophonic recording tech- niques - both actual and simulated - and the ever-increasing use of stereophonic cartridges by manufacturers of record players, even in their cheaper 'mono' machines, will mean that the market will be almost entirely for the stereophonic recording and machine - probably within five years or less.

After the meeting we gathered up free pamphlets and catalogs, met old and new friends, and proceeded to committee meetings, thence to the banquet and John Braine's discussion of contemporary British novelists.

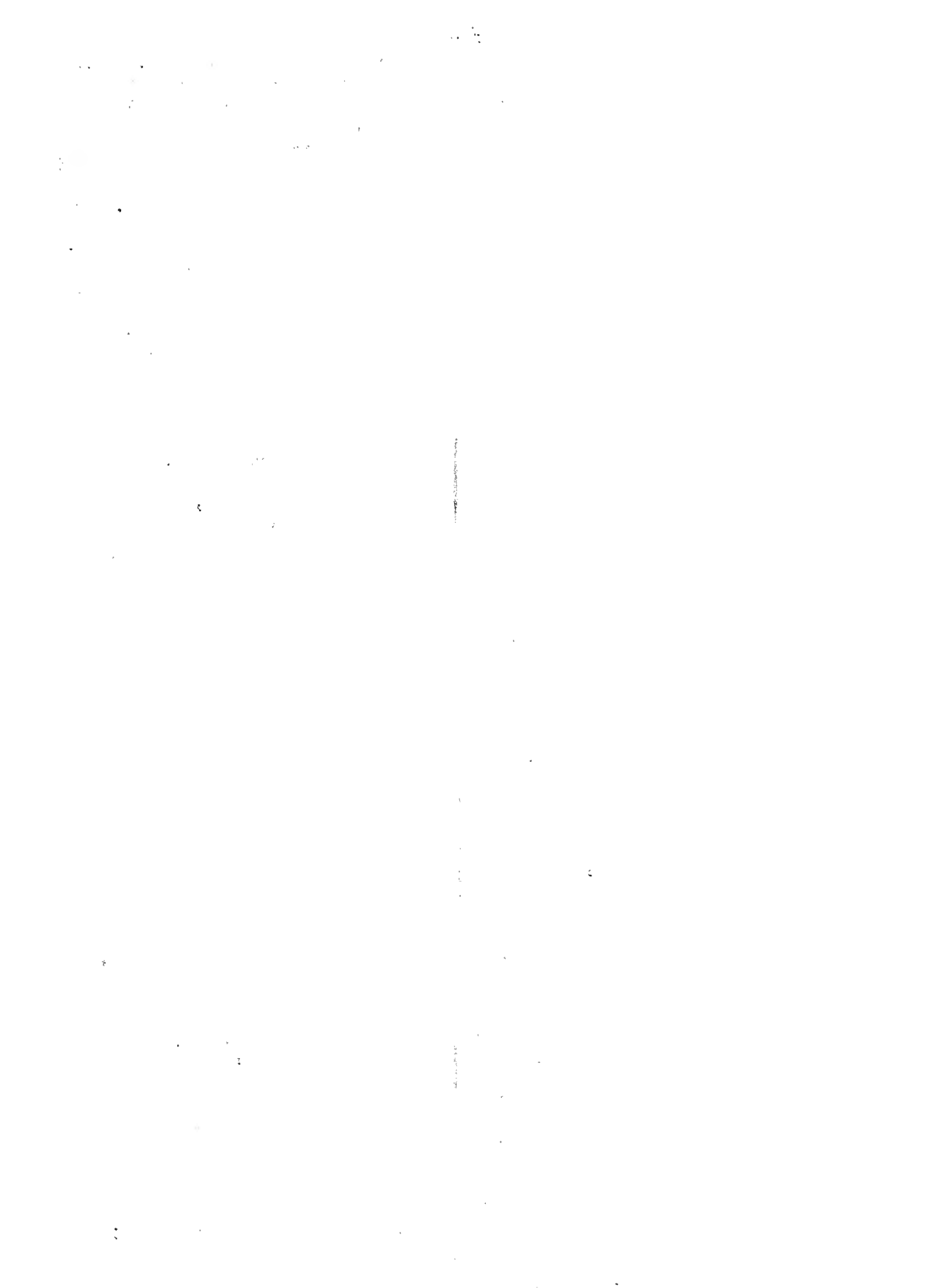
YOUTH

Age, I'm miles ahead of you,
I got a running start;
Now this road is paved with tears,
I wish we didn't part.

I'd like to stop and wait for you,
But I'm too far ahead;
For youth, while you're still catching up,
I'll have fallen dead.

Maureen E. Hanlon
Book Purchasing

R E M E M B E R C A R E !



"MARY K. HARRIS NIGHT"

Outside it was foggy and gloomy, but inside at 43 Monument Square, Charlestown, all was very gay and festive. The occasion was "Mary K. Harris Night" at the Charlestown Branch Library, when, on the evening of November 12, 1964, the Friends of the Library gathered to honor their former Branch Librarian and to meet her successor, Mrs. Elinor D. Conley.

For the one hundred and fifty guests, even the title of the program suggested a light heartedness which characterized the evening. This was "Mrs. Harris Went to Paris and Lots of Other Places", a travelogue with colored slides narrated by Miss L. Josephine Reid, Assistant Principal of the Emerson District, East Boston, and cousin of Mrs. Harris, who accompanied her on a recent trip to Europe.

Miss Margaret Murphy, President of the Friends group, opened the meeting, introducing Mrs. Conley who welcomed the guests and expressed her appreciation for the continued cooperation and support of the community. Miss Reid then gave her talk which was both informative and witty. Following this, Miss Murphy presented the Reverend Mr. Wolcott Cutler, former Charlestown pastor and staunch Friend of the Library. Mr. Cutler presented Mrs. Harris with a little book on "Friends", together with a card and generous check from the Friends of the Library, the Garden Club and Charlestown Community Associates. Several individuals sent Mrs. Harris flower arrangements for presentation at this time. In response, Mrs. Harris spoke with deep appreciation of her many friendly relationships and her happy experiences in the Charlestown Branch Library. Although she said that for once she was almost speechless, she managed characteristically to say just the right thing at the right time.

Following the program, refreshments were served in the bright, newly decorated Children's Room, and Mrs. Harris was presented with a large cake in the shape of a book, and decorated with fall flowers.

Library guests included Mr. Carroll, Mrs. Andelman, Miss Katherine Rogan, Miss Marion Herzig, and Miss Linda Ivers.

Throughout the evening, Charlestown's ever-present friendliness and community

spirit was very much in evidence, and the gaiety of the occasion was sustained by the thought that Mary Harris will still be a very active member of this community, even though she will not be at 43 Monument Square.

CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR

The fourth annual Children's Book Fair sponsored by the Boston Herald Traveler and co-sponsored by the Boston Public Library, the Children's Book Council and the Massachusetts Department of Education was a great success. Bus load after bus load of children arrived at the New England Life Building to attend the stimulating programs presented by authors, illustrators and librarians. Some programs had an audience of about five hundred children, teachers and other interested groups.

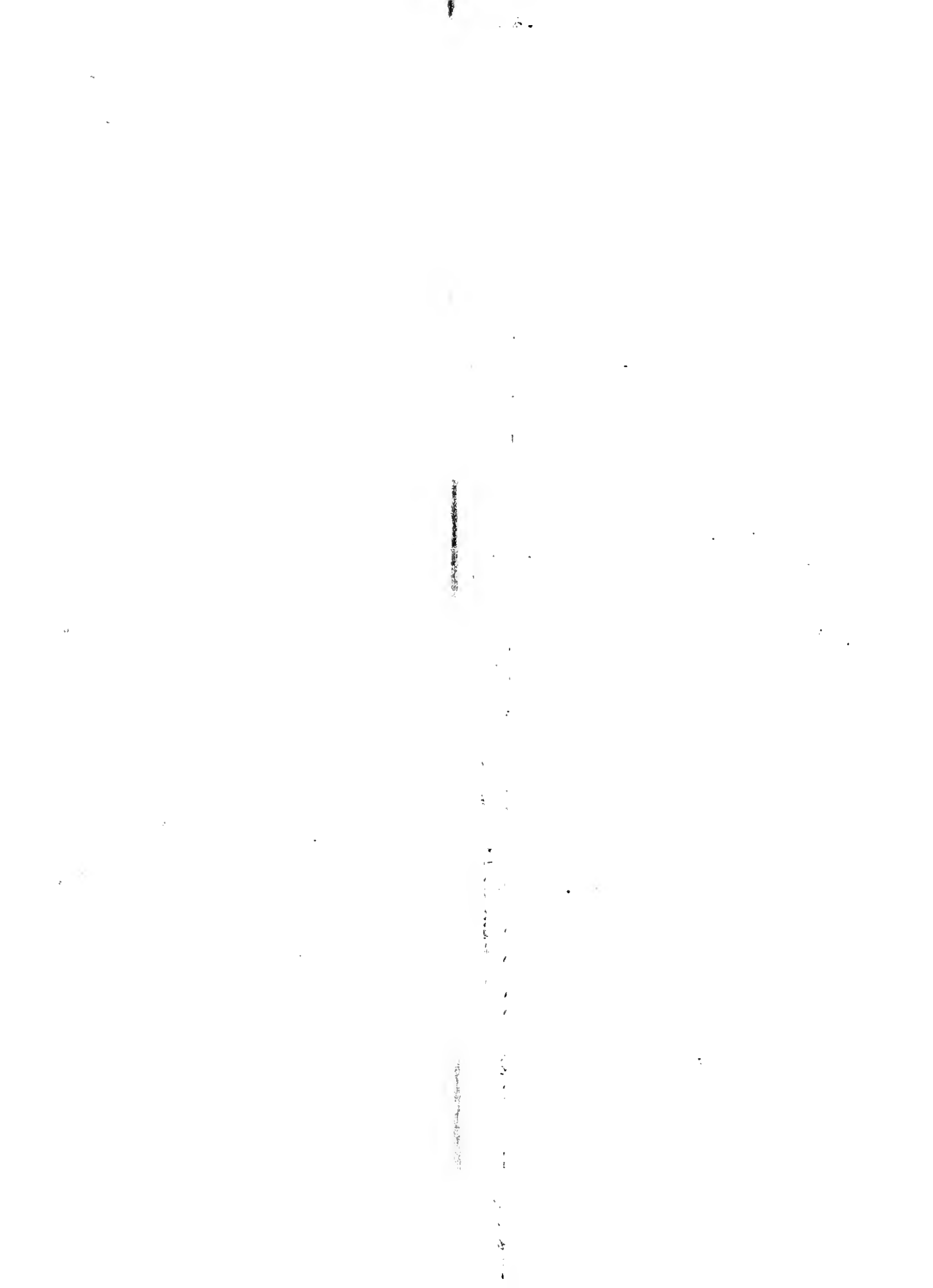
Three thousand children's books were effectively displayed in the exhibit area. From Sunday through Saturday children came singly, with parents or with school groups to see the books and to make notes about those they would like to read or to buy. Always there is a little disappointment when they cannot purchase books at the Fair.

The staff of the Boston Public Library, past and present, contributed in no small way to the success of the Children's Book Fair.

Participating in the program were Miss Margaret Holt of the Egleston Square Branch author of David McCheever's twenty nine dogs; Mrs. Beryl Robinson, Readers Advisor for Children; Miss Martha Engler, Miss Diane Farrell, and Miss Juliam DeKoning children's workers in the branches reviewed books. Miss Farrell also spoke about Book Week and children's books on the Louise Morgan program.

To all we say thank you.

RUTH M. HAYES



H A P P Y

T H A N K S G I V I N G

T O

A L L

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

S O R R Y !

N O

L E T T E R S

T H I S

M O N T H

I N M E M O R I A M

M R S . L I L L I A N P . B U R R O U G H S

When Mrs. Lillian P. Burroughs died on October 17, 1964, THE QUESTION MARK lost one of its most faithful readers.

Mrs. Burroughs was a native of Charlestown, had taught five years in the Boston schools following graduation from Boston Normal School in 1895, and had raised a family before she entered the Boston Public Library Branch System. She was assigned to Charlestown and worked there until her compulsory retirement at the age of 70, in June 1943.

She lost no time in beginning a second library career, for the records show that she began working at the Boston Athenaeum in June 1943. She continued as a full-time member of the staff until the last few years when she reduced her work load to a lesser number of hours a week. Her second, and final, retirement came in September 1963, at the age of 90.

During her years at the Athenaeum she never lost interest in the B.P.L., and for many years came personally, and always before it came due, to pay her subscription to THE QUESTION MARK, and incidentally to chat about the "good old days" at Charlestown.

SARAH M. USHER



A RECENT SCENE IN BATES HALL !

"Poor Guy - he got
everything he asked for"



BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF ASSOCIATION

When you CARE

Then you Share

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING !



C A R E COMMITTEE

Selma Horwitz, Chairman, Roslindale

Anne Dray, Roslindale

Rhoda Blacker, Adams Street

Marie Cashman, Open Shelf

THE
Question
MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

DECEMBER 1964

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XIX Number 11

December 1964

Publications Committee: Michael Arnold; Jean Babcock; Barbara Bachrach; Jane Manthorne; Sheila Stevens; Mrs. Bridie Stotz; George Scully, Cartoonist; Sarah Usher, Indexer; William T. Casey, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

For some months past, the gray concrete octopus that winds through Copley Square has continued the relentless process of transmuted a Venetian palace into an exit ramp. For most Bostonians, this new segment of the expanding expressway complex is simply the means they will utilize to travel from one nerve-shattering traffic snarl to another. For the library however, it is symbolic of the tremendous changes that have involved the entire profession.

This issue of QM contains a special report from Our Man in Book Stack. As we read his account of one "long day's journey into nite" we thought briefly how peaceful it might be to return for a moment to the tranquility of a by-gone era when Bates Hall looked like this:

Twenty or thirty people are usually to be found here, some writing, most of them reading hard, and a few gazing about them. All are quiet. Few sounds break the silence, except, now and then, the tap of the cancelling stamp at the desk, a footfall in the corridors, or the faint rustle of book-leaves.

(Whitehill, Boston Public Library, p. 80)

But no amount of wishful thinking can return us to the gas-light era. For us, the expressway has become a one-way street into the future. We offer certain necessary services, and these will be subjected to ever widening demands, particularly as regionalism becomes more and more of a harsh reality. Caught in a squeeze between expanding demand and diminishing resources, we have been forced to serve the 20th century needs with 19th century equipment.

To meet our commitment to the future demands more than the grudging acceptance of enforced change. It means a willingness to adopt new methods of operation when these are superior to the old.

We face an extremely difficult period of transition as we shift from quill pen to computer and the past labors valiantly to cope with the future. The end of the year is a logical piece of high ground from which to view this marriage of past and future. 1964 has cost us something in the passing of many staff members who have contributed so richly to the heritage of our institution. But because they each contributed so much of themselves to the library, we will be able to draw on this legacy for help in the long task that lies before us.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I am deeply concerned about the apparent lack of interest on the part of the members in the activities of the Staff Association. I know that many of you feel discouraged by the fact that we have not yet realized the goals which we had hoped to achieve this year. May I remind you of two things: First, the year is not yet over and the Executive Board is still hard at work on many projects which we hope will result in the successful attainment of our goals. It is too premature to make any announcement of these projects. Secondly, I believe that in order to achieve success, all members must actively support the Staff Association. The success of any organization depends upon the willing and active cooperation of its members. The recent union poll indicated that you did want the Association to continue to represent you. I realize that staff shortages and days off sometimes make it impossible to attend the business meetings but I would like to remind you that we are one of the few staff organizations allowed to hold meetings on library time. Would it not be possible to give up some of your free time, especially if such a sacrifice would be beneficial to you? We want to encourage more active participation of the younger members of the staff, but we ask that the more mature and experienced members lead the way by taking a more active and vocal role in the Association.

We have not received any word as yet on our presentation, to the Trustees, of a request for a 5% increase for the Library Assistants. I hope that we will have some information very soon.

A report of the Personnel Committee's study of an In-Service Training and Orientation Program is in process and will be presented to you at the January Business Meeting.

MARY T. CRCWE,
President

PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered

Mary Anne Vaughan - Science and Technology

Transferred

Elizabeth Jordan from Mattapan to Codman Square

Married

Barbara J. Feeley, Information Office to Richard Pearson, November 11, 1964

Military Leave

John J. Rohen - Central Charging Records

Return from Military Leave

William J. Scannell - Book Purchasing

Ceased

Harry E. Arnold - Open Shelf - to return to college

Mrs. Brenda H. Thomas - Mt. Pleasant - moved to New York state

Susanna M. Gill - Egleston Square - to work in another library

Irene Probstain - Rare Books - to work at Harvard

Herman O. Peterson - Book Stack Service - resigned

SICK ROLE

We thought perhaps staff members would like to send Season's Greetings to the following shut-ins:

Miss Beatrice M. Flanagan
Ripley Road Nursing Home, Inc.
25 Ripley Road
Cohasset

Mr. John W. Tuley
21 Ashmont Street
Dorchester, Mass. 02124

Mrs. Veronica Lehane
85 Ocean Street
Dorchester, Mass. 02124
c/o Mrs. Ferris

To the Staff:

The Committee and Chairman of CARE wish to thank all those who contributed in making it a Happy Thanksgiving.

We would also like to remind the Staff Representatives to collect their contributions - which will be the last for this year - so that we may send something to CARE for the Christmas Season.

Anne Dray
Marie Cashman
Rhoda Blacker
Selma Horwitz, Chairman

MALES GATHER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY

On Tuesday, November 17, some sixty-eight members of the Mens Librarians Club gathered at the Sherman Union Building at Boston University for their Autumn meeting.

After an excellent roast beef dinner in the hidden recesses of Dining Room A, the group adjourned to the recently constructed law library in the high rise building which dominates the Commonwealth Avenue campus. A tour of the law school and law library was conducted by the librarian, Mr. Charles Connolly. High spot of this tour was reached in a literal sense when the group paused at the seventh floor to enjoy the spectacular view of Boston and the Charles River.

A glimpse into the future of Boston University came when Dr. Gustave A. Harrer, Director of Boston University Libraries discussed the plans for the new library which is to be constructed on the campus. Conceived by a group composed of librarians, faculty members, architects and engineers, the new building is designed to meet the needs of an expanding university complex and will utilize the latest concepts of library architecture and design.

CHARLES RIVER LIBRARY CLUB

On the cold and windy morning of December 1, 1964, the Charles River Library Club held its first meeting for 1964-1965 in the very attractive multi-purpose room of Simmons College's Beatley Library. Promptly at 10 A.M. the meeting began with the introductory remarks of the President, Mr. Robert Wagenknecht of the Winchester Public Library. The first speaker on the program was Miss Loda May Hopkins of the Simmons College School of Library Science, who discussed book reviewing for adults. The B.P.L. was well represented by Miss M. Jane Manthorne and Mrs. Beryl Robinson who spoke on book reviewing for young adults and for children, respectively. Following these stimulating lectures, optional

tours of the library were conducted.

Dennis R. Dunnigan
Audio-Visual Department

5305 - 1246 - 906

These are not the measurements of Gargantua but figures of business at Bates Hall Center Desk on Friday, November 27, 1964, the day after Thanksgiving. This represents 1246 patrons submitting 5305 requests for books and 906 items prepared for home circulation from departments of Reference and Research Services.

This was not a record day as March 9, 1963 has 1305 people sending through 5520 slips with 953 books circulated. Credit for a job well done must be given to the staff of Book Stack Service on this hectic day. A staff of 13 individuals reported for work at 9 and without warning it struck at 9:15. With the good graces of Mr. John J. Connolly an SOS was sent to our Library Aides, home from school, to assist and their response was gratifying.

Patrons came from as far north as Lowell, as far south as Providence, Rhode Island, and as far West as Worcester.

The increased use of the Library by students leads one to believe that the old adage "You ain't seen nothin' yet" still holds.

Frank P. Bruno

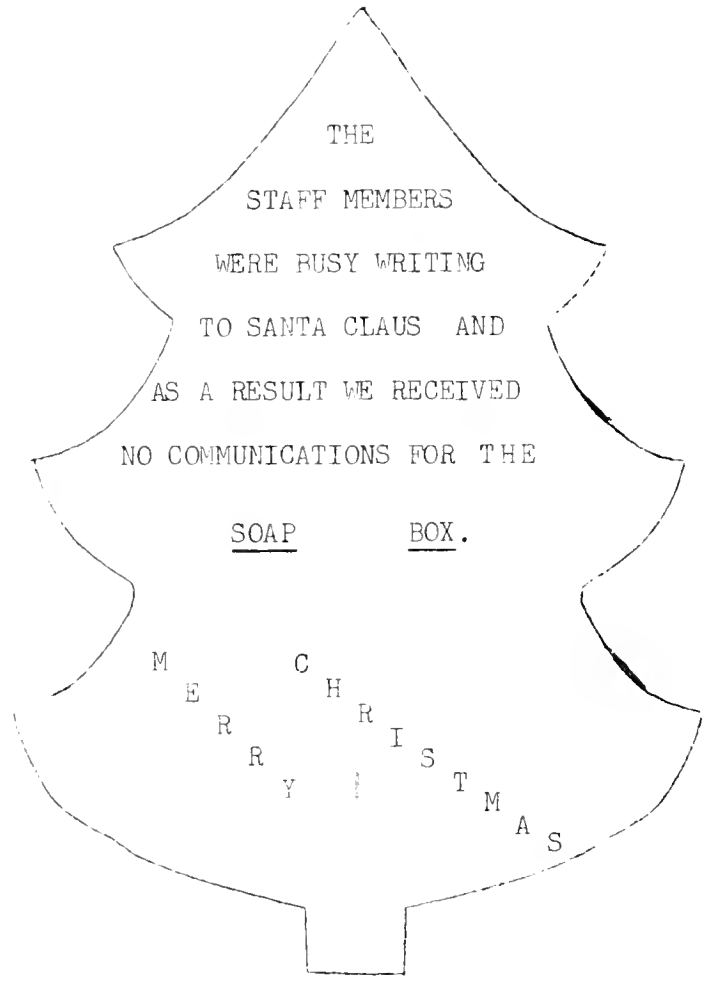
TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE STAFF:

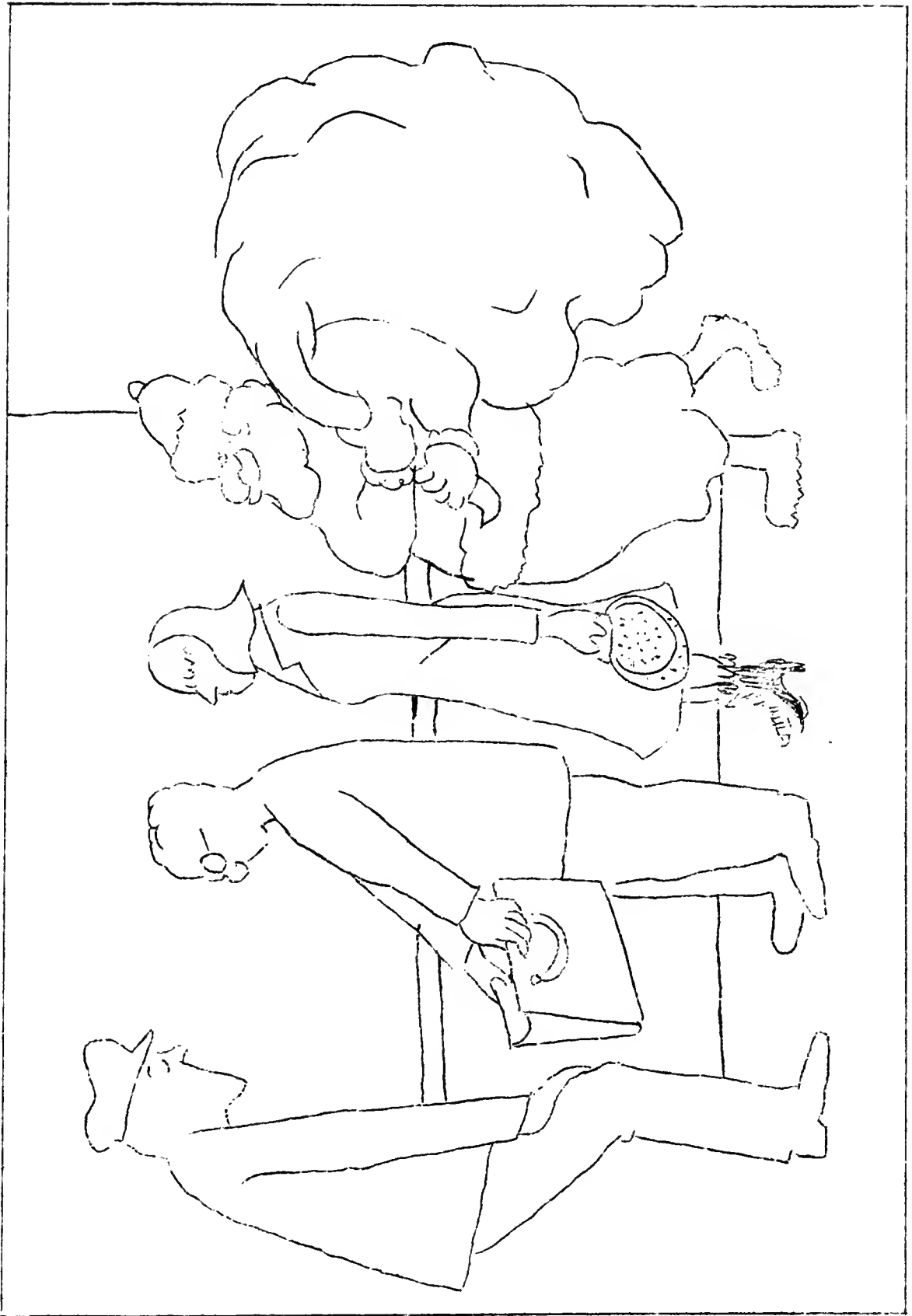
You are all invited to a Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 23, 1964, from 10 A.M. to 12 noon, in the Men's Lunchroom and Lounge.

HOUSE COMMITTEE FOR MEN

SOAP BOX

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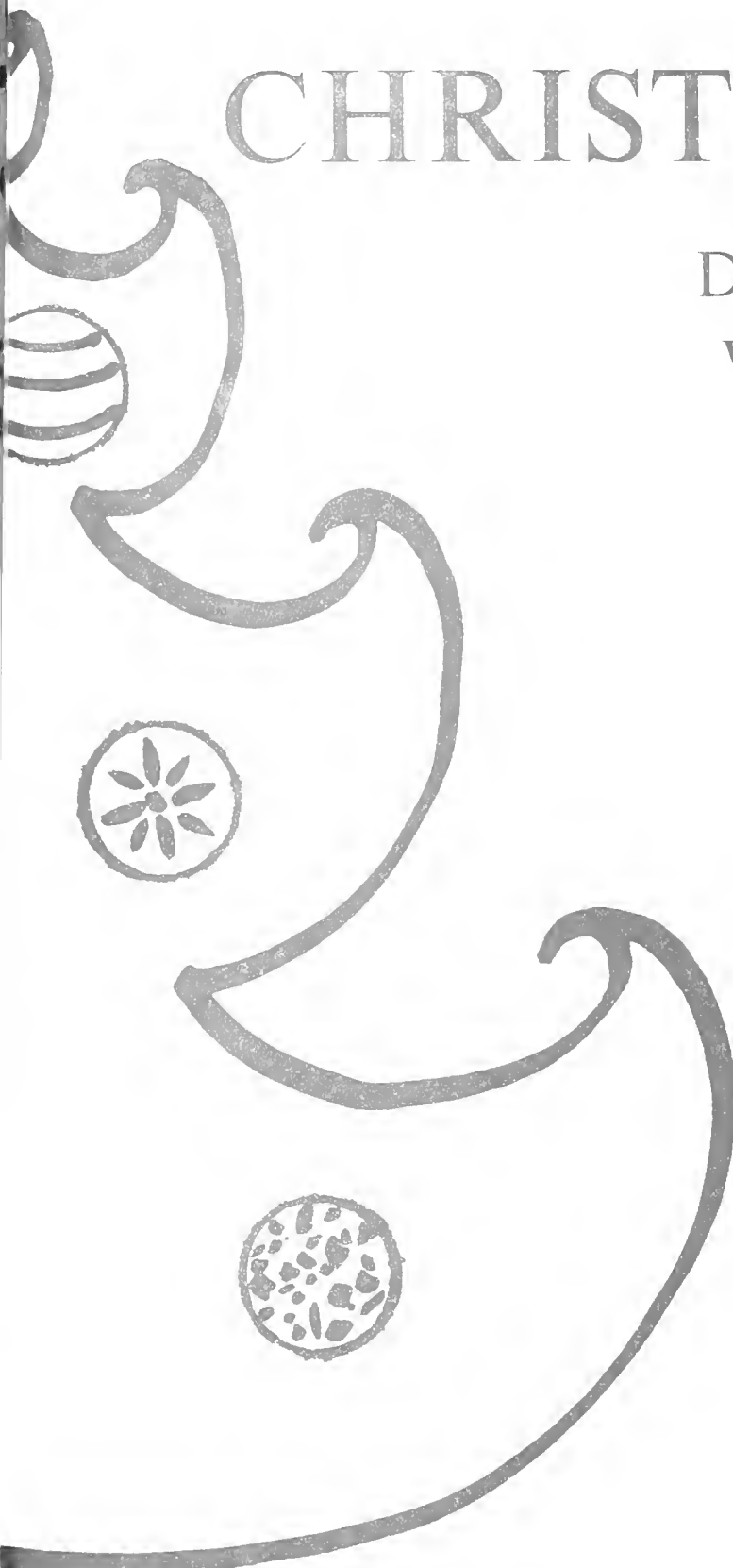


CHRISTMAS TEA

December 22, 1964

Women's Lounge

3-4:30 PM



Committee

Jean Babcock

Geneva Kershner

Bertha Keswick

Grace Laughlin

Margaret Noonan

Ellen Oldham

Mildred Somes

Sheila Stevens

Michael Venezia

Elizabeth Wright

Elizabeth Seannell, Chairman

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COMMITTEE
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NOEL

Selma Horwitz, Chairman
Roslindale

Anne Dray, Roslindale - Marie Cashman, Open Shelf - Rhoda Blacker, Adams Street

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