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THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XX Number 1

January 1965

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

One of our favorite patrons is a remarkable lady who has spent a good part of her ninety years in the company of books. Another favorite is too shy to reveal her age, but is old enough to enjoy the pre-school story hour. Considered together, these charming ladies represent the opposite ends of the broad spectrum of library service. No other institution attempts to serve such a variety of age and tastes as a public library, and, in attempting to render this all-inclusive service, no other institution can lay claim to such a remarkable record of both failure and success.

By way of underscoring this point, this particular issue of QM contains reports of activity in the three major areas of public library service - Adult, Young Adult and Children. These reports are indicative of the manner in which we maintain a continuing program of activity on all three levels. If these programs represent our successes - where then shall we look for our failures?

If a child has never listened wide-eyed to a story or been transported to the magic land of fairy tales - we have failed. If a young adult has nothing but contempt for books and reading - we have failed. When an adult can boast of never having set foot in a library since childhood - we have failed.

To acknowledge these failures, is the first step toward overcoming them, for one of the hazards of this profession is a form of psychological myopia. To live and work with books may make us forget, that, for far too many people, the library plays no part in their lives. It is a paradox that would have delighted Chesterton to realize that even though we are hard pressed to handle the multitudes who flock to Bates Hall on a busy Sunday, we must still continue to search out those who need us most.

Within this paradox lies the root of a mild form of schizophrenia which manifests itself when we attempt to balance between the harsh reality of daily living and the bright promise of tomorrow. While one of our "split personalities" thinks large thoughts on the fundamental philosophy of librarianship, the other one must concern itself with such things as coverage and overdue postals.

But these have ever been "the best and the worst of times". Much remains for us to do in the months that lie ahead. The word "challenge" has been so overworked it has lost much of its effect, but it still retains enough force to remind us of the magnitude of the job that still needs doing.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Your Executive Board has been hard at work on a number of programs which will be discussed at the next Business Heeting One problem which we have been trying to solve is the increase for the LA service. I am sure that it is no news to the membership to learn that an increase has been long overdue and that it is not only justified but essential. Such an increase is essential if we are to retain those who are now in the employ of the Library and also attract new members to the service. I can only ask you to please be patient and bear with us until we have some definite news for you. The Executive Board has also been working on an In-Service Training Program. I hope to have a definite program worked out in the near future.

My thanks to Lana Reed and the members of the Program Committee for the excellent program which took place on Thursday, January 14. Both speakers had some excellent and thought provoking information which the members may be able to use not only in augmenting the war on poverty but in improving our image and our relations with the public and also in assisting in the advancement of the underprivileged in our community.

MARY T. CROWE,

President

PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered

Leo Boucher - Book Stack Service
Marjorie R. Bloomberg - Memorial
Dorothy Fletcher - Parker Hill
Diane R. Mitchell - Uphams Corner
Rose A. Strano - Charlestown
Eleanor L. Kimball - Mt. Pleasant
Richard Forest - Science and Technology
Patricia M. Morrell - Book Purchasing
James Rothwell - Open Shelf
Janet M. Watkins - Codman Square

Re-Entered

Mrs. Blanche S. Lynch - Hyde Park Barbara Tuthill - Mattapan

Maternity Leave

irs. Laura H. Reyes - Mattapan

Transferred

Dianne M. Mullally - from Lemorial to Charlestown

Helen V. Rothwell - from rit. Pleasant to Egleston

Jeannette Dupis-from Parker Hill to Bookmobiles

Alvin H. Price-from Egleston to Mattapan Mary A. LaFollette-from Charlestown to Mt. Pleasant

Maureen E. Hanlon - from Book Purchasing to Book Selection R&RS

CEASED

Ronald D. McLeod - Audio-Visual - to accept another position

Barbara H. Rogstad - Uphams Corner - to work at Science Museum

Janet Price - Mattapan - to accept another position

Barbara A. Bachrach - General Reference - to accept another position

IN MEMORIAM

James P. Mocers

On December 31, 1964, James P. Mooers, formerly Chief of the Binding Department, passed away. Mr. Mooers had retired from the service of the Library on April 8, 1960, after almost 48 years of faithful service.

Phil, as he was known affectionably to all his associates, entered the Library's service on October 6, 1912 as an Apprentice in the Binding Department. He left the Library on June 25, 1917 to pursue farming as a means of livelihood for a brief period of time. He re-entered the Library on October 29, 1917. Less than two months later he joined the United States armed forces in the First World War. He served his country with distinction as a machine gunner in the Army. He was discharged with the rank of Sargent.

Once again, on September 15, 1919 he returned to the Library and continued his service in the Binding Department. On Hay 6, 1934 he was made Acting Chief of the Binding Department and on August 6, 1936 he became its Chief and continued as head of the unit until his retirement.

cont

Phil was married to Angeline Hovestadt, who had previously served as secretary in the Binding Department. They had two daughters Olga Joan and Dorothy Jane. He lived in Dorchester with his family during most of his life and moved to Randolph shortly after his retirement.

Phil was a man who enjoyed his work and membership in various organizations. He was active in American Legion activities and held many offices in the Arnavets and the Boston Public Library Employees Benefit Association.

His was a generous disposition and he was at all times a quiet, dignified, and fine gentleman. He had the qualities of loyalty, dependability, devotion to duty, and cheerfulness. May he rest in peace!

CONVALESCENT COMMENTS

In our modern scientific society everybody, even one as scientifically benighted as I, knows that nothing is static. Everything is constantly on the move, either progressing or retrogressing. Some things may even be moving sideways but, since I do not know the term for that kind of movement, I'll ignore it.] So, even when I seemed to be just lying in a hospital bed, not allowed to lift anything heavier than a finger, I was aware that, right under the eyes of an alert medical staff, I was really moving all the time. would have sworn that I was keeping absolutely still, but you can't argue with Science, nohow. Contrariwise. I was just a victem of Kinetic forces, obeying the doctor's orders and the laws of dynamics at the same time. I might have developed a fine case of schizophrenia if I had not fortunately been so absorbed with my coronary case. Anyway, as long as I was on the move, willy-nilly, I decided that I would at least choose my own direction, and began consideration of several possible roads to take.

There was the Road to Mandalay: I have long been fascinated by the idea of seeing those flying fishes playing in the thundering dawn but, the political situation in Southeast Asia being what it is, it didn't sound like a place safe for oriental fish, let alone a weakened Westerner.

Then I fleetingly considered Tobacco Road but even at the height of its literary prosperity, I have never quite appreciated its earthly charms. Besides, since I had virtually given up smoking, it seemed unlikely that the residents would appreciate me and my undermining of their weedy economy.

Of course, there is always the Road to Ruin, but most days I looked and felt as if that was where I had just been.

The direction most widely favored was the Road to Recovery . I received scores of cards and notes commending it to my attention and, since it was the only place to which I was actually invited, I thought I should give it a try. So, for those who have been inquiring, that's where I am now - on the Road to Recovery. The posted speed limits being what they are, I couldn't outrun the hare, not to mention the tortoise, but I have at least advanced from a toehold to a firm foothold. Furthermore, this pace allows time for me to enjoy the flowers, plants, billboards and well-wishers so liberally strewn along the roadside. My current complaint is that this is a longer road than I had expected, and I hope I haven't missed my exit. Oh, well, maybe one of my best friends will tell me where to get off. They usually do.

Veronica M. Lehane

ROUND TABLE OF CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

The Round Table of Children's Libraraians held its Winter meeting on Thursday, January 14, 1965 at the Worcester Public Library.

Mrs. Priscilla Moulton, Chairman, opened the meeting by expressing appreciation to the librarians, particularly Mrs. Madelyn Wankmiller of the Children's Section, for the hospitality of the Library.

The topic for the day was on the Book Exposure Program for culturally deprived children in the elementary grades in Worcester. The speaker was Miss Mabel Wray, Supervisor of Elementary Education for the Worcester Public Schools. The Worcester pilot program, explained Miss Wray, is strictly for motivation and pleasure. It is to help the youngsters become involved with books. She explained the process of book selection and remarked on the enthusiasm of all who participate.

After questions from the floor, the meeting was adjourned and the membership had an opportunity to tour the new and exciting Worcester Library.

E. LINDQUIST

ROUND TABLE OF YOUNG ADULTS LIBRARIANS

The winter meeting of the Round Table of Librarians for Young Adults was held at the new Worcester Public Library on Wednesday, January 13. After a pleasant coffee hour in the attractive staff lounge the business meeting continued in a comfortable, well appointed meeting room.

Mrs. Leila-Jane Roberts announced the resignation of Arthur Wolman as President, whom she as Vice-President, replaced and the appointment of Mrs. Bridie Stotz as the new Vice-President.

The pamphlet "Every young person needs two" is now available in a limited quantity from the Division of Library Extension Office, to be used with trustees and finance committees or wherever a greater understanding is needed concerning public and school libraries.

The program committee chairman announced the mid-winter meeting of MIA to be held at the Sheraton Plaza on February 11 on the general topic of certification and civil service; the spring meeting May 20 and 21 at the Provincetown Inn; and the next Round Table in Fitchburg on May 13, which will be a follow-up of the St. Louis meeting centering on the common ground between publishers and librarians.

The speaker of the morning, Miss Jacqueline Coleman, Elementary School Library Supervisor of Brookline, in a talk entitled "Higher horizons for the younger young adult" described a project carried on with an eight grade [not an advanced group in which such titles as "Catcher in the Rye", To kill a mocking bird", "Black like me", "Lord of the flies", "Good earth", were made available in paper back editions in the school library. Those who wished were free to borrow them, with the teachers assuming the responsibility, these titles being neither restricted nor pushed. If selected, reviews were written for the teacher in which the child told something about the author, how the book was written, what the book said to him, and in some instances the children were

asked to write a creative work in the style of the author if they had particularly enjoyed it.

Miss Coleman read extensively from the reviews which revealed surprisingly keen insight into the problems presented. She spoke of the need to represent death ["Death in the family" -"Death be not proud"] in the collection for seventh and eight graders where many children were experiencing this for the first time, and that children need older books beyond the classics. One of the problems of the experiment was to distinguish those who read the advanced titles for prestige, a difficult thing to determine.

Titles also included in the experiment were "Nectar in a sieve", "Arundel", "Hiroshima", "Pocketbook of Ogden Nash", "The wonderful world of O", "Report from Red China", "The pearl", "The red pony", and "Cry, the beloved country". Other titles will be added and in many instances the children buy their own paper back copies.

Miss Coleman feels that such books will not hurt the seventh and eight graders since they understand the social history because they are living in it, while "Huckleberry Finn" or "Uncle Tom's cabin" could harm them. It was brought out that there was no parental objection since they wanted this opportunity for their children. Another interesting comment from the audience was that most of these books are not difficult reading and are short in length and the same children who read these would not take a longer, more solid book.

In closing her talk Miss Coleman suggested that whatever we think the library must enrich the reading experience of each child, that the children with a good background of the best children's literature are ready for the adult books, and that the library should let the children have free access to these books and permit them to reject them for themselves.

A half-hour tour of the building was provided at the end of the meeting.

PAULINE A. WALKER

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THE LIBRARY AND THE WAR ON POVERTY

A special program was held in the lecture hall of the central library on Thursday, January 14. Sponsored by the Staff Association, it was designed to acquaint the members of the staff with some of the far-reaching implications of the anti-poverty program launched by federal, state and local agencies.

Mr. Belden Daniels, Program Director of the Commonwealth Service Corps, gave the general outlines of the program as it applies to Massachusetts. The Service Corps, which hopes to have 1000 members by September, 1965, has three general aims:

- It co-ordinates the work of state agencies and programs.
- It assists cities and towns to establish community action programs such as ABCD.
- 3. It will also review programs throughout the state in order to make certain they are operating at maximum efficiency.

He explained that the anti-poverty program has five general targets:

- 1. To sponsor local initiative rather than outside intervention.
- To co-ordinate, at the local level, public and private resources.
- 3. To encourage direct participation by the people most involved.
- 4. To concentrate available resources where they will do the most good.
- 5. Eliminate poverty as far as is humanly possible to do so.

Mr. Francis X. Moloney, who is on loan to the Mayor's Office as Coordinator of the ABCD program, spoke with great feeling on some of the very disturbing situations which this program is endeavoring to combat. Giving a brief sketch of the aims and background of ABCD, Mr. Moloney explained that it is a quasipublic organization, operated with grants from foundations and designed to cope with some of the human problems resulting from contemporary urban living.

Mr. Moloney discussed two major aspects of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 the Work Training Program for Youth

[Title Ib]; and the Community Action Program [Title IIa]. He outlined some of the dimensions of the problem on the local level and indicated in general terms how libraries would become more and more involved in this massive effort to cope with a program which effects us all.

W. C.

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The winter meeting of the New England Unit of the Catholic Library Association was held on Saturday afternoon, January 9th, at Ronan Hall, Saint Peter's School, Dorchester. Sister Marion SCH, PhD, an authority in geographic studies, gave a talk, illustrated with color slides, of social and economic conditions in South America, specifically in the city of Cali, Colombia. The new John F. Kennedy Youth Library of St. Peter's School, one of the few elementary school libraries in the Boston area, was open for inspection. Let it be said, the library is bright, modern, and well-stocked with a fine juvenile collection. At 5 p.m. a Mass for the deceased members of the New England Unit was said by the Chairman, Rev. Nicholas J. McNeil S.J., in Saint Peter's Church.

THANK YOU!

To the Staff:

On behalf of the Committee for the Christmas Tea I wish to thank all the staff members, former staff members, and friends of staff members who made the Tea such a success by their donations of food and money beforehand, and by their presence in the Women's Lounge on the afternoon of December 22, 1964.

ELIZABETH F. SCANNELL Chairman, 1964 Christmas Tea Committee

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Mrs. Carolyn McDonough [formerly Carolyn Rose of the R&RS Division Office] on the birth of an 8 lb. 6 oz. baby boy on January 14.

SCHOOL STITT

STAFF IN PRINT

"The Supermarket Come-On", an article on paperbacks by Jane Manthorne, newly appointed Coordinator of Young Adults' Services, appears in the January 1965 issue of the School Library Journal.

DON'T MISS IT !

TO THE STAFF:

Please accept the sincere thanks from the Committee and Chairman of CARE for your wonderful contributions during the year 1964. The total amount was \$226,26 which was greatly appreciated,

> Anne Dray Marie Cashman Rhoda Blacker Selma C. Horwitz, Chairman

A thank you said simply sometimes is the best way, so to my Committee, Anne Dray, Marie Cashman, Rhoda Blacker please accept my thanks for your cooperation. It has been my pleasure to have served with you. And to Mildred Somes for her artistic help with the CARE posters a very special Thank You. It is because of people like you that made the privilege of being your chairman such a pleasure. Thanks.

Selma C. Horwitz

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN RELATIONS

- Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
- 2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown, only 14 to smile.
- 3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of his or her own name.
- 4. Be friendly. If you have a friend be one.
- 5. Be cordial. Speak and act as the everything you do is a genuine pleasure.

- 6. Be sincerely interested in others. You can like almost everybody if you try.
- 7. Be generous with praise cautious with criticism.
- 8. Be considerate of the feelings of others it will be appreciated.
- 9. Be thoughtful of the opinions of other. There are usually three sides to a controversy yours, the other fellows, and the right one.
- 10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

Add to these commandments a sense of humor, plenty of humility and you will be rewarded manyfold.

Written by a retired lady (Federal, Service) and printed in a retired peoples magazine,

The following was received at desk of Brighton Branch - This proves that someone loves us -

M. W. Haverty

I do not want

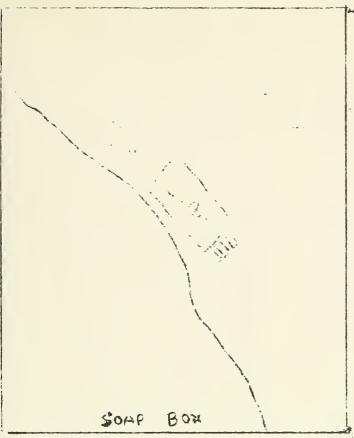
books today

Merry Christmas and a happy new years

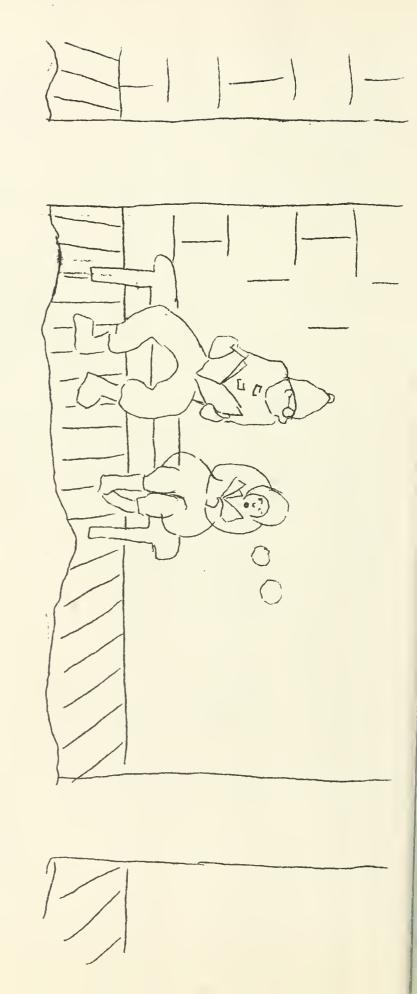
Ann Marie

love

My crandfather is returning my books



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 with-held 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.



WELL, YOU WERE RIGHT. IT ISN'T CROWDED OUT HERE.





THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XX Number 2

February 1965

Publications Committee:

Michael Arnold; Jean Babcock; 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

At the bottom of the pile of calendars, Christmas cards and unpaid bills left over from the Christmas season was a letter that never quite made the Soap Box.

Dear Editor:

I am a new member of the library staff. I wanted to join the Staff Association, but some of my little friends in the Coffee Shop tell me there is no Staff Association. My department head said that if you see it in the Question Mark — it is in the Question Mark. Please tell me what to do.

Virginia

Dear Virginia:

Your little friends are the cynical victims of a cynical age. They believe only in those things they can actually see. They believe that because the Staff Association lies sleeping peacefully, it does not exist at all. They believe it is dead just because the business meetings sometimes resemble a wake.

Your little friends are wrong, Virginia. They can have no understanding of the mighty force of apathy that motivates this sleeping giant. They can have no true concept of the vast store of indifference awaiting only the moment of liberation. They can not know that when the ice leaves Copley Square, this mighty host will rise as one man and surge reluctantly forward to storm the gates of City Hall.

Not believe in the Staff Association? Why you might as well not believe in Parking Meters, in the sales tax or in the MBTA. Yes, Virginia, there is a Staff Association. It lives forever in the heart of every member who has ever volunteered to serve on a committee, who has ever offered a resolution to further the goals of the membership, or who is willing to give whatever is necessary to make this Staff Association a real and vital organization.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I regret to say that the new Executive Board has not had a meeting because most of the members have succumbed to the flu As soon as enough of us recover, we will begin to work on the many problems which I outlined in my report at the January Business Meeting.

MARY T. CROWE, President

PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered

Marsha Whitman - Bookmobiles [formerly part-time]
Margery E. Berman - South End
Mrs. Judith Gans - Print
Walter Jones, Jr. - Rare Book
Florence Jacobs - Bookmobiles
Agnes Kelley - Connolly [formerly part-time at Allston]

Ceased

Lois Lyman - Washington Village - to attend Simmons full-time Thomas Logan - Book Stack Service - to tattend college Elizabeth H. O'Brien - Bookmobiles moved to Lawrence

IN MEMORIAM

John Tuley, Fire Prevention Inspector, passed away on 7 February 1965.

Jack had long service in the Library and other city departments. He had been in the Public Works Department, Real Estate Division since 1939 before coming to the Library's Buildings Department in 1941. He became the Library's Fire Prevention Inspector in 1948.

His activities in this position made him a familiar figure throughout the Central Library Building and the Branch Libraries. Jack took great pride and interest in his work. He loved the work he did and was enthusiastic in discussing and urging installation of the latest developments in fire prevention.

Jack was a long-time member of the American Legion. He served in the regular Army for four years. He took part in the Mexican Border Incident in 1916, spent 26 months overseas with the First Division and 9 months with the Army of Occupation in Germany.

The great interest in Jack's life was his family. The activities of his three daughters and two sons were well-known to all his friends in the Library, as Jack kept us posted on all their activities.

Jack was born in Staten Island, New York in 1897, lived in the Savin Hill area of Dorchester most of the time he worked in the Library, but in recent years lived in the Ashmont area. But I think Jack would agree that he found a "home" in the Library. His family in the Library will miss him both as a dedicated public servant and a sincere and friendly staff member.

BRANCH NOTES

On a wet Friday evening, January 8, Miss B. Gertrude Wade, Mrs Dorothy Ekstrom and Miss Peggy Brooks embarked from Memorial and Mt. Pleasant Branches to collect their guests of honor, Miss Dianne Mullally and Mrs. Vera Rothwell.

Miss Mullally, after four months of service at Memorial, and Mrs. Rothwell, having given of herself for sixteen months at Mt. Pleasant, have left respectively for the Charlestown and Egleston Square Branch Libraries.

One and all sailed through several courses of good food at the English Tea Room, after which, Miss Mullally and Mrs. Rothwell were presented with gift sweaters, being regaled the while by a self-appointed delegation of clowns who shall remain anonymous.

A delightful time was had by all.

Branch Notes cont.

Dear Editor:

One of our young borrowers - about age 10 - who forms part of the "study group" every day left the following poem with me the other day. We feel that it ought to be shared via the QM with the rest of the staff. Perhaps we should label it - The Child's Eye View?

What Does a Librarian Do? [humorous]

What does a librarian do when she has nothing to do?

She sits around like a clown that is what she does.

What does a librarian do when she is mad at you?

She kicks you ought with a shout, that is what she does.

What does a librarian do when you have something to chew?

She says spit it out, then kicks you out, that is what she does!

What does a librarian do when she is mad at you?

I pity you. Just play it cool and act like you were just getting ready to go.

By the Poet John

Respectfully submitted,
B. GERTRUDE WADE

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Mrs. Barbara Flye [formerly of the Home Reading Division Office] on the birth of a 7 lbs. 4 oz. baby boy, Michael Richard, on January 31.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Marie Quinn [Reference Division Office] who was delighted recipient of a beautiful diamond ring on February 18th. A September wedding is planned by Marie and her fiancee, Dennis Buckley of Arlington. Congratulations and best wishes to you both!

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Today's younger generation are the history makers of tomorrow. With this thought in mind it seemed logical to focus a Negro History Week program on career opportunities for young adults. High school students were invited to come to the Lecture Hall of the Boston Public Library on Wednesday, February 10, at 6:45 p.m. to discover for themselves that "Negroes Can and Do Make Good" and to find out how Negro job-holders have done so.

Sponsored by the South End Branch Library and the Young Adult Room of the Open Shelf Department, the program consisted of four interrelated segments. First came a panel discussion on the subject, skillfully moderated by Miss Jane Manthorne, Coordinator of Young Adult Services. The distinguished panelists included Mr. John D. O'Bryant, Guidance Counselor, Boston Technical High School, Dr. David W. Skinner, Vice President and General Manager, Polaroid Corporation, Mr. Murray L. Townsenc Jr., Deputy Employment Policy Officer, U. S. Internal Revenue Service, and Mr. Harold L. Vaughan, Supervisor of Assessors for the City of Boston. La fifth member, Mr. Thomas J. Brown, founder of Jobs Clearing House, Inc., was ill with the flu] Because the four panelists varied widely in background and vocational experience, each one had something important and yet distinct to say about how young people should prepare themsleves to enter the working world, how they should act on the job, and their chances for realizing promotion and personal achievement. They were candid and straightforward in their assessment of possible limitations and opportunities in the employment field for Negroes, yet they communicated to the audience the conviction that there are careers unlimited for all those who are genuinely interested in aspiring towards them.

Following this lively exchange of views and factual information, eight young Negro men and women gave individual job profiles—short talks on their own particular fields of work. Represented in the group

were a systems engineer, a credit analyst for a bank, a medical research assistant, and of course a librarian, the BPL's Mr. Alvis Price, Young Adults Librarian at the Mattapan Branch Library. Personable and sincere, the speakers frequently added impact to their presentations by revealing many different types of jobs they had held before attaining their present positions.

At the conclusion of the talks members of the audience were welcome to take their questions directly to the job-holders and panelists, and to inspect the excellent exhibit of career materials prepared by Mrs. Helen Bickford, Young Adults Librarian of the Open Shelf Department.

Although the weather was most uncooperative on the night of February 10 with sleet, freezing rain, and hazardous driving conditions, the Lecture Hall was comfortably filled with a receptive and responsive audience of both high schoolers and their parents. One mother appeared alone. Her two teen-agers were busy studying for exams but not wanting to miss the program, they had delegated her to attend and bring back the information!

MIA MID-WINTER MEETING

The Mid-Winter gathering of MLA took place on Thursday, February 11 at the Sheraton Plaza. The program, arranged by Vice-President Milton E. Lord, had a two-fold theme. Although the primary purpose was to introduce the State Board of Library Commissioners to the Association, it was also designed to convey the message that 1965 would definitely be a Library Year for both state and nation.

Introducing the "faceless" people who served without compensation on the Board, Mr Lord recalled the history of this organization and some of the outstanding people who had served as members. He mentioned the debt that professional librarians owe to the interested and knowledgeable lay people who contributed so much to the Massachusetts libraries.

After an introduction by Chairman, Richard Sullivan, each of the members of

the panel spoke briefly on one aspect of the state-wide program of library service indicating in general terms what is being done now to aid libraries and what we may look forward to in the future. The program concluded with a series of questions submitted from the floor.

STAFF IN PRINT

"Books for the Job Corps", an article by Jane Manthorne, appears in the February 15th issue of the Library Journal We are certain the staff will be intereste to learn the BPL's role in supplying the Job Corps with a recreational booklist of 480 titles as an adjunct to their instructional program. Following the article is a photograph of the BPL staff members who participated in this project.

Another article by Jane Manthorne entitled "Way-Out Literature Collides With Tomorrow" appears in The Pilot's Catholic Book Week Supplement, February 21 - 27, 1965. This article gives us a provocative insight into the literary world of Science Fiction.

DON'T MISS THEM!

WINIFRAL ROOT

On Priday evening, February 5, the staff of the Kirstein Business Branch and the many friends of Miss Winifred Root gathered at Anthony's Pier 4 Restaurant to launch her on her retirement. Former colleagues and friends came from near and far for the occasion. The general consensus was that it was the party par excellence and Winifred was certainly sans pareil. Looking very beautiful, chic and unretireable, she charmed us with her speech accepting our gifts of a television, an art book and greenback which should help to keep the television in good repair.

Mrs Dorothy Lovett, our former librarian, who was unable to attend sent a poem which sums up our Winifred.

To Winifred on Her Retirement

We salute - Winifred Root, librarian.
Dispenser of books at K. B. B.
For nearly a quarter century;
First the third floor, now the second she tends,
Quietly making a great many friends.

We salute - Winifred Root, musician. Pianist, allegro and con brio, She once was a member of a trio; By means of her Magnavox she'll know The sound and style of the latest maestro.

We salute - Winifred Root, outdoorsman.
Alumna of Camp Kokatosi,
Canoer and climber, no cosy
Fireside calls when the weather's
apposite
At Panther Pond, Rockport, or Ogunquit.

We salute - Winifred Root, cosmopolitan. Traveler to out of the way nooks, She can use as guide her brother's

books.
Interested in causes, at home her search

Has taken her to Community Church.

We salute - Winifred Root, friend and colleague.

Maker of verses for many who've gone, She deserves here and now one of her own. Good friend and colleague over the years, She'd have done well at many careers.

D.M.L. and R.L., February 5, 1965

RITA M. DESAULNIERS

JETTING UP FROM PATTERSON

On Saturday, February 6, two students appeared in the Open Shelf Department. They were Fine Arts majors from Patterson State College, Patterson, New Jersey who had flown up that morning to see the exhibit of puppets on the first floor of the Central Library Building. We don't know how they found out about the exhibit, but the incident does show that BPL publicity reaches far and wide.

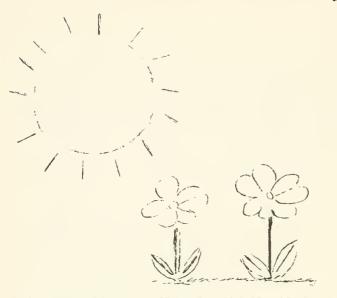
They expressed their enthusiasm and appreciation to both Grace Loughlin, Chief, and Alice Waters, Professional Assistant, who conveyed the visitors' sentiments to the man responsible for the entire project, Thomas Manning, Chief, Exhibits Office.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Marie O'Neil, daughter of B. Joseph and formerly of Book Stack Service, who was the recipient of a full four year scholarship to Emmanuel College.

INFORMATION DESK

Reports that many visitors to their desk in the foyer are quite amazed to find themselves inside a library. Many had thought it was a Post Office and one fellow recently confessed that he has been passing through Copley Square for twenty years and had always assumed this was a train station.



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.

Dear Editor:

Why hasn't the Library Administration or the Staff Association presented a new salary schedule for the entire staff. The limited approach of a small raise for some of the Library Assistants will not solve the problem.

It is apparent that our scale for beginning professionals is not adequate to attract the young library school graduates.

The result of an inadequate salary scale is turnover, training, turnover,

training, turnover, training, etc.

Once our pre-professional assistants have their library degrees we can expect them to look for greener pastures.

The City is not about to offer a Citywide increase. If the Library staff and administration do not present a strong case for the increase, you can be sure, no consideration will be given.

The WHOLE staff needs a new salary schedule.

THE TIME IS NOW

Dear Soapbox:

Should we rejoice at the new Interlibrary Loan Section which was designated as a result of the BPL assuming the interlibrary loan duties of the Eastern Regional Library under State Aid? Or should we pause and reflect on the number of people who worked on interlibrary loans, from both Divisions, prior to this new arrangement. Certainly, one person isn't going to be able to cope with the volume of work involved in this project when in the past [when the number of ILL's received daily weren't nearly as vast as at present] it took quite a number of people to make this a smooth working operation. I think it is a gross injustice, to all concerned, to undertake a project of this dimension without ample remuneration, adequate quarters and a sufficient number of workers to cope with this enormous project,

LET'S LOOK BEFORE WE LEAP!





THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XX Number 3

March 1965

Publications Committee:

David G. Nevin, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

Welcome to a new Question Mark! Or at least to a new editorial regime. It will be, I am sure, of comfort to some and a disappointment to others that the issue contains no drastic changes or amazing new concepts and insights. It should be made clear from the outset, however, that although the editorial is signed by a Publications Committee, the new chairman has not as yet chosen a full committee. He alone bears responsibility for the issue, its editorial content and its tardiness. Hopefully, April will bring both a Publications Committee and a publication date slightly closer to the 15th of the month.

It gives a considerable boost to one's faith in youth to discover that, in an age where teenagers and college students are regarded primarily as hoodlums and/or beatniks, there is an occasional young man or woman who has become the victim of such generalizations. Such was our feeling just the other day when two boys, dressed in rather sloppy teenage style, courteously got up to give their seats to two ladies who had just climbed aboard the subway. A look of pleasant surprise was noticed on the faces of several other passengers sitting nearby.

Warmest congratulations are likewise in order for the group of college men who undertook the not inconsiderable task of publishing the first issue of a new periodical: AGORA, Boston's Cross-Campus Student Monthly. In addition to contributions by Angelo Mammano of the Music Department and Mike Meleedy of the Periodical Room, the masthead reads much as a BPL Library Assistants' directory might. Editorin-chief Tom Needham, managing editor Bob Kavin, and "all-purpose slave" Greg Stowe are all from the Book Stack Service; George Cumming and Bill Needham from the Periodical Room; Skip Cronin from Book Preparation; and Paul McCallion from Government Documents and Social Sciences.

From an all-too-rapid skimming through its pages, it seems rather doubtful that Saturday Review, Harper's, and The Atlantic Monthly will have very serious competition, but barring numerous 'typos', we rather thoroughly enjoyed the first issue. The combination of editorial opinion, poetry, and short stories seemed to hit just the right blend, and the month's "Calendar of Events" brings together much information available only from several, more limited sources. If you've missed it, copies are still available at a few newstands in the Copley Square area.

"The market place" fills a need for expression by a group who often find themselves bursting at the seams with no creative outlet. Certainly what they have to say merits being heard. We wish them every success in the continuation of their venture.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The 1965 Executive Board met for the first time late in February. Much of the time was devoted to the problems which are still current in 1965: namely the Library Assistants' salary schedule and the project concerning the economy measures to which this Board will give priority. The Board also discussed the need for In-Service Training and an Orientation Program and have agreed to work on this until a program has been established.

On March 8th, an emergency meeting of the Board was called to discuss the possibility of the entire Library Staff coming under the jurisdiction of the State Civil Service Commission. The advantages and disadvantages were carefully weighed. Board agreed that it would not serve the best interests of the Staff to come under Civil Service. It was voted to send the President and Mr Casey, the former Editor of the Question Mark to attend the hearing on March 9th and to record their approval of passage of Bill #326. This Bill was introduced by the Massachusetts Library Association requesting that Librarians, Library Assistants, and Library Aides remain exempt from Civil Service rule.

The Executive Board also met in regular session with members of last year's Board to discuss, evaluate, and formulate ways and means to economize on library operations in order to find enough money for a 5% salary increase for the Library Assistants Service. A full report will be made to the Staff as soon as it is completed.

MARY T. CROWE President

BACK IN FOCUS

After her month-long bout with a virus pneumonia, the Audio-Visual Department welcomed back Mrs Veronica Silverman with open arms, a bouquet of flowers, and a large sigh of relief.

CIVIL SERVICE HEARING

It was difficult to get an accurate count of the number of librarians who jammed the stuffy committee room at the

State House on Tuesday, March 9, but they were both numerous and vocal. They came to register their support of House Bill #326. This was a proposal to exempt librarians from the provisions of the Civil Service Law.

This idea of incorporating library workers under Civil Service was not new. It had been proposed some years ago and subsequently defeated. The current proposals, including House Bill #326, have as their intention the specific exemption of library personnel from the Civil Service. If the enthusiasm demonstrated by the library people who supported it is any criterion, the Bill is destined to meet with legislative acceptance.

W.C. Connolly Branch

A SALUTE TO THE APPROVAL ROOM

A busy hive -- a mountain of books
Diligent hands -- determined looks
Typewriters clicking -- cards completed
Files consulted -- energies depleted.

Telephones ringing -- desks bedecked Book trucks groaning -- department shelves filled

Curators frowning -- duplicates killed.

New arrivals -- pencils set
A shuffle of chairs -- a tete-a-tete
A silence descends -- books rejected
A gracious thank you for those selected!

RUTH MICHELSON Book Selection, R&RS

BRANCH NOTES

We are proud to announce the arrival of our "nephew", Richard Reyes, on Tuesday, February 16. This young man, who checked in at 6 lbs and 9 ounces, is the son of Mr & Mrs Mario (Laura) Reyes, and to quote Miss Kaufman, who visited the family, is "positively beautiful". Need we say more.

The proud Aunts and Uncles at Mattapan Branch.

PERSONNEL NOTES

Enter	
Agnes	Kel

ley - Connolly (formerly parttime)

Florence Jacobs - Bookmobiles Mrs Grace Duffy - Lower Mills

Mary P. Stephenson - Kirstein Business Branch

Peter C. Ellsworth - Bookmobiles

Michael G. Hunter - Open Shelf (formerly part-time)

Brendan M. Craven - Central Charging Records

Maureen E. Smith - Book Purchasing

Kevin J. Hipe - Open Shelf

Ralph V. Mayo - Book Purchasing

Kevin Duffley - Central Charging Records Alexander Greenwald - Book Purchasing

Maternity Leave:

Mrs Marjorie P. Whalen - Bookmobiles

Terminations:

Judith C. Grohe - Codman Square - to enter family business

H. Barry Morris - Open Shelf - another position

Lois Lyman - Washington Village - to attend Simmons full-time

Judith Fleming - General Reference - for travel and study

Samuel D. Wilson - Open Shelf - to devote more time to college

Melicent Seyfert - Connolly - to be married and leave Massachusetts

Miriam C. Oester - Book Stack Servicemoving out of Boston

Heidi R. Rieper - Bookmobiles - moving out of Boston

Transferred:

Michael T. Tiorano from Central Charging Records to Audio-Visual

Mary A. LaFollette from Mt. Pleasant to Memorial

Helen M. McDonough from Memorial to Mt. Pleasant

Margery E. Berman from South End to Uphams Corner

Dorothy W. Perkins from Central Charging Records to Faneuil

PRE-PROFESSIONAL NOTE

The following from the March 15th Library Journal:

"The Rhode Island Library Association Scholarship Committee is offering a \$500 scholarship to qualified persons interested in pursuing a career in librarianship. Applicants must have been accepted in the library science program of a qualified graduate library school. The deadline for filing applications is April 15, 1965. The scholarship will be awarded at the spring meeting on May 8, 1965. Application forms may be secured from Mrs Miriam G. Haas, Chairman, Scholarship and Recruitment Committee, R. I. Department of State Library Services, Roger Williams Building, Hayes Street, Providence, R.I. 02908,"

TO A LIBRARIAN	01
THE WORLD HAS BEEN AUTOMATIZED AS	02
EVERY SCHOOLBOY KNOWS	03
MACHINES TRANSLATE ALL POETRY TO	04
BASIC ENGLISH PROSE	05
HIGH SPEED MAGNETIC MEMORIES	06
QUANTIZE ESSENTIAL TRUTH	07
AND STORE SUFFICIENT ESTIMATES OF	08
MARY AND OF RUTH	09
THE MUSIC OF THE FUTURE WILL USE	10
RANDOM NUMBER THEMES	11
AND WASTE NO MICROSECONDS FUTILEY	12
ENCODING DREAMS	13
SO WHEN YOU CATALOG THE DAWN OR	14
CLASS THE LILYS STEM	15
DON'T FILE IT DEWEY DECIMAL BUT	16
PUNCH IT IBM	17

- William Fuller Brown, Jr., "Verses in the Modern Manner", ETC.: A Review of General Semantics, v. 21, no. 4
(December 1964), pp. 414-5.

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CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AWARD

Ruth Sawyer Durand has been selected by the Catholic Library Association to be the recipient of the Regina Medal in recognition of her lifetime dedication and "continued distinguished contribution to children's literature". This award is given annually and will be presented to Mrs Durand at a luncheon, Tuesday, April 20, 1965, in Philadelphia, as part of the activities of the annual CLA Conference.

Both a native and a resident of Boston. Mrs Durand is well known to children's librarians at BPL. She has shared with them her experience with people and books, demonstrated her talents as a storyteller, and enriched the shelves of children's rooms everywhere with her many distinguished books. In 1937, she was awarded the Newbery Medal by the American Library Association for her book, Roller Skates. From her rich and varied experience both in telling and collecting stories here and abroad, she has written The Way of the Storyteller, an inspirational book dealing with storytelling as a creative art and a classic in the field.

To Mrs Durand we extend our warmest good wishes and congratulations for an honor well deserved and truly earned.

MARTHA ENGLER South Boston Branch

NOTABLE BOOKS, 1964

After sifting through a total of 550 nominations submitted by 34 libraries representing every size, type, and location in the U.S., the Notable Books Council of the American Library Association announced on March 1st a list of 54 outstanding titles published in 1964.

Those interested in participating in the heated discussion which invariably follows this annual event are directed to the complete listing appearing in the March 15th issue of Library Journal, (v. 90, no. 6, p. 1279).

BOOKMOBILE INS AND OUTS

On February 16th, the Bookmobile Office held a going-away party for Marjorie Whalen and Heidi Reiper at Nick's on Warrenton Street in Boston. Mrs Whalen is anticipating a blessed event in June, and Miss Reiper has returned to her home in New York and will be married in the near future.

Also in February, three new members were added to the Bookmobile staff:
Marsha Whitman, who was an extra at the Hyde Park Branch; Peter Ellsworth, who was recently discharged from the Army; and Florence Jacobs, who is new to the Library Service.

DOUBLE ENTENDRE: JUNIOR VERSION!

While doing a stint at the charging desk, surrounded by public of all ages, I was asked by the little girl whose books I was charging out:

"Miss Engler, do you know the three different kinds of sex?"

I replied promptly (after all, no fourth grader is going to get away thinking there is anything about sex that I don't know), "Sure. Middlesex, Essex, and Sussex."

"Oh, no. That's not it", she said gleefully, "It's female sex, male sex, and insects."

ED. NOTE

Despite the disclaimer for a Publications Committee at the beginning of page 1, warmest thanks are in order to Miss Marie Quinn who filled in with such an admirable job as 'Emergency Committee' Typist.

SOME THOUGHTS ON ORIENTATION AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING

This article, entitled "A View from the Bridge", was written by Lois Booth after an interview with the Director for The Staff Outlook of the Denver Public Library (February 18, 1965). Names, acronyms, and initials are 'Denverese', but there is also some food for serious thought.

"Knowing that the administration long has been interested in in-service training, I asked Mr Shearouse to give me his views on the library training program.

"'Before you can do a good job, you should know for yourself where everything is, and what the library has to offer, you know,' Mr Shearouse related. 'When I came here the need for more training was being expressed by the entire staff in workshops, in suggestions, and in committee reports. It was this need, so strongly felt by the entire staff, that prompted us to begin in-service training on several levels.

"'Working with Miss Scott, Mrs Parrahm, and Mrs Lawrence, we were able to decide how to go about satisfying this need as best we could. The first program, you will remember, was the Young Adult workshop in the spring of sixty-four, which was very successful. From there we went on to the weekly information sessions in each area of the library.

"'We instituted the branch and department heads meetings each month where branch people and department heads could discuss book selection and book materials together, among other things. Next was the Children's workshop, and after that the Adult Services workshop.'

"Mr Shearouse took a deep breath and continued. 'Last spring we suddenly had six vacancies to fill and we decided to fill them with library school graduates, most of whom we knew would have had no library experience. Theory is all fine and good and is just what library school students need and want - but theory is useless without practical experience.

"'We decided that a formal on the job training would answer the needs expressed by so many librarians who had gone before them . . . we decided to give more practice now than theory. We would give them a subject area plus extension work and expose them to as many public service

areas as possible in a year. We had hoped at first to make the program a complete two-year package, but DPL isn't large enough to afford such a luxury,' a phrase which was to be repeated for me later in answer to another question.

"'We wanted our six trainees to see a DPL viewpoint. Supervisors always are responsible for any on the job training. It has to be done in any case when any new person comes in to fill a vacancy; therefore, it was natural for us to want to give each trainee six months OJT in a subject specialty, such as Art and Music Department or Young Adult Division, and six months in branches.

"'Since this plan would give us the opportunity to express our viewpoint, we wanted them to be able to freely discuss any problems that might arise, any suggestions they had to offer, and also to become acquainted with our special departments where they wouldn't be gaining OJT because we limited the course to public service. Thus, we included plans to hold seminars periodically.

"'Here was our chance to explore in some depth services like the Bib Center, JADA, and personnel policies. They took tours. They had bull sessions. The meetings are somewhat structured to give them knowledge of our reference services, but they are also designed to permit free expression, to ask questions like the ones the staff is forever asking "How can I learn the collections? When is a reference question a reference question? How much time do I devote to it before I turn it over to someone else?"

"'My aim, and the administration's aim in all training, is to try to make our people more flexible, to be able to move them from one station to another without too much difficulty. We fight against rigidity because we haven't enough librarians to go around. We can't afford to have specialists only. Librarians must learn to be all 'round librarians first; to feel that they can move easily from one job to another within the system; then to have a specialty such as literature and history; and only then at last to specialize within a department - to become a history specialist.' Mr Shearouse said.

SOME THOUGHTS.....(con't)

"'My idea of the whole staffing program is that in-service training makes it possible for us to know a librarian's strengths and abilities. We must have the general person first. Remember, a librarian is a librarian first; a department librarian second; and, possibly, a specialist last of all.'"

The Library Administration Division (Personnel Section, In-Service Training Committee) of the American Library Association has just this year issued a revised, in-depth "Bibliographic essay" on this subject. The study, by Judith K. Sollengerger, Research Assistant at the Indianapolis Public Library, is entitled, In-Service Training: A Bibliographic Essay.

"The purpose of this bibliography is to assemble the relatively recent (since 1955) writings on the subject as a guide to those who wish to know what is currently being thought, written, and done about library staff training and development. Under the term "in-service training" have been included not only those programs which are carried on within individual libraries, but those which are organized outside the library with the cooperation and encouragement of the library to a greater or lesser degree. Furthermore, since employee training, for the highly paid executive as well as the unskilled laborer, has received a great deal of attention in business, industry, and many other organizations and has been tried out extensively on all levels, the bibliography includes a selection of titles from the abundant literature on personnel, management, and efficiency outside the field of libraries. In this revised edition many of the titles listed in the first edition have been dropped; many recent titles have been added, bringing the entries well into the first half of 1964."

("Introduction", pp. 1-2.)

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 20-23: Catholic Library Association, Philadelphia.

April 25-May 1: National Library Week.

May 20-21: Massachusetts Library Association, Provincetown.

May 30-June 3: Medical Library Association, Philadelphia.

May 30-June 5: International Publishers Congress, Washington, D.C.

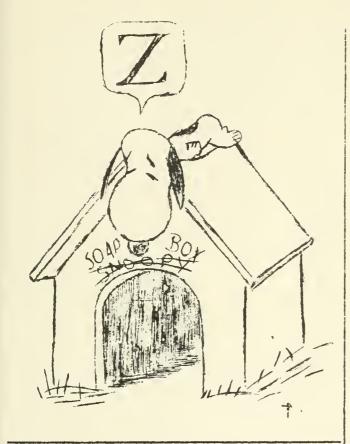
June 6-10: Special Library Association, Philadelphia.

July 4-10: American Library Association, Detroit.

In case you missed it or haven't caught up with it yet, the entire March issue of the ALA Bulletin is devoted to the Washington, D.C., Midwinter Meeting.

"Put yourself in the middle of things, to get at once at the heart of the business; most roam around, in useless millings either about the edge, or in the scrub of a tiresome verbosity, without striking upon the substance of the matter; they make a hundred turns about a point, wearying themselves, and wearying others, yet never arriving at the centre of what is important; it is the product of a scattered brain that does not know how to get itself together; they spend time, and exhaust patience, over that which they should leave alone, and afterwards are short of both for what they did leave alone."

- A Truthtelling Manual and the Art of Worldly Wisdom; being a collection of the aphorisms which appear in the works of Baltasar Gracian of the Company of Jesus and Reader in Holy Scriptures in the College of Tarragona immediately translated for the understanding from a 1653 Spanish text by Martin Fischer, doctor, and professor of the University of Cincinnati. A second and revised edition. Springfield, Ill: Charles C. Thomas



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IF

SILENCE

WERE

GOLDEN

We might very possibly have the richest library staff in the country!









T T E QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XX, Number 5

May 1965

Publications Committee: William F. Casey; Harry Andrews; Evelyn Isaacs; Sarah M. Usher, Indexer; David G. Nevin, Chairman

Publication Date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:

The tenth of each month

"THE QUALIFICATION IS NEED"

Miss Pauline Winnick opened her talk, given as the Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture, by quoting statistics based primarily on Bernard Berelson's 1949 study for the Public Library Inquiry, The Library's Public. This and later studies have shown that libraries are supported by the total society for the use of a very small minority. Only ten percent of the adult population are "active" users while a maximum of an additional five percent can be classified as "occasional". Even among students, less than one third are active public library users. And of the total number of books read by the United States public, less than one fourth are borrowed from libraries.

She went cr to outline programs under the Economic Opportunity Act (P.L. 88-452) and the Library Services and Construction Act (P.L. 88-269), both of 1964, directed in large measure at the "other 75 percent" of the library's prospective users: Job Corps, Community Action Program, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Work Experience Programs, and VISTA, the Volunteers in Service to America. Under LSCA she cited several interesting examples of what is being done in the Queens Borough and Brooklyn Public Libraries: day-care centers, preschool story hours, and a 'community librarian' philosophy with detached workers whose job it is to take the library and the library idea directly to the public it purports to serve by merely being 'there'.

But what concerns us here is not the facts, statistics, and programs, interesting 'though they may be. Those who are particularly interested should turn to Library Journal (Sept. 15, 1964) or to the January 1965 issue of the ALA Bulletin where Miss Winnick and others have covered the "War on Poverty" programs in considerable detail. What does concern us is that such efforts are creating a sink-or-swim necessity for reexamination of the concept of the library as a social institution. Libraries in general, and the public library in particular, have become so accustomed to and generally content with service to a minority public that the concept of the library as a dynamic social institution and center of communication may be beyond both its fiscal and intellectual means. Those who are searching for current information fast have long since given up the idea of the public library as a source. Nor will we be able to provide more than a minimal service to a minority public so long as library administrators and boards are content to wait "until the school board gets theirs" to request additional funds.

As Miss Winnick pointed out so well, the federal government has provided the foundation on which to build. Not until we have established a more dynamic image of the library as a center of communication and as a pivot in the processes of social change, however, will the base of library use, service, or fiscal support be broadened in order that these great institutions may become fitted into the framework of an expanding society.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I wish to express my appreciation to all those who helped make the 10th Hartzell Memorial Lecture successful. I am especially indebted to Mrs. Bridie Stotz and the members of her Committee for obtaining the services of Miss Pauline Winnick. I am sure that all those who heard Miss Winnick speak were inspired by the many challenging ideas and projects which are now in process or are being planned for the future. My thanks to Eleanor Halligan and Tom Manning for the delicious refreshments and beautiful flower arrangements.

I know that most of the staff is waiting for word on the Library Assistants salary schedule. I am sorry to have to tell you that there is no money available for increases in the immediate future. Because the City is having financial difficulties. the Trustees do not feel that they can present a supplementary budget for increases until the 1965 Boston tax rate is announced. Ordinarily the tax rate is announced in June, but this year the rates will not be determined and announced until August when the City should have some idea of the amount of aid it will receive from the Commonwealth. The Trustees have stated that the LA salary schedule will be given priority.

The Executive Board met recently to discuss other questions of concern to the membership. These problems, which include In-service training and the future of the Coffee Shop will be discussed at length at the Business Meeting to be held on May 28th.

MARY T. CROWE

President

PDICA COMITTURE MEMOREDOLITES 304°C

BPLSA COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS 1965

HOUSE COMMITTEE FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Louis Polishook Joseph Naples Claire O'Toole Margaret Lyons

CONCESSIONS COMMITTEE

Corinne Henderson, Chairman
Brenda Brewington
Margot Timson Claire O'Tools

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Sheila Stevens, Chairman Claire O'Toole Martin Waters

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Geraldine T. Beck, Chairman

Eleanora Chaplik
Elinor D. Conley
Marjorie Gibbons
Mary Hackett
Geraldine Herrick

Chairman
Mildred Kaufman
Mary Langton
Rose Moorachian
Mildred Presente

SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Ruth Conroy, Chairman
Jean Babcock Corinne Henderson
Winifred Frank

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Sadie M. Rotondo, Chairman
Macy Margolis
Marie Cashman
Helen Lord

Barbara Steinglein
Josephine Kelley

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elinor D. Conley, Chairman
Mildred Adelson Nura Globus
Geraldine Gardner Anthony Tieuli
Patricia Harrington

CARE COMMITTEE

Josephine H. Kelley, Chairman
Margaret E. Lyons Mary E. Molloy
Mary A. LaFollette

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Eleanor Halligan, Chairman

Jean Babcock Margaret Thrasher

Margot Timson Bertha Keswick

HARTZELL MEMORIAL LECTURE COMMITTEE

Bridie P. Stotz, Chairman
Ruth M. Hayes M. Jane Manthorne
Rose Moorachian

PERSONNEL NOTES

ENTERED:

John F. Bundy - Music Henry D. Selvitella - Book Stack Service Thomas G. Kochins - Book Stack Service Patrick H. Potega - Book Stack Service

TRANSFERRED:

Marie J. Quinn - from Reference Division Office to Home Reading and Community Services Division Office

CEASED:

Assunta Donisi - Book Selection, Reference - resigned

Maureen Hanlon, Book Selection, Reference - resigned

Christopher Ivusic - Periodical & Newspaper - to work in Washington, D.C.

Michael Arnold - Periodical & Newspaper

- another position

William Warde - General Reference - to be Assistant Librarian at Framingham Library Mary E. Walsh - Book Stack Service - health

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Schubarth

On March 24, 1965, Helen Schubarth died very suddenly. Her death was a great shock to all who knew her, and our sympathy goes to her sisters and other members of her family in the loss of such a vital, loving and uncompromisingly honest person.

For almost forty years Helen Schubarth "accounted" for all the expenditures of the Boston Public Library in her position as Auditor, and later Chief Accountant. Her accounting was meticulous in every detail: she demanded accuracy and exactness from her staff, but not more than she demanded from herself. The high standards she set for her office were never allowed. to deteriorate, even though it might mean an extra hour or two added to her working day. She won the respect and admiration of all who had any connection with her work.

Miss Schubarth enjoyed her life in the library as she fully enjoyed so many other things ... family, friends, the theater, the arts, music (she sang and played the piano beautifully), the opera, travel.

Flowers were a joy ... her friends received them from her to celebrate any occasion ... or just because she loved to share their beauty. She entertained delightfully, and liked to talk with her friends on widely diverse subjects. She had a deep concern for her family and friends, and a genuine sympathy and kindness for many less fortunate than herself.

Although her death came less than five years after her retirement, those years were ones of pleasure in her leisure, her family and friends. Her vivacity and enthusiasm for all facets of her life remained undiminished to the very end ... and that is what she had always hoped for.

GERTRUDE McCABE

Ruth A. Foley

When Ruth Foley died on May 9, the Library lost a most unique and beloved. personality.

A veteran of 35 years service, she had survived through many changes and many vicissitudes with her spirit undimmed. and her sense of humor undiminished. She loved the Library and the people who worked here. She often said she would rather be unhappy here, than unhappy somewhere else. To her the Library was her home and her co-workers her friends. She was always willing to work an extra night for another, to give up her day off to someone else, to work at a momentis notice in an emergency.

But to her many friends she will be most remembered for her jokes and quips, which she could produce in the most impossible situations. Her humor was quick, clever. but gentle and never unkind, except to herself. To me, and to many of her old friends she was known as "Miz Foley dear" and her memory is forever woven into our memories of earlier days when our hearts were young and gayer because of "Miz Foley dear".

CLAIRE O'TOOLE

CONT.

Joseph P. Cullinane

A friendly face is being missed at the Central Library. The whimsical smile and pleasant "Good day" of Joseph Cullinane has gone forever. 'Joe' passed away suddenly on April 18th of this year.

A native of Mission Hill, his was a unique knowledge of that area. He was born there, educated there and married there.

Joe joined the staff of the Library as a member of the Buildings Department on September 27, 1939; and was ever conscious of the endeavors it took to keep this building a thing of beauty.

It is difficult to express the feelings of the staff; of we who knew of his faithful, knowledgeable and conscientious philosophy towards the Library. The best way for all of us to remember him is to be as loyal to the Library as was Joseph P. Cullinane.

THOMAS MANNING

FIVE NAMES TO SEVEN SUPERIORS WILLIAM FRANCIS O'HARA BPL SERVICE, 1918 - 1965

Having attended Boston Latin School, and then Burdett Business College, Mr. O'Hara (who was called "Francis" by his family and friends) decided to enter the service of the Boston Public Library. It was then August, 1918. I cheerfully admit that I had already been born at the time, but I had never seen the famous Italian palace in Copley Square. fact I had never even seen North America. But August 3, 1918 was the day that William Francis O'Hara entered the portals of the BPL and took his place at a desk in the Ordering Department under the Chief, Miss Theodosia McCurdy. There he was to remain for forty-seven years.

Within three months William (in those days he was called "William" in the BPL) so impressed Miss McCurdy with his willingness to help that she recommended him for permanent employment on November 5, 1918, three months in advance of the usual half-year wait. The labor shortage due to World War I was being felt at the library, and the problem of handling

mail bags of fifty and seventy-five pounds became too difficult for Miss Cunniff and Mr. O'Hara. So Miss McCurdy requested that Mr. Niederauer (the then Building Superintendent) arrange to have the janitors put the mail bags on the mailing table for the Ordering Department staff.

After that, things went along like a house afire and William did such a fine piece of work that the new Chief of the department, Mr. Louis Felix Ranlett recommended Mr. O'Hara for a raise, reported that his work was excellent, and that he was to be especially commended during the recent rush of business. (I did a double take on that — but the date was 1929 NOT 1965). Mr. O'Hara was then responsible for the mail and the forwarding of all material from the Ordering Department, and supervised three young men: Charles Mosey, and the late Leo T. Ryan and Earle A. Quadros.

From 1918 through 1936, during the period of the 'two-platoon system', William also worked on the Sunday and evening services in the Periodical Room, under the late Francis J. Hannigan, but all of his regular library service was in the Ordering Department. When this department was divided into the Book Purchasing Department (for acquisitions) and the Book Selection Departments (for selecting), Mr. O'Hara (as he had now become to us all) remained in the Book Purchasing Department. Here he served under seven department heads: Miss McCurdy, Mr. Ranlett, Mr. Maiers, Miss Mulloy, Mr. Ball, Mr. Ettele, and Miss Rea.

In later years Mr. O'Hara was responsible for the material received from the library's many miscellaneous dealers. He became such an expert on locating unusual items which often got sidetracked, that Mr. Ball used to say: "Bill is a good man for resolving snags." (By this time the men on the staff began to call him "Bill")

In the days of my so-called youth, I remember how well Willie knew every girl in the building. (The girls affectionately called him "Willie") There was never a need to find out the name of the new young lady just assigned to some remote department far from the Book Purchasing. One just asked Willie. Proof of his popularity always came on Saint Valentine! Day, when all the ladies deluged his desk with greetings.

Cont

~ 5 ~

Bill made many friends throughout the staff, and he was always both anxious and willing to accomodate his fellow workers in any manner in which he was able. Once he performed a small commission for a fellow worker, a necessary errand to purchase fish. Unfortunately for Bill, word of this got around the department. For years afterwards, someone, every so often, would pop up to ask: "Bill, did you get Harriet's fish yet?" But Bill would just turn scarlet, get flustered and pooh-pooh all his many helpful acts of kindness as something that didn't matter. He loved chocolates, and had his special favorite varieties. Often he would surreptitiously pass one a candy from a precious small horde in a paper bag from Pierce's. Again he would bring in a whole box and share it with the department.

William O'Hara was a pleasant gentleman to work with, a great support in times of personal difficulties, wonderfully helpful about straightening out problems which no one else could remember, and always willing to do his part in library activities. As I write this, Bill and his vivacious sister, Irene, are enjoying the Florida sunshine on one of their many holidays together. We all send him our congratulations and best wishes that they will both continue to enjoy the sunshine and leisure of many more happy trips.

MARY ALICE F. REA

ARTHUR HEINTZELMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Contributions to the Arthur Heintzelman Memorial Fund can be made through members of the committee for the fund:

> Geraldine Herrick Thomas J. Manning Louisa S. Metcalf Russell A. Scully Paul B. Swenson Sarah M. Usher

A lasting memorial to Mr. Heintzelman, the fund will become an endowment for the purchase of prints and drawings, following the tradition of his accomplishments as the Library's first Keeper of Prints from 1941 to 1960.

Contributions sent by check should be made out to The Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston, and marked Arthur Heintzelman Memorial Fund.

BRANCH BRIEFS

NEW NORTH END BRANCH LIBRARY

"Spotlights beamed their radiance on the long broad walk and the eager and enthusiastic public poured in to see the luxurious new North End Library quarters.

"The little people and the big people, more than 1000 of them came to the gala open house and formal dedication of the new North End Branch Library at 25 Parmenter St., Boston on Wednesday evening, May 5.

"It was a grand and glorious night, weather and occasion wise. Old-time library patrons, some of them recalling going to get books at a delivery station at the North Bennett Street Industrial School mingled with new residents newly exposed to North End library service.

"Former North End Branch Library staff workers helloed old library friends and rejoiced with them in their new cozy quarters.

"Sixteen distinguished foreign librarians from Europe, Asia and the Orient on
a tour of American libraries sponsored by
the State Department were wide-eyed at
the beautiful and comfortable furnishings,
the lush greenery surrounding the jetting
fountain with six fat goldfish nestling
under the shocking pink lotus blossoms.

"State and city dignitaries joined North End residents, invited guests and library personnel in this unusual ceremony — a combined occasion, the dedication ceremonies and the awarding of the Mary U. Nichols Book Prize Awards for 1964 and 1965.

"The evening started with a buffet supper at 5:45 for the Mayor, the City Council, the Library Trustees, State Representatives, the architects and other guests.

"Greeting the guests as they arrived were the charming and gracious Mrs. Geraldine Herrick, North End Branch Librarian, Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library, and Anthony Tieuli, Young Adult Librarian at the North End Branch."

The Italian News of Friday, May 14,1965, from whose feature article the above is quoted, goes into glowing detail listing guests, gifts, and congratulatory telegrams. Those particularly interested should read the fuller account given therein, but the full impact of the building itself cannot be adequately Cont.

described in words. If you haven't seen it yet, it is well worth the special trip—only a five-minute walk up Hanover St. from the Haymarket MTA station (left on Parmenter St.).

But to recount the events of the evening in briefer fashion, following the buffet supper the doors were opened to the public and dedication ceremonies began shortly before 8 p.m. after the arrival of the Mayor. Presided over by Mr. Augustin H. Parker, President of the BPL Trustees, they consisted of an invocation given by the Rt. Rev. Edward G. Murray (also a Trustee), an address by Mayor Collins, and the key presentation ceremony. Architect Karl Koch presented the solid gold engraved key to Mr. Parker, who in turn gave it to Mrs. Herrick: "Ex Libris Felicitas North End Branch Library 1965".

Mrs. Herrick then introduced guests and staff, and Mr. Lord presented the 16th and 17th annual Mary U. Nichols Book Prize awards. Mary U. Nichols was Branch Librarian at North End Branch from 1941 to 1949 and died of a heart attack at Central in January of 1949. Money raised by her many friends in the North End was presented to the Library and funded as "The Mary U. Nichols Book Prize Fund -- Established on May 20, 1949, through inter vivos gift by friends of Mary U. Nichols, Branch Librarian at the North End Branch Library from 1941 to 1949. Income to be used to award annually a book prize to the North End boy and to the North End girl who in their senior year at a North End high school have excelled in English."

The first award was given June 2, 1949. Books are handsomely bound in the BPL Bindery and contain a memorial 'puppeteer' bookplate especially designed by the late Arthur W. Heintzelman, Keeper of Prints. to symbolize Miss Nichols! work with puppets at the Branch. The 1964 prizes were to have been awarded at the dedication of the Branch in the summer of that year, but since the Branch was not opened until May of 1965, two awards were made this year. Winners were Domenic Stagno and Robert Dello Rosso, graduates of Christopher Columbus High School, and Roberta M. Lombardozzi and Angela S. Dello Russo, both graduates of Julie Billiart High School.

Guests, staff, and visitors lingered well into the evening to enjoy punch and cookies and to luxuriate in the wonderful surroundings. To quote from the Italian

News once again, it was, indeed, "a truly magnificent opening in every way".

Mattapan Branch is delighted to announce its newest baby. Daughter of our Young Adults Librarian, Alvis Price and his pretty wife, Christina, made her debut on April 22.

Congratulations!

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#### IT'S A FAST AGE WE'RE LIVING IN

Monday, at 2 p.m., a teen-ager — probably 9th or 10th grade — came to the library for a book that would teach him how to dance. Having learned from him that he was going to a 'prom', Mrs. Rubenstein gave him a book on social dancing, and laughingly suggested that he practice 10 or 12 hours-a-day 'til prom time, in order to become fairly adept at the art. "Heck, no", said he, "The prom is tonight. I just got invited yesterday".

STAFF IN PRINT

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Just published by the American Library Association is its ACRL Monograph No. 27, Rare Book Collections: Some Theoretical and Practical Suggestions, edited by H. Richard Archer, Custodian of the Chapin Library at Williams College. The chapter on "Cataloging and Classification" was written by John Alden, Keeper of Rare Books.

The introduction to Thomas R. Adam's recent American Independence: The Growth of an Idea; a Bibliographical Study' (Providence, Brown University Press, 1965) states that to Mr. Alden the author is more indebted than to any other individual, "Anyone acquainted with the meticulous and thorough manner in which Mr. Alden works will understand the obligation I am under." Mr. Adams, son of Randolph G. Adams, is Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University.

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# FOURTH GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES

The Fourth Governor's Conference on Libraries, held Thursday, April 29 at the Hotel Somerset, consisted of two parts: an afternoon colloquium and a 'Diamond Jubilee' dinner at 6 p.m.

The colloqui which was entitled,
"Libraries and the Great Society", was
concerned with the roles of federal,
state, and local governments, respectively,
in library development. Miss Alice Cahill,
Assistant Director, Division of Library
Extension, Massachusetts Department of
Education, introduced the discussion by
pointing out some of the problems of
governmental relationships to libraries.
After Miss Cahill's remarks, Mr. Erwin D.
Canham, Editor-in-Chief of the Christian
Science Monitor and Member of the Board
of Trustees of the Boston Public Library,
took over as moderator of the discussion.

The first speaker in the colloquium was Mr. John G. Lorenz, Director, Division of Library Services, US Office of Education, who reviewed some of the federal legislation already passed or being considered by Congress at the present time. While doing this, Mr. Lorenz pointed out some of the problems which such legislation could alleviate. He emphasized, however, that the federal government cannot solve all the problems. Federal aid can and should serve only as a stimulus to state and local activity.

State government was represented by Miss Jean L. Connor, Director, Division of Library Extension, NY State Education Department. Miss Connor pointed out that ours is an age of change and that, in order to provide adequate library service in our society, there must be cooperation between libraries and other social agencies. She felt that the state libraries have four major functions: to point out, especially to laymen, the relevance of libraries to contemporary society; to coordinate cooperative activities among the libraries of the state, especially in regard to collections of specialized material; to see that the libraries of the state are fulfilling the needs of their patrons constructively and successfully; and finally, to make sure that all who are participating in providing library services are reinforcing one another's efforts.

Mr. Kenneth R. Shaffer, Director of the School of Library Science and of the Libraries at Simmons College, reviewed the many changes in librarianship which have occurred during the past four or five years. He pointed out that "this is just a beginning" compared to what may be expected in the future.

Finally, the only layman on the panel, Mr. Robert J. M. O'Hare, Director of the Bureau of Public Affairs at Boston College and former Town Manager of Stoughton, Massachusetts, discussed some of the problems of the library in the local community. He pointed out that libraries are necessary in order to assure our children the education required to prepare them adequately to meet the challenges of modern society. He noted the need not only for a greater number, but also for more attractive, functional, and better-equipped libraries in our communities.

There followed a brief discussion period, enlivened by a debate on the feasibility of combining school and community libraries

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Although the above report was submitted to the Staff by our Corresponding Secretary, Marion McCarthy, no member of the Association was present at the 'Diamond Jubilee' dinner responsible for reporting on the evening's activities. Notes taken from the program, however, indicated that it was in honor of the Massachusetts Division of Library Extension, 1890-1965, with Richard J. Sullivan, Chairman, Board of Library Commissioners, as Toastmaster. After a welcoming address by Governor John A. Volpe, several speakers and guests were scheduled to participate: remarks by Dr. Owen B. Kiernan, Commissioner of Education, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; greetings by Edwin Castagna, President, American Library Association; and the keynote address by the Honorable Silvio O. Conte, Member of the US House of Representatives from Pittsfield, Mass.

# CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE - PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 19-23

This is a report of the proceedings of the Elementary School Libraries Section meetings which I attended. There were many other meetings of value and interest to librarians about which I cannot give a first hand report as I was not present.

The Regina Medal Award Luncheon on Tuesday, April 20, at which Mrs. Ruth Sawyer Durand received the Regina Medal for her lifetime of distinguished contribution in the field of children's literature was, to me, the most stimulating and delightful experience of the entire conference. Mrs. Durand, although not fully recuperated from a bad virus infection, gave a vigorous talk on the value of fine books, finely written, rich in vocabulary and in meaning for family reading. told of some of the wonderful storytellers she had met in Ireland, Spain, and other countries who, though perhaps poor in material things, were blessed with a richness of words, a richness much to be envied. "A poverty of words is one of the worst poverties a person can live with," she said. Mrs. Durand ended her talk with the telling of one of her Irish tales, The Peddlar of Ballaghadereen. She was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Robert McCloskey, and Mrs. Annis Duff of Viking Company. Among those present was Virginia Haviland of the Library of Congress, formerly Readers Advisor to Children, BPL. At each place at table there was a souvering copy of the paperback edition of Mrs. Durand's classic, The Way of the Storyteller.

The following morning, David McCord spoke to the Elementary Section members on the importance of poetry for children. It was a lively presentation stressing the uses of rhythm and a succinctness of words.

In the afternoon, Sister Anne Lucille told about the need for school libraries on parochial schools and of how this need is being met in her area of service, northern New Jersey. Sister Ann Lucille has established the Elizabeth Seton Library Guild consisting of 400 mothers in 44 parishes. These volunteer helpers in parochial school libraries having no professional librarian, are given about 18 hours of library science instruction by Sister who makes periodic visits to these schools. The results are astounding.

Sister Anne Lucille showed slides of some of these school libraries, not the most advanced in her district, but rather those in which it had been insisted it was IMPOSSIBLE to fit any kind of library into the existing plant. But the impossible was accomplished and judging from the slides, accomplished very well. Books are purchased from Catholic Library Service and come fully processed and catalogued. Book election for this service is under the direction of such professional children's librarians as Margaret Martignoni, Ethna Sheehan and Clara Kircher.

Also at this afternoon meeting, Frank A. Stevens, Supervisor of School Libraries in New York State, explained the implications of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as it applies to non-public schools and school libraries.

A special tour was arranged to the new CLA headquarters at Haverford. An attractive private residence, in excellent condition, has been adapted to the needs and uses of the CLA Bookshelf of outstanding children's literature. Miss Wessel, Children's Librarian of the Detroit Public Library, was a past chairman of the Elementary Section who served with great dedication and distinction.

Tours were also made to the University of Pennsylvania's Charles Patterson Van Pelt Library, a fine example of modern functional construction. I was deeply interested to note that in the reading rooms of this library, used by the graduate students of the University, there were conspicuous signs posted, "No Talking Allowed". Commenting on this to the librarian-guide, I was told that it was a necessary stricture otherwise the library would be turned into a "courting centre".

On the 5th floor of the library is the Union Library Catalogue which lists in one alphabet approximately 5,000,000 titles owned by 160 libraries in the Philadelphia area. Here also I was interested in the librarian's comment that no machine has yet been invented that can compete with the human hand and eye in the interfiling of catalogue cards

We also visited St. Joseph's College Library and the Free Library of Philadelphia. At this latter, the delegates were shown the treasures of the Rare

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Book Department, currently exhibiting rare editions of Beatrix Potter, Kate Greenaway, and other well known children's authors and illustrators. The tour concluded with tea served graciously in the Rare Book Department with FLP Director Emerson Greenaway as host.

At the business meeting of the Elementary Section it was voted to change the name of the section to Children's Libraries Section. It was felt that this new title more nearly represented the interests of the Section which is not concerned alone with school libraries but rather with all phases of library service to children.

MARTHA C. ENGLER

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#### GOURMET CORNER

Numerous requests were received following the Hartzell Lecture, and Mrs. Rotondo has been good enough to submit the recipe for the delicious "Peppermint Squares à la Adams Street".

#### Peppermint Squares

Melt together:

2 squares unsweet chocolate

½ cup margarine

Cream together:

1 cup sugar

2 eggs

Add mixture of chocolate and margarine to this.

Add to them:

½ cup flour dash of salt

1/4 teaspoon of peppermint extract

½ cup chopped nuts.

Grease well and flour a 9" x 9" square pan. Bake in  $350^{\circ}$  oven for 20 to 25 minutes.

#### Filling

While cake is baking, make filling and refrigerate.

Combine and mix:

- 2 tablespoons cream or milk. Start with one and add
- l cup confectioner's sugar

teaspoon peppermint extract

After cake has cooled, spread filling over it and chill enough to set. After this is done, pour over chocolate glaze on top of filling.

#### Glaze

Melt together:

1 square chocolate

1 tablespoon margarine

Chill cake again and cut in square.

#### CONGRATULATIONS :

To Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Savignano (Joan formerly worked at the Officer-in-Charge Desk) on the birth of a 6 lb. 9 oz. baby girl on May 4. They have named their 2nd child, first daughter, Teresa.

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#### DUES!

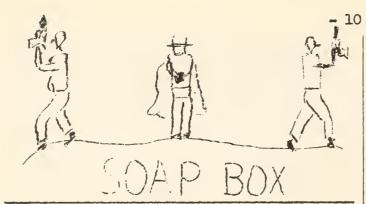
The Treasurer has requested that all persons wishing to join the Staff Association submit their name and department together with one dollar (\$1.00) annual dues. Send or deliver to Louis Polishook, Central Charging Records.

LET'S MAKE IT 100% 111

Dear Reader:

QM's editor apologizes for the tardiness of this issue. Earlier issues have been slightly delayed, but this is close to the ridiculous! Had it not been for the excellent services of Miss Jean Babcock, however, this might well have been a midsummer issue.

All of which points directly to the fact that QM is without a typist and needs one desperately. Anyone willing to donate three or four hours a month, please contact the editor c/o the Audio-Visual Department. As an official duty of the Staff Association, library time is ordinarily allowed.



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 Editor:

It seems to me that an institution of our size should have some official policy with regard to staff attendance at funerals of staff members, particularly members who have been here for decades. The most recent funeral of a staff member was poorly attended in view of the fact that the person had worked here in Central for 35 years. There were about 15 persons at the service, but a very small percentage of these went to the funeral, and they had trouble securing transportation.

It is difficult to go to a funeral without transportation, so perhaps some policy could be evolved by which people who have cars and are willing to take passengers could notify Personnel or put a notice on the Bulletin Board in case of a funeral.

Perhaps the Staff Association should take the matter up. At any rate, someone should.

#### CLAIRE O'TOOLE

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Some time ago I picked up in a bookshop a copy of Arnold Bennett's BOOKS AND PERSONS, (Doran, 1917), a book of literary comments and essays, and found in it a piece called CENSORSHIP IN THE LIBRARIES (pp 167 - 194). Here are some of the things he has to say about us:

"Boston... the city of Harvard University, of the Atlantic Monthly, ... of Emerson, Lowell, Longfellow, and Holmes... has a Public Library. It is supposed to be one of the finest public libraries in this world, or any other... A women asked for George Moore's "Esther Waters." The work was included in the catalog of the Library. In reply to her request she was informed that she could not have the book unless she obtained from the Chief Mandarin or Librarian special permission to read it...."

Bennett goes on to say that the lady's husband was a prominent journalist in Boston, and when he heard the story, he looked into the whole question of starring books in our catalog, and wrote it up in his paper.

The surprising thing to me in the Bennett article was the statement that "pornographi books were listed in the public catalog wit a red star.

"Esther Waters" is now on the open shelve and not very much in demand. We have become much more liberal in our policy of what to put on open shelves. But all books, either bought or accepted as gifts by the Library, should be listed in the public catalog.

#### HARRY ANDREWS

#### UNFAIR TO FEMALES

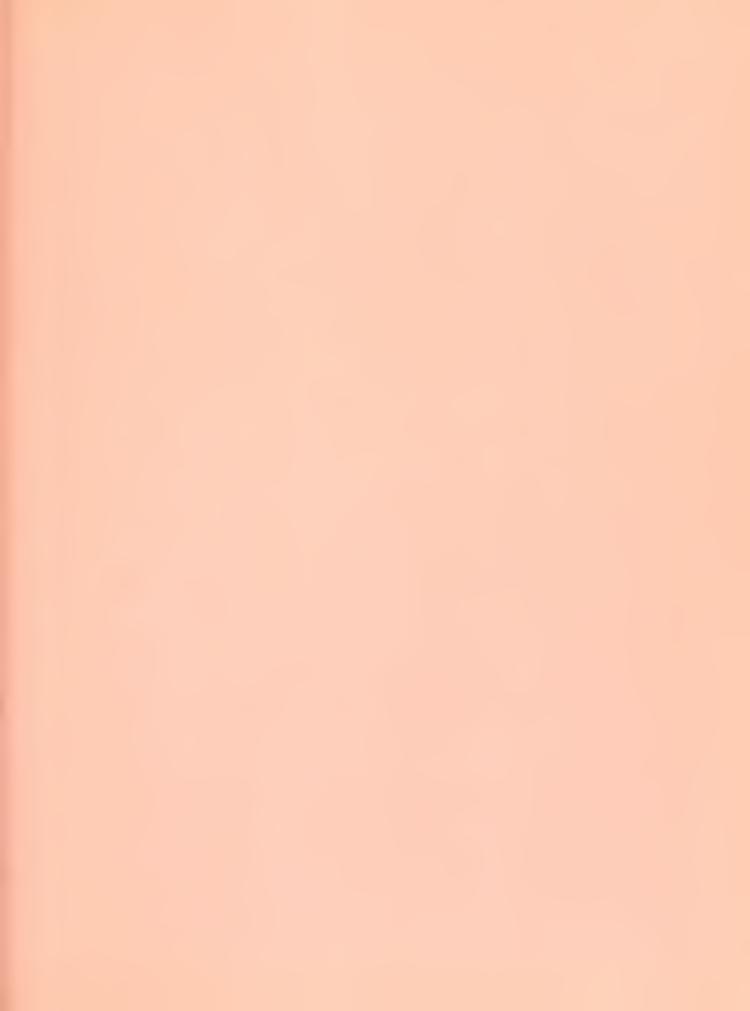
Why is it the females of the Book Stack Service Department are totally ignored when it comes to receiving step-rate increases?

Males who have been in the service of the library from six months to two years (LA 1's and LA 2's) have just recently jumped to LA 4's.

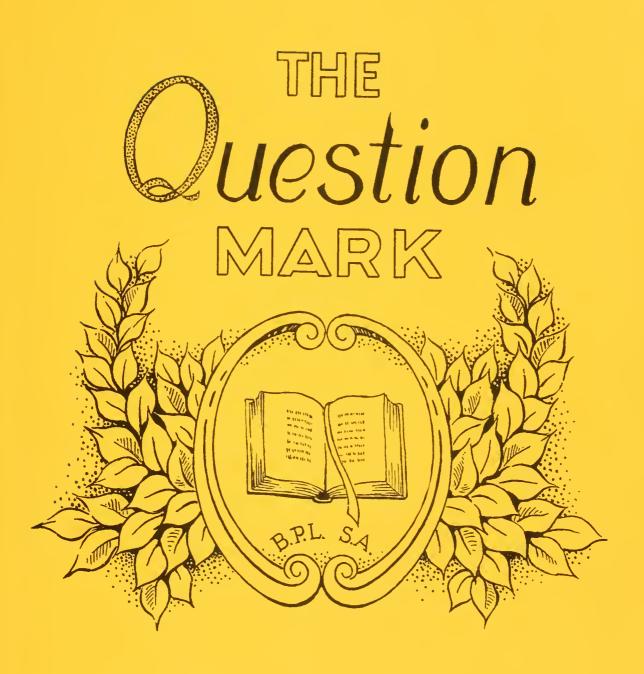
While the females who have been in the service for seventeen years are still LA 2's and another who is an LA 5 after 37 years.

Now, we ask you, IS THIS FAIR?

#### VERY DISCOURAGED







THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### THE QUESTION MARK

#### Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XX, Number 6

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Publication Date:
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The tenth of each month

It shall be the object of the Association

(a) to foster professional librarianship

b) to further the common interests and the welfare of the bibliothecal staff

(c) and to promote greater efficiency in library service.

#### THOUGHTS ON THE IMMINENT DEMISE OF THE COFFEE SHOP

Both the June Staff Memo and the minutes of the May 28 Staff Association Business Meeting inform us that the Central Library's Coffee Shop is to be closed between the time the present annex is torn down and the completion of the new building. Although the actual event may not take place for a year or more, there is no more than a suggestion of the type of interim facilities which may be provided or how long we can expect to 'bide our time' until the new building's lounges and lunch rooms will be available. It is suggested, then, that rather than waiting until the last minute, it might be prudent to do a little planning ahead for what will be a rather large gap in the fringe benefits we all now enjoy and will surely sorely miss when that fateful day arrives.

Although it is pleasant to be able to sit down with a cup of coffee, a coke, or a sandwich, the present facilities are neither spacious nor very comfortable. In this respect, at least, the problem of putting up with temporary quarters or the almost complete lack thereof should be considerably eased: when the day comes, it will mean that we are just that much closer to the opening of the new building with its hopefully larger and more comfortable staff accomodations.

But even assuming that we are able to view it intelligently merely as a necessary evil created by the slow churning of the wheels of progress, the non-availability of a reasonably priced meal—a difficult enough burden for many—may not prove nearly so permanent a result as the lack of sufficient space to sit and discuss personal experiences and feelings and to complain of library problems. This month, for the first time in a long time, we have a reasonable representation of staff opinion in the Soap Box. But by placing a tape recorder in the Coffee Shop for a single afternoon, there would be sufficient material for nearly a full year's Soap Boxes.

(Continued - - - page 9)

#### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Ed. note: Mary Crowe is on vacation as this issue goes to press. We have nary a picture postcard from her and can only invite your attention to the Recording Secretary's minutes taken at the May 28 Business Meeting.

#### PERSONNEL NOTES

#### ENTERED:

Mrs. Rebecca Peters - Bookmobiles
Patricia A. McCabe - Book Preparation
Shirley A. Lyons - Fine Arts
Barbara Ann Langone - Book Selection,
R&RS

William M. King - Book Preparation John J. Rohen - Central Charging Records return from Military Leave

#### TRANSFERRED:

Rena Fisher - Egleston Square - formerly a part-time Library Aide, now Pre-Professional

kevin Shea - Book Preparation - formerly part-time in Cataloging & Classification R&RS

Andrew Soo - Book Stack Service - formerly part-time

Stephanie G. Daggett - West Roxbury - formerly part-time

Denise A. Boyce - Central Charging Records - former Library Aide at Mt. Pleasant

James G. Mercer - Book Stack Service formerly a Library Aide in Branch Issue Marie C. DeFronzo - North End - formerly a Library Aide

William C. Hanway - Book Stack Service - formerly in Cataloging & Classification HR&CS

#### Cont.

Folksinging is when a lot of rich college kids get together and sing about poverty. — Cambridge Circus

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#### CEASED:

Branch - retired
William F. O'Hara - Book Purchasing
Dorothy Banner - Mt. Pleasant
Raymond Collins - Duplicating - another

Winifred F. Root - Kirstein Business

aymond Collins - Duplicating - another position

Peter Ellsworth - Bookmobiles - return home

Kevin Hipe - Open Shelf

Jeanne F. McGerigle - Kirstein Business Branch - to stay at home

Frances MacArthur - Fine Arts - moving to Maine

Joan Morris - Science and Technology - resigned

Dorothy Perkins - West Roxbury - resigned

#### NEWLYWEDS:

Ella White - Central Charging Records, to Stanley E. Lombara

Juliana DeKoning - Brighton, to Howard Hickerson and moving to Memphis, Tenn. Joan M. White - Bookmobiles, to Edward McKinnon

Paula M. Burke - Kirstein Business Branch, to Paul B. McCarthy

#### IN MELORIALI

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#### Jean B. Lay

After a month's hospitalization Miss Lay passed away on June 2, 1965. Her friends were confident that she would rally and leave the New England Baptist Hospital for her usual happy summer on the coast of Massachusetts, but that was not to be. She has been buried in Amherst. Nova Scotia, where she was born and spent her early years. Her attachment for the town where her father had been high school principal was made concrete over the years by annual contributions for school prizes. She attended Mt. Allison College and Truro Normal School in Nova Scotia and spent a number of years teaching, coming to the United States in 1918 to enter the library field. She first worked in Springfield where she entered a library training course.

Her work at the Boston Public Library began in 1924 when she worked in the then Branch Catalog Department. This work led to one of her hobbies. She cataloged children's books and became interested in the Children's Room, and put together delightful scrap books to be given away to young acquaintances. I first met Jean Lay when she was sent to the old Boylston Branch Library (now Connolly) to update the catalog and shelflist there.

Although Jean gave the impression of a sombre outlook, a real vein of humor was there and brought forth many a laugh among her friends when she entertained at the Pioneer Hotel at luncheon and evening card parties. Her memory for poetry was remarkable; it also was her pleasure to experiment with verse as well as with other forms of writing.

The theatre and opera meant a great deal to her; here too, her remarkable memory for stage personalities made her a fascinating conversationalist. Since her retirement about ten years ago she had seen many a performance not only in Boston but in England. Her travels during these years, although concentrated on England, did take her as far as the Soviet Union on one occasion. Jean's friends at the Pioneer and in the Library will miss her pithy comment on these and other matters. They will also miss her genuine interest in their undertakings for she rarely forgot any of her fellow workers.

PEARL SMART

#### Mary E. Mulvaney

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With the passing of Mary E. Mulvaney, the Library has lost another of its many honored and respected retired employees.

Mary came to be known as "Marie" back in her "stack girl" days when so many Marys were working together that a call of "Mary" brought everyone running. During her 50 years with the Library she graduated from the stacks to the Registration Department where she stayed until her retirement, after that Department had expanded into the present-day Central Charging Records. Her devotion to duty during this span of years was evident in

her remarkable attendance record and the quality of her work. She was a perfectionist and the product of her work was positive proof of this personal quality.

Those of us who had the pleasure of working close to her found in her a friend, confidante, and, of prime importance, a good and thorough teacher in the work we were expected to perform.

The exquisite work she did with a needle—knitting, sewing, crocheting—was a delight to behold, and no request for a dressed doll or a baby set for a charity bazaar was ever turned down.

We all knew her as a bright, cheerful, generous person. Since her retirement, those of us who kept in touch with her always heard her say cheerfully, "I'm just fine," even though we knew she had just come through a bout with illness. It made us feel a bit ashamed that a short time before we may have been feeling sorry for ourselves because of some minor discomfort or irritation.

As someone so simply put on the day we heard of her passing, "It was a privilege to have known her."

GERTRUDE E. STUHL

#### ALA CONFEREES

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The following listing is printed with best wishes for happy landings in Detroit, July 4 - 10.

# Division of General Library Operations

Edmund R. Ettele Cetherine MacDonald Helen Sevagian

# Division of Home Reading & Community Services

Ruth M. Hayes
Kathleen Hegarty
M. Jane Manthorne
Mary G. Langton
Eleanora Chaplik
Evelyn Billman
Mary Crowe
Beryl Robinson
B. Gertrude Wade

# Division of Reference and Research

Services

B. Joseph O'Neil

Florence Connolly

Rosalie A. Lang

Minna Steinberg

#### CONGRATULATIONS:

A letter from Alphonse F. Trezza,
Associate Executive Director of ALA and
Executive Secretary of the Library Administration Division, has been received
notifying Helen Sevagian of her success
in the recent nationwide ALA elections.
Miss Sevagian has been elected a Member
of the Executive Committee of the Section
on Public Relations of LAD.

QM extends warmest congratulations to Miss Sevagian ... and compliments to LAD on an excellent choice.

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# ANTIQUARIAN LIBRARIAN?

The perennial question as to the proper function of librarians is aired in the May 3 issue of the Antiquarian Bookman as follows:

"Mr. Edward (sic) Castagna, Director of the Enoch Pratt Free Library and President of the American Library Association, has described the urgency of the problem throughout the country: 'It is hard and challenging work to sell reading in the neighborhoods where children grow up without the basic language experience which most of us take for granted. We must show that words can be used for purposes other that the expression of the most immediate and physical need and that language skill, once acquired, can lead to a new way of life for people of all ages. What is needed is not just traditional library service. What is required is innovation, the creation of techniques that can liberate vast numbers of children and adults from their environment. We must free able librarians of their present responsibilities so that they can get their teeth into the problem—study the needs of the poor, develop ways of satisfying them, and train others to work effectively with them. '

-NLW press release."

To which the Editor of AB (Sol M. Malkin) replies:

"Ed! What nonsense! 'Able librarians' should, must be bookmen first and last, and leave all other noble tasks to sociologists, therapists, literacy teachers, etc., each qualified in his own field!"

#### A FOND FAREWELL

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Lana Maybury Reed was paid due homage on Friday, May 28th at a luncheon in her honor at DuBarry's. Within the two years that Lana had been a staff member, she had won the affection of a large number of Library personnel. Twenty-five of these friends joined in the luncheon celebration, with many more contributing to her gift.

The Committee of Four who organized the luncheon within the space of a week worked so efficiently that it was suggested that they be made a permament committee. (Maria Consoli, Genevieve Molony, Marian McCarthy and Regina Cotter promptly declined.) They had, however, done their work well for this occasion.

The guests were guided to their seats by Stork place cards designed by Jean Babcock. We ate a delicious meal of chicken or scallops (and one cheese omelette). Lana looked lovely and was quite delighted with her corsage of pink sweetheart roses and lilies of the valley. Mr. Carroll made his usual witty presentation of the gift-a dainty lounge robe and some green bills. Lana thanked everyone for the gift and luncheon and especially for the opportunity to work with them. She indicated that she expected her faith in the book-namely Dr. Spock-would see her through the challenging period of motherhood.

The Library will miss Lana who was a valuable member of the Adult Services Office staff. She had endeared herself to the Never Too Late Group which she led and had played an indispensable part in the programming of the Central and branch libraries. We are happy, however, that she goes forward to the wonderful experience of motherhood, Dr. Spock in hand.

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#### AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL 1965

No starlets, no lights, no brass band—only films, and good films at that. This 7th session of the American Film Festival, sponsored by EFLA, the Educational Film Library Association, was held in New York City at the Biltmore Hotel, April 21-24.

As chairman of the pre-screening committee for the category, "Stories for Children", and chairman judge for the screening session, "Guidance: Personal Invocation", I was privileged to see many outstanding films. It pleased the prescreening committee, which had included BPL staff members, that the winner of the "Stories for Children" Blue Ribbon Award—Cornet at Night, produced by the National Film Board of Canada—was the same film selected as their first choice.

In addition to four days of film sessions, an interesting program of lectures and special activities was arranged for those attending. "Film Making on Campus" was presented Wednesday evening in co-operation with the University Film Producers Association. The role of the University was discussed by a panel of experts working with films on campus, chaired by Wilbert H. Pearson, United States Information Agency.

On Thursday afternoon the New York City Film Council sponsored a luncheon with George Stephens, Jr. of the USIA as the speaker. His topic, "Films—Ambassadors at Large", covered the problems and difficulties the Agency has in producing and distributing films for world circulation and how successes as well as failures reach an audience of millions.

Thursday evening was a special treat: arrangements had been made for Festival registrants to attend several film events at the World's Fair. The most fascinating of these was a special screening at the Johnson Wax Pavillion of the three-screen film, To Be Alive. All the glowing advance reports about this film were true, and it is a visual experience not to be forgotten. After the showing we were privileged to meet the producer, Francis Thompson, who discussed the film technique and answered questions.

On Friday afternoon a special program, "Films and the Community Mental Health Boom", was held under the sponsorship of the Committee on Physical and Mental

Health Films. A panel of experts discussed the film shown and the future growth of the mental health film field. That evening, the gala banquet took place in the grand dining room of the Biltmore. After dinner and presentation of the annual EFLA awards—this year awarded posthumously to Paul C. Reed, pioneer leader in the audio-visual field and former editor of Educational Screen—the Blue Ribbon winners were announced.

After screening of the winners on Saturday, yours truly headed back for Boston with aching bones and blurry eyes.

EUCLID J. PELTIER

#### SOMEBODY'S MOTHER

Excuse me, but I'm in a hurry, Are you the librarian here? I'm looking for something on Milton... Or Hilton ... or Walton—Oh dear: Well, you must know, it's the assignment For eleventh grade English this week. My daughter is taking that course now And she's writing some kind of critique, So since I was going right by here, I thought I would drop in to see If you had a book that might help her-She must get an A or B, Her father and I are quite worried. Just next year she has to apply To the College of his and my choice which Requires a grade average that is high, But the poor girl has no time to study, She has something to do every day, You know she's the band baton twirler And she's taking both tap and ballet, Then her social life, too, is important. A girl of her age should have fun And there's always some party or movie Or dance to keep her on the run. But she needs a career to fall back on, Her father and I just insist That she study for some nice profession ... Maybe lawyer or psychiatrist ... Oh, look at the time! I must run now, My bridge club is meeting today, But do be a dear and find something And just sort of hide it away, Her father can get it this evening, He'll be glad to help out—he agrees That parents should always encourage Worthwhile research projects like these.

By Barbara Toohey (Cleveland Public Library Staff Association., News & Views, v. 29, no. 4, March-April, 1965)

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# MUSIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

The Spring meeting of the New England Chapter of the Music Library Association was held on Saturday, April 10, at Connecticut College in New London.

The morning session consisted of talks by Mr. Philip L. Miller, Chief of the Music Division of the New York Public Library, and by Mrs. Catharine K. Miller, Librarian (ret.) of the 58th Street Music Library in New York City. Mr. Miller described and showed plans for the new Library and Museum of Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. This new Library/ Museum will be a combination of the three performing arts sections of the present library-Music, Theatre, and Dance Collections, each with its own separate stacks and reading areas. The Library will continue to be in two distinct sections, Research and Circulation. lower floor will house the circulating collection, with browsing, exhibit and listening areas, and an intermediate reference section for the casual reader. A special card will be issued to admit readers to the research library on the top floor. A small auditorium will be available for recordings, concerts, chamber music, and dance recitals. question now remains as to when the Library/Museum will open-that old money problem again!

Mrs. Miller, fascinating and to the point as always, spoke on "Music Librarians". Whereas once an aptitude for librarianship and musical knowledge was considered sufficient background, now music librarians must also be familiar with musicology, ethnomusicology, and the adjacent performing arts. Mrs. Miller believes that the cataloger and the reference librarian should be allowed to switch places in order to gain a broader perspective of the field. She also spoke of the great mass listener problem with which today's music librarian must cope, and stressed the fact that the training of music librarians must not be watered down to take care of these people, but rather that the standards of training must be raised.

At the business meeting which preceded luncheon, the following officers were elected: President, Alfred Kuhn, Yale University; Vice-President, Mary Ankudowich, Smith College; Secretary-Treasurer, Gertrude Martin, Wheaton College; Member-at-Large, Ruth Bleeker, BPL. It was announced that a separate "Union List of Music Serials" was under consideration, to be published by Wilson, and members of the Chapter will be polled in the near future as to their feelings on the project.

The afternoon session on "Library Services" consisted of a panel of three librarians and three library users. The librarians: Mrs. Ruth Bleeker, BPL; Miss Eileen Borland, MIT; and Mr. Brooks Shepard, Yale University. The library users: Mr. John Bavicchi, composer and and teacher, of Brookline; Miss Mary Peckam, Smith College senior and Music major; and Mrs. Lawrence Greenberg, graduate music student at Connecticut College. Each panel member discussed the services offered by or received from his library. It seems that even the most knowledgeable and intelligent library user is still not aware of all that a library can and should offer him, and must be educated to the fact that the librarian is there to help him. The panel concluded with a lively and informative open discussion period. A coffee hour ended the day's activities, giving us an opportunity to chat with old and new friends.

NATALIE PALME

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#### CONCERNING HIGH SHELVES

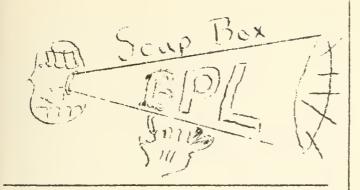
It wasn't very long ago
I fretted over bending low
For each book the public needed
Now it seems that I've succeeded
In changing Fate's malign intent
For now I'm stretched instead of bent:

ALWAYS COMPLAINING

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#### OF INTEREST ON THURSDAYS

One way to save money is to live as cheaply after payday as you do the few days before.



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:

#### IT'S NOT THEM IT'S ME

Oh, what a joy it would be Indeed,
If they sent a slip that I could read.
But it's not them,
It's me.

An hour to run one slip? Oh no.
But I get more than one Slip you know.
But it's not them,
It's me.

Tell me how to loaf in a chair, When there's never any Anywhere
But it's not them,
It's me.

How can I find the books, Mr. B. When there's never any light to See. But it's not them, It's me.

I will only say a few things
More
How can one person run
Five and Four?
But it's not them,
It's me.

And oh, dear public can't You read?
Starred books go out?
Indeed::
But it's not them,
It's me.

Oh tell me kind sir and lady fair, How can I find a book that's Just not there, But it's not them, It's me.

Mr. B. please tell me Where I have failed, My Negro skin has Paled, But it's not them, It's me.

Mr. E. please heed my Request, Someday be my guest Because, IT'S NOT ME, IT'S THEM!

MISS BOOK STACK SERVICE

#### MORE WORK BUT A RAISE, TABOO

With this "Long Island Deal" much more work is involved at Centre Desk.

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At the present time the work can be handled without any difficulty, but when school re-opens in the fall it will take at least two of the attendants here at the desk just to take care of the Long Island and New England Deposit books.

This will thrust a greater load of the regular work on the three remaining

attendants at Centre Desk, especially on a day when 5000 slips are requested at the desk.

Don't you think we deserve a raise like everyone else?

WAITING PATIENTLY

#### Editor's note:

The above is a very specific and local complaint. It is worthy of general note, however, on at least two counts:

- 1. It is representative of the common discontent with the Library Assistants' salary schedule.
- 2. It points out rather well the confusion in many minds concerning salary schedule, promotion, and job classification. Here, it would seem, is an excellent example of how a particular job-as a result of Regional service, temporary storage arrangements, etc. -has become much more complex and demanding than when originally described for classification purposes. A "raise", either across the board or "like everyone else". may be very desirable in furthering the common interests and welfare of the staff, but this is an instance involving a significant increase in both complexity and responsibility of one particular position. Jobs at Centre Desk appear to be prime candidates for reclassification.

#### To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Some days ago I went up to the Prudential Tower, and along with the beautiful vistas stretching east, west, south and north of Boston, I had a new view of the Library. It dominates the area with its perfect proportions, and looks completely in keeping with the masterpiece of architecture it seems when you look at it at close range, and with the marbles, paintings and treasures within. The Annex, hugging one of the Library walls. so sturdy and serviceable for almost 50 years, seemed from that distance a country lean-to, an interloping excrescence and parasite. So that from the point of view of restoration and making the new projected building mesh perfectly with the old grand one, the removal of the Annex

may be a sort of boon. But the simultaneous elimination of space for half a million books is a much more serious matter. I hope the temporary measures by the Administration will prove adequate. While in the New York Public Library last week, I found that their overflow books have been sent to an Annex not too far away, and the public is asked to go there themselves. Could we not have taken a building nearby where the public could be sent to consult the books, or perhaps some departments which are eventually slated to go into the new building be removed with all their books, on new and old numbers, and housed in some hired quarters not far from Copley Square. We will know in the fall when business resumes in earnest how well the current plans are going to work out.

#### HARRY ANDREWS

#### Dear Editor:

In May two full-time Officers-incharge were appointed in the Reference Division of the Library. One of the requirements of these new positions which seemed to many to be undesirable was that the new Officers-in-charge would have to work every other Saturday.

But now we find out that this is not so. The new Officers-in-charge are only going to work one Saturday in four during the vacation period, and the Curators in the division are being forced to work all the other Saturdays!

Several of the Departments in the Reference Division operate with a minimum staff at all times, and during the vacation period the heads of these departments are positively needed in their own departments on Saturdays to provide coverage. So who is actually going to work while the Officers-in-charge have extra Saturdays off? Why, the general assistants, of course, who are filling in for their Chiefs who are filling in for the Officers-in-charge who are at the beach or playing golf.

And so we find that the vacation schedules of all subject departments must reflect the necessity for providing coverage for the Officer-in-charge office on Saturdays.

Looking at this situation from a long range point of view we find another unfortunate result. It has always been advantageous for the Officer-in-charge to maintain cordial relations with the staff. This Saturday business will certainly not aid our two new Officers-in-charge in establishing harmonious relations with the subject departments based on mutual understanding and respect.

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E PLURIBUS UNUM

#### MODERN ANNOTATIONS

Cinderella -- A beautiful passionate woman bares her naked foot to the man she loves while her stepmother and stepsisters plot to cheat her out of the one memorable night in her life.

Treasure Island--The crew of a ship bent on rape and plunder land on an island inhabited by sex-crazed cannibals. An innocent boy finds the secret of growing up.

Art Buchwald, And Then I Told the President (Putnam, 1965)

(Thoughts on the imminent demise of the Coffee Shop - - contid. from page 1)

The Coffee Shop is an outlet for all sorts and varieties of built-up emotions and general 'gripes'. No other source is quite able to provide as much satisfaction as being able to sit with one's co-workers in a hash session over each other's complaints, ideas, disregarded suggestions, etc. The Staff Suggestion Box might be able to provide an escape valve for excess steam if suggestions were even acknowledged, but except in the occasional instance where the \$25.

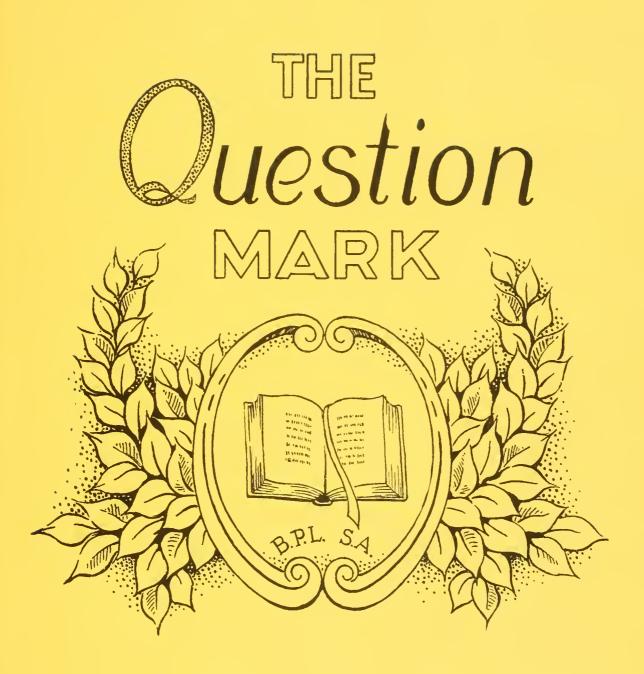
'best suggestion' award is presented (some have accused the Committee of using this only as a means to keep controversial suggestions from being aired via other means or to delay action on a particularly sore point) no satisfaction is received except in the writing itself. By submitting a contribution to QM's Scap Box, one can at least have ideas put in print with a reasonable assurance that they will be read, even if not acted upon.

Staff locker space was never very plentiful; the removal of the Staff Library to its inaccessible quarters at Roslindale affected only the Pre-Professionals and others attending library school; but with the closing of the Coffee Shop, staff morale, already at apathetic depths, will reach a new, low ebb. One of the last fringe benefits which has partially compensated for inadequate salary scales is now to be removed. That this step is necessary is hardly contestable; but that some other place for blowing off steam or just good company should be found seems mandatory. Unless some method is found to redress or offset this and other justified grievances, the Library would appear to be in grave danger of losing one of its most valuable assets—the remaining good will of its employess—before the ink is dry on the architect's plans for the new building.









THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



#### THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

|          | , Number 7 | July 1965                               |
|----------|------------|-----------------------------------------|
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Publications Committee: William F. Casey; Harry Andrews; Evelvn Isaacs; Mary Skewes; Sarah M. Usher, Indexer; David G. Nevin,

Chairman.

Publication Date: Deadline for submitting material
The fifteenth of each month The tenth of each month

#### CERTIFICATION

There have been many questions concerning the certification requirements for exemption from Civil Service raised by the publication of General Administrative Notice #80.

Were those already holding previously issued (1948) certificates not to be required to apply again? Then was it merely in error that some who thought themselves certified under former regulations received instructions to register anew?

What of the Pre-Professionals, especially those who are within one or two courses of their library degrees? Are they to be required to apply for certification as Library Assistants, only to turn around in six months or a year's time and be required to reapply (and pay an additional three dollar fee)?

But whereas the above inquiries concern only a minor portion of the total bibliothecal employees, one question encompasses all: is it altogether right that the individual incumbent employee must pay for certification by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners? When the Professionals and Library Assistants were hired, there was no certification requirement mentioned. Is it not the Library's responsibility to cover the cost of a program which, although enacted by the Commonwealth's General Court, it may be said to be on record as supporting? When the qualifications for employment have been upgraded with the employers full knowledge and concurrence, it would seem only proper that he bear the burden, financial or otherwise, of such action as it affects those already in his employ.

G.A.N. #80 was well written, informative, and to the point. But the questions which it has managed to raise are nearly as many as those it answered. We urge the administration to seriously consider the publication of additional clarifying information.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

#### It shall be the object of the Association

- (a) to foster professional librarianship
- (b) to further the common interests and the welfare of the bibliothecal staff
- (c) and to promote greater efficiency in library service.

### PERSONNEL NOTES

#### NEW EMPLOYEES:

Brenda Shporer - Rare Book Dept. from part-time to full time

Richard F. Sullivan - Government Documents

Robert J. Broder - Book Stack Service

Shirley Hakim Din - Adams Street Branch

Marion Twickler - Book Stack Service

Ann F. Martin - Washington Village Branch

Patricia M. Morgan - General Reference Department

Helen A. Goldenberg - HR&CS Division Office

Mary McCarthy - Buildings Dept. Katherine M. Mackey - Roslindale

Patricia A. McNally - Adams Street Branch

Helen Petry - Central Charging Records

Carolyn P. Smith - Memorial Branch Michelle L. Tyndal - General Reference Department

Kathryn H. Martin - General Reference Department

Diana W. Muzzarelli - Fine Arts Department

Judith S. Noren - Brighton Branch Joanne E. Warner - Codman Square Branch

Carol M. Warren - History Dept.

# TRANSFERS:

Paul Romano - from Rare Book Dept. to Central Charging Records Bridie P. Stotz - from Roslindale Branch to Mt. Bowdoin Branch Linda A. Ivers - from Mt. Bowdoin Branch to Dorcester Branch

Jennie M. Kielczewski - from Mt. Bowdoin Branch to South Boston Branch

Mary Skewes - from R&RS Cataloging and Classification to HR&CS Cataloging and Classification Mary T. Crowe - from South Boston Branch to Egleston Square Branch Helen V. Rothwell - from Egleston Square Branch to Mt. Bowdoin Branch

#### TERMINATIONS:

Peter Brownlie - Book Stacks another position

Laura V. Abate - R&RS Cataloging and Classification - resigned

Louise M. Watson - Central Charging Records - returning to home in New York

Regina A. Pichetti - Kirstein Business Branch - to travel and work on own projects

Lucille O'Brien - R&RS Cataloging and Classification - returning

Sandra Slone - Kirstein Business Branch

Fredericka Jean Wyss - Mattapan Branch - husband has accepted another position in New York

Mary Anne Vaughan - Science and Technology - another position Dona Atwood - Audio-Visual -

marriage

Bette B. Pinckney - Dorcester

Branch - resigned Rebecca E. Peters - Bookmobile Service - returning to Indiana

# MATERNITY LEAVE:

Lana M. Reed - HR&CS Division Office

# MILITARY LEAVE:

Lawrence G. Scott - Central Charging Records

# RETIRED:

Rose T. Fitch - West Roxbury Branch Leonard T. Kanter - Book Stack Service

#### IN MEMORIAM

#### Dorothea Agnes Blue

When Dorothea Blue passed away on June 21, 1965, she had served on the staff of the Boston Public Library for approximately twenty years. Her library career began in the Woburn Public Library and continued in the branches of the Boston Public Library, with the greater part of her service spent at the West End Branch and the Parker Hill Branch.

Perhaps some would think that Dorothea had a sad life. To be sure, she had unusually heavy family responsibilities all her life, and for this reason, she may have missed many of the social pleasures that one takes for granted. But she was sincerely devoted to her family and she had her own enjoyment of life and her own infectious sense of humor in spite of discouragements and responsibilities.

Too few people knew Dorothea. probably because she was not able to socialize very much. But those who worked with her and the many members of the public whom she served over the years will remember her helpfulness and friendliness, her fundamental good nature, her brief tempers over minor irritations and her ready laughter. She surely gave of herself wherever she was, and she will surely be missed by those of us who had the good fortune to have known and worked with her.

ELINOR D. CONLEY

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Art is not truth; art is the lie which makes us see the truth.

PABLO PICASSO

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#### CLASSICS REVISITED

In its issue of March 20, 1965, the Saturday Review printed the first essay of a series by Kenneth Rexroth, called "Classics Revisited with the following introduction by the editor:

Literary classics are classics because they have endured, because successive generations have found in them some hum, truth that does not turn stale with time. But because the human vantage point is continually shifting, each generation must necessarily interpret the classica afresh. With this issue, therefore, SR presents the first of of a series of second looks at the classics by Kenneth Rexroth, author, critic, painter, and cofounder of the San Francisco Poetry Center. "I have tried," says Mr. Rexroth, "to provide a bridge across the blockage of the ages."

So far (July 10), eleven essays have appeared:

Epic of Gilgamesh The Iliad March 20 March 27 April 3 The Odyssey April 10 Beowulf Njal's Saga May 1 May 15 Don Quixote May 29 Livy June 5 June 12 Satyricon Plutarch June 26 Tacitus July 10 Le Morte d'Arthur

Mr. Rexroth is a writer of great originality, clarity and depth, and CHARLESTOWN BR NCHthese essays are not only excellent introductions to the classics, but are themselves additions to literature. He wants us all to read the great books of the past in their original languages, as he did, but he knows that that is a consummation not easily achieved, and he therefore adds a note at the end of each cont.

essay recommending the best translation. This is of particular value to those librarians who have to think of replacements or additions in these areas.

H. A.

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#### PLAN AHEAD!

Oct. 6-9: New England Library Association, Wentworth-by-the-Sea, Portsmouth, N. H.

Oct. 10-16: International Federation for Documentation (FID),
Sheraton Park Hotel, Washington,
D. C.

#### SCHOLARS

On behalf of the Staff Association, QM extends warmest congratulations to the four Pre-Professional Library Assistants who were awarded scholarships by the Trustees for study at library schools during this fiscal year:

J. Warren Harrington South Boston Branch Library

Carolyn A. Kirkham Connolly Branch Library

Marian A. McCarthy Education Department

Jo Ann A. Mitchell Adams Street Branch Library

And here's still another cure for crabgrass. Take an unpopular stand and let the pickets trample it to death.

CHANGING TIMES

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#### RELIEF!

Was it in anticipation of the annual hot weather diatribe?
(There's one in the Soap Box this month.) Or was it feared that the unconfirmed rumor about other City employees being allowed to leave work early on particularly warm days would cause uncontrollabl rebellion? Or—Saints perserve us!—was it out of the kindness of their hearts?

Whatever the motivation, we would still like to thank the administration for granting two additional days of annual leave. Although not as hot as some, this summer has been sufficiently uncomfortable to make working in a non-airconditioned building somewhat less than pure pleasure. We think it was well deserved.

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#### SHAKESPEARE ONCE MORE

An Open Shelf Department paton was recently talking about Shakespeare with one of our bright young men, and mentioned several items I had never heard before: that some members of the Jamestown Colony in 1607 had been friends of Shakespear in England, that some documents and deeds of that time were hidden somewhere on Martha's Vineyard, that a Shakespeare signature was on the back of a portrait owned by that patron, etc.. The most intriguing part of this new (to me) Shakespeareana cache was the claim that Shakespeare had hidden his name in one of the psalms of the English Bible. The great King James Bible was printed in 1611, and so presumably some of the translations and preparations were made in 1610, when Shakespeare was 46 years old. In the 46th psalm, the 46th word from the top is

SHAKE, and the 46th word from the bottom, (not counting of course the word SELAH which meant END), is SPEARE. I checked it, and it was This can be considered coincidence only in the sense in which the mythical monkey typing at random a mythical number of centuries will eventually type out King Lear. My own guess was that the Elizabethan scholars engaged in the translation must have been acquainted with the poets and dramatists of London, and perhaps occasionally asked some of them, after some translation had been made, to beat it into more poetical shape. Shakespeare must have been one of these poets, and having that impish streak in him which when he was a boy made him make a speech when slaughtering a calf. he thought he would put something over on the professors and conceal his name in the translation.

Professor Leslie Hotsen, in his excellent Mr. W. H., had written about the extraordinary familiarity of the Elizabethans in general with the psalms. So recently when I was in the New York Public Library, I looked up his address in Connecticut and wrote to him about all this. These scholars are much more courteous and accessible than administrators, politicians and movie stars, and within a few days, I had an answer.

Here are a few quotations from his letter:

Mr. W. H. and shared some of its author's gusto. You will look forward, as I do, to further discoveries about Hatcliffe, in confirmation ... I am afraid that the 46th psalm curiosity has been commonly known for many

years. I heard of it in the 20's and it was old then. No reputable scholar or critic believes that it shows anything at all... a curious coincidence, nothing more. What is quite impossible is that King James's learned Hebrew scholars would ever dream of turning to a common player for help—an actor who had neithe attended the university nor studied the elements of the language....

I greatly admire Mr. Hotson, but I will go on believing my interpretation of the "coincidence".

H. A.

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#### ALUMNAE NOTES

Congratulations to Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Betty) West on her appointment to a new position as Coordinator of School Libraries for the City of Springfield, Illinois. Mrs. West entered the B.P.L. as an "Extra" in 1939, and chose the field of children's work as her specialty. She was Children's Librarian in the Central Library Children's Room from 1953 until she left in 1956 to become Director of Children's Work at the Lincoln Public Library, Springfield, Illinois. Best wishes to her from her B.P.L. friends as she takes over her new and challenging duties on September 1.

And more congratulations! At the ALA Conference announcement was made by the Children's Services Division that Mrs. West has been elected to membership on the Newbery-Caldecott Committee.

A recent meeting at Rand McNally's in New York was attended
by two B.P.L. Alumnae—Virginia
Haviland (formerly Readers Advisor
for Children) and Muriel C. Javelin
(formerly Coordinator of Work with
Adults). The prize offered that
day was a globe of the world.
According to established custom,
the honor of drawing the winning
name went to the person coming the
greatest distance. Miss Haviland,
from Washington, D. C., qualified.
And what name did she draw? You've
guessed it—Muriel C. Javelin!

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

When power leads man toward arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the area of man's concern, poetry reminds him of the richness and diversity of his existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Novelist Eric Ambler's manuscripts and files have been presented to the Boston University Library and will be housed in the \$5.5 million Mugar Library, currently under construction.

LIBRARY JOURNAL,
April 1, 1965, p. 1688.

There's a trend toward longer education and one toward earlier retirement. Give generously to these causes now. Help stamp out work.

# CHANGING TIMES

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#### FUTURE ALUMNI NOTES

Word has been received that Mr. and Mrs. Macy Margolis became the proud parents of a baby boy weighing in at just over 7 pounds on Tuesday, July 20. Warmest congratulations to our Curator of History and his lovely wife.

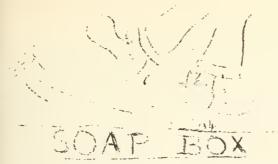
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Goldschmidt, Jr. take pride in announcing the arrival of Stephen Robb Goldschmidt, weight 8 lbs, 5½ ounces, on June 4, 1965. Mrs. Louise Goldschmidt was Children's Assistant at South Boston Branch at the time of her resignation from the B.P.L. to accompany her husband to Cairo, Egypt. Since then she has been working as a cataloger (art, architecture, city planning) at MIT. September, the Goldschmidts will move to Pennsylvania where Mr. Goldschmidt will be teaching European and Near Eastern History at Penn State.

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# MODERN ANNOTATIONS

Little Red Riding Hood - A girl goes to visit her grand-mother only to discover a wolf in her bed. Read what happens when the girl refuses to get into bed with the wolf.

ART BUCHWALD,
And Then I Told The Preside
(Putnam, 1965)



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# To the Soap Box editor:

Staff morale is extremely low because of over-patronage, understaffing, lack of space and equipment, low salaries in comparison with the amount of coping done on many levels, and apparent unconcern for staff comfort on the part of the administration.

Could not some slight gesture toward that staff comfort be made? Such as more fans (some are really made ill from heat), fans which have not rotated for years repaired, ventilation of the entire building during the cooler

night hours, replacement quickly of burned out light bulbs, repair of the water fountains which no longer run really cold (i.e. see stack 2 kitchen fountain), fans started an hour before library opens, windows open at that time to bring cool air in, one staff spot where smoking is not permitted or really good ventil-ation of smoking spots (stack 2 locker room smells of smoke always now and so do clothes in lockers, and is perpetually like a turkish bath most of the summer from lack of ventilation). These are but a few of the little things which could be remedied without much expense and pay off immensely in staff well-being.

HOT AND TIRED

#### BUSES FOR LONG ISLAND

I wonder if thought has been given to the possibility of having buses take members of the public to Long Island to consult materials in certain instances rather than have the books brought here? I realize the facilities for study must be limited. However, it would seem that other factors would outweigh that thought and provisions be made. Our primary purpose as a public library we know is to give the best possible service under even the most difficult conditions.

Material is not being sent on a selective individual item basis. Collections have not been scanned (with a very few exceptions). The principal decisions have been made according to type of classification. This may be generally logical. To those of us working

directly with subject collections considerable material basic to area study is slated to go. If this must be, it must be. All we may hope for is the possibility of bus service as noted above or some other plan to ease the impact. As librarians I do not feel that we should just sit back and withhold suggestions which may be feasible.

Instances in particular should be offered. Indications are that the "93's" (Special Collections) may be sent. This is by no means a dead collection. Many hundreds of scholarly and subject field series and periodicals currently received are involved. Back files are in constant use being in many instances the only holdings in the region. As to the individual book items - nationally famous holdings such as those in the labor history and economic theory area would be included. People come from many places to consult these. Will they have to stay overnight in Boston? Undoubtedly some might be sent on inter-library loan if the person knew the situation in advance. Students will be assigned week-end papers based on items not available in school libraries. Certain term papers depending on such items may well be the key to a college career. Have we notified all colleges and schools in the region?

MARY F. DALY

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Soap Box:

Since the O's-in-C have been covered so that they work only 1 Saturday in 4 this summer, how about Saturday-work-relief for the rest of the staff who are working

every other or more? Could not the office workers, who never (well rarely ever) work a Saturday all year, not volunteer to cover one Saturday each so that the resof us might have a much needed re. Since this is one of the very few libraries open in the entire area on Saturday, it would not matter too much that these office workers did not know the subjects. Most of the patronage on Saturday in the summer is students and out-of town residents who come only because their own libraries are clo

SOCIETY FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNIT

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

To the editor:

Some few staff members are making life unpleasant for the majority:

1. Taking milk, canned foods, or entire lunches from the refrigerator in the stack 2 kitchen, which another staff member has counted on and

purchased.

- 2. Moving to another location, pawing over, or turning upside down lunches of others presumably in search of his or her own. No one likes food handled by others. No one likes to hunt all over the refrigerator for his lunch. No one really cares to find his sandwich dronche in fruit juice or something else because it was turned upside down. Label your lunches!
- 3. Leaving spillable items carelessly where they can be tipped, drenching the luncheof others and thereby ruinin them.
- 4. Leaving tables filthy with sticky rings, ashes, crumbs, etc. for the next user to wipe up.

5. Moving chairs or tables out of place and expecting others to replace them (lounge also)

6. Leaving coffee shop dishes for others to return to the

coffee shop.

7. Neglecting to return empty coke bottles to cases provided (lounge use of cokes or food is prohibited)

Let's all make it a point to put back, mop up, pick up after ourselves, and not to touch what belongs to others!

#### DISGUSTED

#### To the editor:

I am in almost complete agreement with the person who wrote to the SOAP BOX concerning Saturday work at the Officer-in-Charge desk. I will have to work in my department at least eight Saturdays during the summer period. The Officers-in-Charge I understand are scheduled to work four.

Having worked almost every Saturday for almost forty years I thought that this summer, at least I would like to cut it down to one in two. I considered that reasonable and certainly did not feel that I was being overworked on that basis. When we agree to work in a public department we know we have to do Saturday work. In addition, I know of no Curator who hasn't, when necessary, worked in emergencies or carried on some activity needed even though it did not fall specifically within their "job description." We all know our responsibilities and seldom asked for "relief" even when it meant working I think the from nine to nine. reaction - and it was a general reaction - was to the fact that cont.

this was not an emergency and that "relief" was asked for that we would never request ourselves. There was no doubt in our mind that the request was made without realization of the general situ-Almost everyone objected. giving their reasons verbally. few of us put it on paper in the belief that reasons for objection would be clarified. Evidently they made no real impression as they were rejected. The ironic part of this "summer relief" measure is that while most of us are called on to work several days in a row under ninety degrees temperature if the weather breaks that way, the Officers-in-Charge have a nicely air-conditioned office. I do not agree that we should make them responsible or hold any ill will against them as individuals.

### MARY F. DALY

# To the Soap Box Editor:

I wish to say that I have been very much interested in the thought that when staff members become ill the Staff Representative from that Branch where the person is working at the time should send information pertaining to whether the staff member is hospit lized and, if so, what hospital so that a show of more concern for each other may be shown when it really counts for something. Most usually you get word that a person you had worked with many years ago is deceased without ever having heard that the said person was even ill.

In June there was an omission of an administrative notice in regard to a staff member's death. I think much more care should be taken in the future to avoid such omissions.

MARY A. LA FOLLETTE
Ed. note: Having been informed of
the above omission, QM was able to
provail upon Mrs. Conley of the
Charlestown Branch to write a brief
tribute. It appears elsewhere in
this issue.



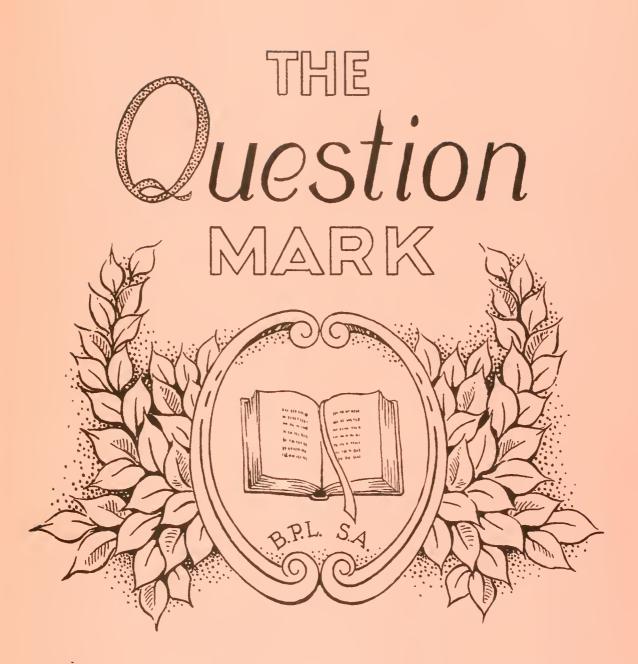












THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

OCTOBER 1965



#### THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XX, Number 9

October, 1965

Publications Committee: William F. Casey; Harry Andrews; Evelyn Isaacs; Sheila M. Stevens; Sarah M. Usher, Indexer; Martin F. Waters, Chairman.

Publication Date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:

The tenth of each month

It shall be the object of the Association

- (a) to foster professional librarianship
- (b) to further the common interests and the welfare of the bibliothecal staff
- (c) and to promote greater efficiency in library service.

In last month's editorial we "hinted" that our promotional system, among other things, could stand some improvement. Since then, several people have taken us up on this asking "What is wrong with our promotional system?" One indication that there is something wrong with it is that there is no clear general understanding, among the staff members, of the system. Indeed, some long-service staff members will argue that we have no system worthy of the name.

Can we get any help from the Personnel Manual? I'm afraid not. For example, concentrating on the Professional Library service, we find that Section 401.01 of the Manual states that "Any employee is eligible for promotion into the Professional Library Service ... if he has met the standards of education, experience, and character established for entry into the service." But nowhere in the Manual can we find what these standards are.

However, in searching the Manual for a statement of these standards we discover (Section 200.011) that "The Professional Library Service is composed of employees who perform professional duties commensurate with the standards of librarianship generally accepted in public and private libraries in the United States". Actually, the standards of librarianship vary so greatly throughout the United States that we can find little, if any, value in this statement.

However, there is a statement in the Manual (105.05) -- "All orders, practices, and policies which existed prior to April 1, (1960) not in conflict with this Manual, continue in effect." -- which opens up an entirely new line of thought. This statement seems to indicate that the 1938 Qualifying and Promotional Examination System is still the Basic promotional system of the Library. True, it has lain inoperative in recent years, but it is still with us. More on this next month.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

#### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

There is little to report on the salary situation and other problems besetting the membership at this time. Because of the recent change in the Administration, I ask you to be patient until the new Director has had time to become familiar with the problems which have caused such low morale among the staff. I can tell you, however, that some of our difficulties are being re-examined and re-considered. I hope to be able to report on the results very soon.

The Executive Board and I hope that all of you will accept our invitation to meet the new Director and Mrs. McNiff at the reception which is to be held on November nineteenth. Details concerning time and location will be found elsewhere in the Q.M.

## BRANCH NOTES

#### Memorial

Carolyn P. Smith, Senior Library Assistant, and formerly Library Aid at Egleston Square, has been awarded a special \$1170 Charles Irwin Travelli tuitional scholarship to attend Northeastern University.

How very proud we are of Penny and all our people who accept the bright challenge of educational advancement. Our best wishes go with her.

#### South Boston

At sequestered Harbor Lights, overlooking placid Neponset River, the staff gathered for a pleasant social evening, September 29th. The guests of honor were three recently transferred colleagues, Mary Crowe (to Egleston Square), Anna Brackett (to South End), and Elisabeth Franck (to Dorchester). It was a convivial reunion, good food, high spirits, and a view of the sunset over Dorchester Bay. Souvenirs of their much-too-short period of service at South Boston were given to the alumnae: to Mary Crowe, two portable ash trays, one for home use and one to carry in her purse; to Anna Brackett, a piece of costume jewelry in the form of a filagree butterfly brooch; to Elisabeth Franck, a hand puppet, a frisky gray squirrel with a wondrous bushy tail. A good time was had by all.

#### ENGAGEMENTS

Two of Reference and Research Cataloging and Classification LA 2's are wearing diamonds, as of October 18th.

Rosalie Greenspan is engaged to marry Joseph Neiman, a student at Boston University. The date is tentatively set for December 24, 1966.

Martha Parker plans to marry Bruce Awalt, an employee of John Hancock Life Insurance Company, on October 1, 1966.

\* \* \*

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Sheila Swalnick, Central Charging Records, and Michael Millstone, a student at Salem State College. A July 4, 1966 wedding is planned.

## RETIREMENT PARTY

On Thursday evening, September 30, 1965, the Bindery had a retirement party for Mary Dornan and Daniel W. Sheeran, at Blinstrub's Village in South Boston. The party was attended by more than fifty friends and guests of Miss Dornan and Mr. Sheeran.

We hope that all who attended the dinner had a very enjoyable time, and that they enjoyed the show that followed.

We would like to thank those friends who attended the dinner and those nice people who made a donation.

Many Many Thanks!

THE COMMITTEE

#### <del>\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*</del>

The annual business meeting of the Boston Public Library Staff Association will be held on November 19th at 9:15 A.M. in the Lecture Hall of the Library. We hope that all members of the Association who can be there will be there.

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To the Editor:

It was indeed a harsh policy that the Administration established this fall by which Library Assistants who were attending college, and who worked full time during the summer were not permitted to go on half-time during the school year. Many had been able to do this during the previous years. These assistants were good workers, well-trained, and in many instances helped the library to meet several personnel emergencies.

Also an explanation should be forthcoming as to why some of these assistants have been allowed to work half-time and others have not.

V V D

Dear Santa,

You may consider this a little in ad-

vance of the season, but we want to be sure you have time to fill our needs, in time for Christmas delivery. If you could do it sooner, we would not ask for another stockingful then. We need badly a Division Head, who has his full working hours to devote to our needs and problems. Other desired specifications are that he or she be sympathetic, easily appreciable, have a sense of humor, know what it means to work nights, Saturdays and Sundays, understand student use of the library and its attendant problems, have the courtesy to acknowledge staff presence when met in corridors etc., have both our welfare and that of the library as an institution at heart. Our morale is shot. We are worse than orphans. Our service is suffering from many angles, many of which could be cured by a Division Head we respect and whom we found accessible. Please Santa, devote some thought to our needs and give us the very best Division Head you can find ... we sincerely NEED a good one!

REFERENCE DIVISION

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

I should like to suggest a new regular feature for THE QUESTION MARK -- a list of the ten most called for books at the Central Library. Thus members of the Staff will know what is being read locally, will be able to compare our list with the lists in the local papers and in the TIMES and HERALD-TRIBUME Book Reviews, and after they have complied with the rules and taken such books out, will perhaps try to return them faster. It may be a good idea to supply along with the list the number of copies on hand and the number of people waiting. The Staff will thus have a better picture of the Library procedures in this matter and be more intelligent with the public whenever any question on this type of activity arises.

The ten most-called-for books right now (October 20) in order of popularity are as follows:

MRS. JACK -- Louise Hell Therp

INTERN--Dr. X

THE SOURCE-James Michener
UP THE DOWN STAIRCASE-Bel Kaufman
THE GREEN BERETS-Robin Moore
GIFT OF PROPHECY-Ruth Montgomery
GAMES PEOPLE PLAY-Eric Berne
AIRS ABOVE THE GROUND-Mary Stewart
IS PARIS BURNING?-Larry Collins
MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN-Ian Fleming

The same information minus the number of To the Editor of THE QUESTION MARK: copies and the number of requests could perhaps be made available to the public via BPL NEWS.

HARRY ANDREWS

To the Soap Box: "...SO THAT NON-PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES WILL HAVE A GREATER SENSE OF CAREER ... "???

The above quote is taken from the "1963-64 Report of the Examining Committee, Subcommittee on Personnel". I have just arrived back from Personnel having been told that my job reclassification was not forthcoming in the forseable future for my present duties with the Library. I am working with very interesting material in the newly-created Acquisition Section of Government Documents. Among my many reasons for coplying for this position were background knowledge which I gained working with the Government publications and iniative. I expected that monetary compensation in keeping with the type of work involved would also be forthcoming. I have been informed today, that there is very little possibility for reclassification at the present time. It seems that my duties, as interpreted by Personnel, do not require reclassification. The upgrading of positions outside the secretarial and office seem to depend solely on the number of persons supervised, regardless of the level of work. Are there formulas on hand which would take into consideration such items as quality of work, background knowledge and iniative?

prior to that interview, it was I. I am well aware that I am not alone in seeking a pay raise commensurate with my duties in the Library. It is my impression that this situation is shared by many of my fellow Staff Associates. Yet, what is being done to remedy this appalling situa; tion? True, members of the Association have approached the Trustees with our grievance, but no action has resulted. For me, the Staff Association has been useless. I have been a member since 1956 and no action on Salary increases hasbeen taken! Since the effectiveness of the Staff Association has been quite obvious, why not cease its existence? I for one, could use that dollar that I paid to belong to this obviously out-moded, and thoroughly useless organization.

JOSEPH HARPER

#### OPERATION BEST-SELLERS

A sudden, mysterious SNAFU in our operations behind the scenes has resulted in a stoppage of the buying of new books.

Books are our red-and-white corpuscles and our entire reason for existence.

There are always some new books on our weekly lists which can, in an emergency, be deferred to more prosperous times.

Not so with Best Sellers. The Public demands them and we can't do without them.

It is fraught with some danger to sit at a public desk and tell people we are not buying new books.

I told a woman the other day that there were 62 people ahead of her for the INTERN; she looked at me like Madame Defarge, and I had visions of knitting needles and guillotines.

Deeply pondering the problem on a visit to New York, I went to the Meditation Room at the United Nations for inspiration. And Inspiration came.

I think that those Happy Few who were invited on September 30 to witness the transfer of power on our apex should assess themselves a Best Seller apiece and donate it to Home Reading.

The two principals at that party should get the \$10. KENNEDY by Sorenson, which an important review said was the best book on Kennedy so far, one of the best books of its kind, and almost a masterpiece. P61s

The P5's and P7's can get THE SOURCE, If anyone had a "Greater Sense of Career" MRS. JACK, IS PARIS BURNING, and MAKING OF THE PRESIDENT.

> The Ph's will oblige us by getting copies of UP THE DOWN STAIRCASE, INTERN, GAMES PEOPLE PLAY, THE GREEN BERETS, MY TWELVE YEARS WITH KENNEDY, GIFT OF PRO-PHECY, MEMOIRS OF AN AMNESIAC, and MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN.

The logistics of what Ph's get what books can be worked out in a short conference.

HARRY ANDREWS

#### ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS SOAP BOX LETTERS

Part two of Mr. Geoghegan's report on Central Library maintenance:

#4-Rep? acement of Burned Out Light Bulba

We have two types of lighting, incandescent and fluorescent. Each of these must be broken down into categories with refer-

ence to their accessibility. An unlighted the tank froze. tube or lamp may also fall into two categories. It may be simply burned out; or, something more difficult, such as burned out ballast, starter, switch, over-loaded circuits, etc., may be causing the malfunction. The replacement of a tube in a firture which is not accessible is governed by many factors. Are there men available to erect staging? Is it a public area? Are men available to climb the staging? (All workers are not capable of demands on the unit and we are now in the working at any great height.) Then, if itprocess of acquiring a new, larger unit is a burned out tube, the trouble is over for this area. If not, a new group of problems arise. Is the fixture old? Are parts available and in stock, (we never have enough money to stock other than the bare necessities), and do we have a licensed electrician on duty? (We have only one, due to Civil Service's inability to supply more at present salary scales.) We are, however, very fortunate to have three very reliable helpers, but the work they can do is limited by law and must be supervised by a licensed man. It seems one problem compounds another.

In cases where the fixture is accessible and can be visually checked, lamps and tubes are replaced promptly. In some areas such as the annex and basement, where each lamp is on a drop cord individually switched, it is not possible, without employing a man just for this job, to check each and every light. The staff helps immeasurably by reporting lighting problems to Buildings for correction.

Once again, we could give the type of service which the writer of the complaint suggests, if we had three full-time electricians and helpers, and a large budget for spare parts.

#5-Water Coolers

There are two major factors to take into consideration when judging the performance of a water cooler, provided the machine is operating.

a -- Is the control low enough?

The control on the unit on Stack 2 is set to produce water at 50°F, which is the recommended temperature for public water coolers, as the water at this temperature can do no harm to dentures, etc., This unit, by actual thermometer test, can produce water at 50°F. As a matter of fact, the machine got so cold on Friday lications Committee of the Staff Associaafternoon, August 13th, that the water in "average man-on-the-street".

b-Has the unit the capacity and recovery rate to produce 50°F water in volume at peak periods?

The water by thermometer test during the morning relief periods, after continued use, was found to be 60°F. This is an indication that the machine is probably overtaxed by present usage. The fact that both men and women are now using the Stack 2 facilities has undoubtedly increased the

There is, however, no undue hardship being placed on persons using this cooler, as there is another one just across the hall in the Coffee Shop.

Sincerely yours, T.P. Geoghegan Superintendent of Library Buildings

#### MORE SOAP BOX

To the Editor,

In a letter from Mr. Lord in the last issue of THE QUESTION MARK commenting on the R. and R. Division Curators being required to work on Saturdays last summer for the Officers-in-Charge he stated that "With the best will in the world the responsible administrative officers of the Library were not able to arrive at a solution that has been found to be uniformly acceptable."

I am sorry to report that neither I nor any of the other Curators with whom I have talked saw any evidence of this good will. There was no spirit of compromise evident in the orders that were given to the Curators. We were simply told to do it.

Many of us have never worked in the Officer-in-Charge Office, were never told that such work was a condition of employment, and do not wish to do this kind of work.

If this policy of assigning people to do any job at all in the Library were carried to its ultimate extreme, the Curators could find themselves out shovelling snow come next January.

D.C.

To the Soap Box:

Although I am the Chairman of the Pubtion, I am writing this letter as an

There has been a lot of smoke and heat generated by last summer's Saturday Officer-in-Charge schedule, but little light None of the letters to the Soap Box has mentioned the basic cause of the trouble. I think that the persons in charge of arranging this schedule were surprised at the lack of enthusiasm felt by almost the entire body of Curators, a group known to me to be most cooperative in covering emergencies and aiding one another and the Paula B. McCarthy--Kirstein, to stay at Library under ordinary circumstances.

The main reason for the almost unanimous William J. Scannell -- Kirstein, another opposition to this summer schedule can be found in the way the Officer-in-Charge was set up. As anyone who had been in the position of regularly arranging schedules for a full-time Central Library department knows you cannot operate such a department Patricia McRae--Kirstein, another position throughout the year with less than four people. The Officer-in-Charge was organized as a two-man department, and thus scheduling difficulties were built into the department at its conception. To be sure, our two Cocrdinators were to provide "supplemental coverage"; but this proved, or was thought to be, not enough.

And so it is generally agreed that last summer's Officer-in-Charge schedule was not an outstanding success; however, that is over and one with. What we need to do now is to make arragnements so that this situation will not re-occur next summer. MARTIN F. WATERS

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees:

Jean Leydon-Personnel Mrs. Sybil Smith-Branch Issue Paul Brawley--Audio-Visual Carolyn S. Poole--Roslindale Mrs. Genevieve S. Twomey -- Buildings Judy S. Strachan--Mr. Lord's Office Jerome Sullivan--Book Stack Service Melody Gayer-Div. Off., HR and CS Susan Brodrick--Mattapan John J. Diggin Jr.--Open Shelf Avis Stillman--Book Stack Service

Transferred:

Esther Leonard -- Education to Cat. and C. Class., R. and R.S.

Married:

Barbara J. Brown-South End, to Richard Beach

Maternity Leave:

Mrs. Phyllis Patrick-Kirstein

Leave of Absence:

Diane G. Farrell--Codman Square, attend library school at Columbia

Terminations:

Marcia L. Pina -- Cat. and Class., HR and CS, another position

home

position

Patricia Neth--Book Selection, HR and CS, return to school

Eleanor Kimball---Mt. Pleasant, to attend library school full-time

Brenda Curran -- Cat. and Class., R. and RS, go to Germany

Mrs. Ella Lombara -- Central Charging Records full-time job

James Duffy -- Central Charging Records, full time job

Leo Boucher-Duplicating, another position Jo-Ann Conroy-Book Stack Service, return to college

John Koch--Book Stack Service

Jo-Ann C. Mitchell--Adams Street, attend college full-time

Robert Fantasia -- Book Stack Service, return to college

Michael J. Venesia -- Patent Section, another position

Mrs. Beverly Lambert -- Cat. and Class., R. and R.S., stay at home

Lynne Simek--Science and Technology, attend college full-time

Mrs. Geneva R. Kershner-General Reference, return to California

Henry Selvitella--Book Stack Service

# B. P. L. S. A

Invites You to Attend A Reception for Our New Director Mr. Philip J. McNiff

Husbands and wives welcome

Lecture Hall-Central Library

Kefreshmants

COMMITTEE FOR RECEPTION

Louisa Metcalf

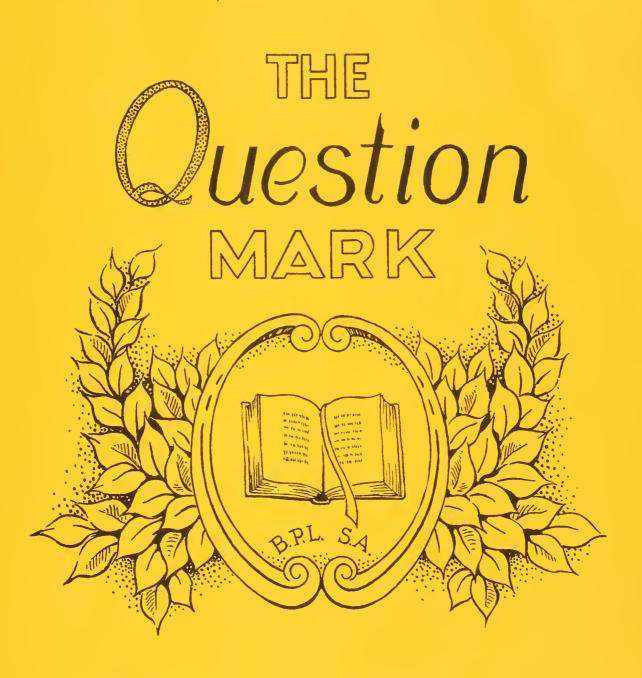
Pauline Walker

Bradford Hill

William Casey

Joseph O'Neil Ruth Hayes, Chairman





THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 1965



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and to promote greater efficiency in library service. (c)

We thought that we might arouse some interest in awakening the Library's sommolent promotional system with last month's editorial, but there seems to be more interest in burned out light bulbs than in promotions.

We received very few comments on our editorial; and we have not heard of any great rush to the personnel office by our LA's for information on qualifying for the Professional Library Service, although we did have pointed out to us the very minor detail that the Library Qualifying Examinations have not been offered for at least eight years.

The main point we were attempting to make was that our basic promotional system is still the comprehensive 1938 system which included in-service training for non-professional workers (LA's) as well as for the professional staff. This has not been officially replaced or discontinued and has been modified only a very little in the last 26 years. At least this seems to be the case so far as we can discover from the Personnel Manual.

It is especially to be deplored that we are not actively providing an in-service training program for our LA service. A high school graduate who enters this service ordinarily cannot, by continuing his education outside the library, prepare himself specifically for advancement in most of the types of work which the LA services provides. There are exceptions, of course, such as secretarial work.

Along with this we find that the Officers of the Library who are engaged in making promotions cannot be provided with substantial information which will enable them to accurately evaluate the qualifications and abilities of the several candidates for a given position.

It would seem that the re-activation of our in-service training program might be a good way for us to get back in the promotional system business.

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The President's Notes will of necessity be brief this month since we are still undergoing a period of transition. The new Directer has been in office a little more than 6 weeks and cannot possibly be expected to have familiarized himself or come to terms with all the problems which have plagued the Library for some time. I feel quite certain, however, that given the time, he will attempt to alleviate our most pressing problems.

I recently met with Mr. McNiff to discuss the salary situation. He stated that salaries were of vital interest to him, also, and that he would study the situation most carefully. He could not say when or how salary increases would be granted but that the whole salary picture was under advisement.

I might also add that during my discussion with Mr. McNiff, he stated that he was most interested in the welfare of the staff and concerned with what is best for the library. As members of the Staff Association, it might be well to consider again the goals of the Association: (see Sept., 1965 Editorial) and review our present attitudes and professional conduct with an eye towards playing a more positive role in Association activities and in improving Communications between Staff and Administration.

## B P L IN BLACKOUT

The changing of the guard had just taken place, the day shift was gone, the night shift was settling into its evening routines when the lights suddenly dimmed, flickered, and went out. A lone holdout for a full minute was an old non-fluorescent light high up in the northwest corner of Open Shelf. People were caught at the catalogs, sitting reading in the chairs, browsing at the shelves. The Department flashlight was in a desk in an inner office in a bottom drawer, but in the dark I could not find it. Dozens of matches were being lighted by customers in a way which would have scared and outraged administrators mindful of our treas ures upstairs. Officer-in-Charge, Bill Lewis, was immediately on the phone asking us to lead the public to the front lobby. The evacuation, even from the Children's Room, was calm and orderly. Officer Regan and the Custodians appeared

with flashlights and lamps and went with despatch all over the building, leading staff and public to the front entrance. Rumors flew—the power failure extended to Niagara, probably sabotage, perhaps the country was under attack. But by means of transistor radios carried by some young people we soon knew what had happened, and Mr. Lewis sensibly decided to close the Library.

We stood for an hour or so at the front door. The moon was very bright and very full, and lit up the dark Square, which was both beautiful and eery. Traffic was moving along as usual, helped along by the flashlights of students who appeared suddenly and spontaneously, and looked neither pro nor anti Vietnam—just American boys responsibly stepping into the breach when help was needed. Many of the regular Library customers hung around the Square, asking when we would reopen. One man said he wanted to come in to get warm. A distraught woman insisted that her grandchild must still be in the building.

We began to disperse almost regretfully. A new experience had been shared. Two of our ladies sitting quietly but somehow forlorn in the recess at the bottom of the Great Stairway reminded me of Mr. and Mrs. Strauss waiting for the end on the Titanic. The dark, grim, and simister Prudential Building and the quiet Huntington Avenue made me think of ON THE BEACH.

Much credit is due to Messrs. Lewis,
Maxwell, Mealy, Murphy, Bruno, and Officer
Regan for the way the situation was handled at the BPL. The names may not sound
like Bedford and Exeter, Warwick and
Gloucester, and it would be an exaggeration
to say that the scene was a Battle of
Agincourt on St. Crispin's Day; but it was
a night to remember.

HARRY ANDREWS

## CAN YOU HELP?

Periodical and Newspaper is lacking these issues for binding. If you have and can spare copies from your personal files, please send them to that department:

American Journal of Nursing.
March 1965.
American Opinion. Dec. 1964.
American Scholar. Fall 1964.
Aviation Week. March 9, 1964,
Feb. 15, and Mærch 1, 1965.
Best Sellers. June 1, 1965.

**~** 3 **~** 

Better Homes and Gardens. January-June, 1964; Sept. Dec. 1961; May 1962. CQ. January 1964. Christian Advocate. Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 3, 17, 31, 1964. Jan. 14, 28, 1965. Daedalus. Fall 1963. Esquire. Sept. 1965. Flower Grower. Jan. and Feb. 1965. Harpers Bazaar. Jan. Feb. Mar. Aug. 1965. Hot Rod. Sept. 1963. Editorial Research Reports. Ser+. 27 and Oct. 11, 1961; January 25, 1961. Films in Review. Jan. and Mar. 1964; Jun. and Jul. 1963. Kenyon Review. Autumn 1957. Library Quarterly. Oct. 1958. Ladies Home Journal. Jan. 1965. Living Church. Jun. 13, 1965. Mademoiselle. Sept. and Oct. 1965. New Statesman. June 11, 25, 1965. N.Y. Public Library. Bulletin. June 1964. Outdoor Life. Nov. 1963; Feb. Mar. 1964. Oct. 1963. Queens Quarterly. #1-3 1964. Macleans. June 15, 1963. PMLA #4 pts. 1 and 2, #5 1960. (Sert. and Dec.) Month. January 1955. Motor Trend. Dec. 1962; April, May, July, Sept. Oct. 1963; Jan. 1958. PLD Reporter。 和 1955。 Popular Electronics. Sept. 1962; Jan.-Mar. 1963; Jan. 1964. Radio Electronics. Mar. 1964. Saturday Evening Post. Jan. 2, 16, 30; Feb. 13, 27, 1965. Science Digest. Jan. 1964; Mar. Aug. Sept. 1965. Simmons Review. Fall 1962. Sunset. April 1963. Town and Country. Feb. 1965. True. Sept. 1965. Seventeen. Jan. Feb. 1963. April 1965. Times Literary Supplement. Jun. 29, 1962. Unesco Bulletin for Libraries. October 1958. Radcliffe Quarterly. May 1965.

Yankee. Mar.-Jun. Sept. Nov.Dec. 1963; Jan.-Mar. Julianum 1962.
World Tennis. October 1964.
Vital Speeches. May 1, 1964.
June 1, 1963.

#### THE OMBUDSMAN RETURNS

Every once in a while a beautiful, just right word gains currency, gets used too much, until those of us who wince at cliches, hate to hear it, or see it in print again: words like image, radiance, charisma.

I'd like to bring to the attention of the Staff one such word I have seen two or three times the last few months, before the usual fate overtakes it. The word is OMBUDSMAN, and this is what the NEW YORK TIMES said about it in an article on Sunday, November 14:

"...The early Nordic word, said to be traceable back to the 15th century is common to Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland...om means about, bud means message, and man means man...The ombudsman is a government official, above reproach, and beyond being reached by politicians and bureaucrats, who will listen to complaints from those citizens who believe that they and their rights have been abused by the government and its officials..."

The TIMES article wants an ombudsman in the world of travel to take care of the interests of travelers. But from its definition I think all three objectives of our Association as stated on the front page of the QM would be served by such a guardian. The Examining Committee, for all the good will and civic mindedness of its members, is not such a guardian. They go on guided tours, and speak to the very people whose bottleneck activities or inactivities are the chief reason why this Library does not function the way the fine vision of our Founders and the generous provision by the city would make possible. There is nothing of real promise in the latest Report, but there is a note of hope in one of the "answers" by our "officials." Mr. Moloney will soon return from another assignment; and his office, and he personally, have been the nearest thing to an OMBUDSMAN we have recently had.

-- 4 --

curtailment of the daily use of Branch Issue books for Open Shelf customers and disturbed by reports from friends and public about the fearful denudation of Open Shelf shelves of books for the educated common reader -- the Stendhals, the E. M. Forsters, the Kierkegaards, the Freuds, the Sartres, the Santayanas, the Virginia Woolfs--I made a spot check in one important category, very popular since the '20's, and very influential in life and literature since: the 131.34, psychoanalysis. There were just two books on the shelf in Open Shelf. There were one hundred and twenty five on the shelves in Branch Issue. The competent Book Selectorshad approved the selections: the City had supplied the necessary funds; Book Purchasing had made the purchases; Book Preparation people had furnished them with attractive cellophane covers; and the extra boys in the afternoons had diligently placed them on the shelves, and kept them in order. And there they stood for months, in shameful inutility, in monumental rebuke to Library, Division and Department. Scores of people in search of these very books, the Freuds, the Alexanders, the Jungs, the Adlers, the Horneys, the Brills, the Berglers, the many fine studies for end against the subject, were turned away unsatisfied every day unless they left postcards for them. Most people are unwilling to do that except for best sellers.

There is some small justification for the belief that some of these people seem to want these Library books for their own private collections. But that is a different problem and has never been adequately discussed.

I showed that remarkable statistic, 125-2, to Mr. Moloney that same day. I don't know what he did about it. A few years later some money was suddenly "found" to replenish Open Shelf shelves in that area. But Mr. Moloney looked disturbed and appalled at the statistic, and that is enough for me to nominate him BPL OMBUDSMAN, and we should welcome his return.

HARRY ANDREWS

"A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME..."

Education, like other departments, gets its share of questions that have to be

One day, a few years ago, annoyed by the interpreted before they can be answered. The student who needed a "pencil topper" was looking for the pencil sharpener. A patron who wanted to use the Docustat asked for the "Copystat."

The Officer-in-Charge gets all kinds of titles, such as the "Officer of the Day" and the "Guard on Duty."

Then there was the summer visitor who admitted that she hadn't been in the Library for years, who wanted to see the painting "The Dance of the Hours." That turned out to be John Elliott's "The Triumph of Time."

\* \* \* \*

#### ENGAGEMENT ·

Margaret Claire, LA 2 Gataloging and Classification, has a diamond from James Latten of Cleveland, Ohio. The date of the wedding has not been set.

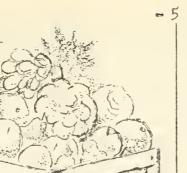
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## Q. C. C. LUNCHEON

The Luncheon Committee of the Quarter Century Associations wishes us to remind all staff members that they are invited to the luncheon meeting of the Quarter Century Association which will be held at the Hotel Lenox on Wednesday, December 8th, at one o'clock.

Tickets at \$2.50 (including tax and tip), may be obtained from Harry Fletcher, Treasurer, Cataloging and Classification, R. and R.S. All returns must be made by Wednesday, December 1st.

We Repeat: All members of the Boston Public Library staff are cordially invited to attend. Those having twenty-five or more years of service are urged to join the Association. Dues are \$1.00 per year, payable to The Treasurer.



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 Editor:

Please, why should an answer to a Soap Box letter be granted more than the 300 words allowed a staff association member in the Soap Box itself? If we must compress our thoughts, complaints or queries into 300 words, surely the higher echelons who make reply should be able to be lucid in the same number of words! Perhaps the writer of the original Soap Box letter could have made a point more clear on burned out bulbs, for example, by going into the degree of dimness through categorization, or asking about the capability of staff workers going into dark places in search of books etc... (are all workers capable of seeing in the dark?) are there some available on any given staff short enough to avoid hitting a head on low beams in the dark?) ...

or pointing out that we, too, have staff shortages because of money or non-availability of candidates at present salary scales, which are further depleted in giving service to the public by not being able to see in the dark, etc. We must make do, however, with 300 words!

FAIR PLAY & EQUAL RIGHTS

To the Editor:

How much longer must we be fobbed off by such gobbledegook as the "essay" on types and categories of light bulbs? We do not care whether or not there is a category...only that we have sufficient light. Nor are we interested in non-"visual" checks on lighting fixtures. We do care when bulbs in staff quarter, easily seen and easily accessible to a tall man, or a man on a chair, go out and stay out for days. (Incidentally why doesn't someone save the library money by checking that fixture over the long mirror in the stack 2 locker room which goes out regularly after a day or two of use?...remaining out, to our sorrow, for days.)

We notice the lights by which we work, find books for patrons and shelve returns. These lights are easily checked "visually", are easily replaced, but cause many errors and delays in service to the public when out. Busy public departments do not always have time for work orders, Building phones are not always free when dimness occurs, and servicing is slow. Could WE have extra bulbs? WE could replace them though it be unprofessional of us to do so.

We tire of words which gloss over conditions but do not remedy them. We know of fans for which work orders were regularly provided, not yet repaired because "there is no money for parts"... relatively inexpensive parts perhaps? We do realize that Buildings is shorthanded—as we all are. We do appreciate the brave attempt the men in Buildings make to keep us happy and comfortable, once they are assigned to a task. Something seems to be lacking before assignments are made or in the method of their making.

We are most grateful for that new bubbler, incidentally!

FRUSTRATED AGAIN

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Editor's Note:

The Publications Committee decided to print in its entirety Mr. Geoghegan's report on maintenance problems for the following reasons: 1) It was an answer to a letter which appeared in the QM and we wished to encourage the answering of such letters by the Library Administration.

2) It did contain some information of possible value to staff members.

To the Soap Bex:

CHRISTMAS is the one family holiday that brings peace and happiness to all. However, the announcement that the library will be open on December 26th from two to six o'clock is not a peaceful thought for the staff who MUST work on Sunday. In the past, the library closed on Sunday when Christmas was celebrated on Saturday. Why the change?

It would be a nice Christmas present to the loyal Sunday workers to have this Sunday off.

A SUNDAY WORKER

## A BIRTHDAY SALUTE

On November 14th this year, the library celebrates the 15th birthday of our own "Coffee Shop." Yes, it was in 1950 that the doors of this "Institution within an Institution" were opened by Sam and Dot Adelstein. I for one, have enjoyed the special services rendered by them. The making of my unusual combinations such as and \_\_\_\_\_, was met with a slight squint of disbelief, but it was made. I for one, have appreciated their services and take this opportunity to express my gratitude.

JOSEPH HARPER

Editor's Note:

Although we think it is very kind of Mr. Harper to remember this anniversary of the Coffee Shop, because of the unusually revolting combination of ingredients of which his favorite sandwich is composed, and because some of our readers may have weak stomachs, we have deleted the names of these ingredients.

#### To the Editor:

Until recently, after a new book was cataloged and shelf-listed by the Reference Division, a temporary catalog card was filed into the Public Catalog. Thus

the book was immediately made available to the public. The permenant card filing could then be done orderly, carefully, and systematically.

Temporary cards are no longer filed in any catalog. When I asked why I was told by the Officer-in-Charge that it was a "time saving measure".

This afternoon I spent an hour of the library's time tracking down a book that was shelf-listed on October 19, 1965. There was no indication that this book was owned by the library in the public catalog, the official catalog, or in the catalog of the subject department that had ordered the book.

The library paid me for the time I spent looking for this one book; it paid a professional assistant in Book Selection to check the records and tell me that the book had been ordered; it paid a professional assistant in the subject department to check the records and tell me that the book had been received and what the number was; it paid a Library assistant in the Shelf List to tell me that the book had been shelf-listed and when: it paid a library Assistant in the subject department to find the book on the New Book Shelf and to type a Temporary catalog card for her department before she would let me take the book.

The only thing that saved this routine from being a complete waste of time was the fact that the borrower finally got the book; and that's why we're all here, isn't it?

Let's hope we don't adopt any more "time saving measures" like this one.

DRAC GOLATAC

To the Editor:

An important point to consider is the fact that I was never approached on the subject of the letter written by "Reference Division". Views of several individuals do not necessarily encompass views of all members of a division.

MARGOT TIMSON Member of the Reference Division

Editor's Note:

The letter in the October Q.M. which was signed Reference Division was written by only one staff member. Your editor understood this nom de plume to be in keeping with the whimsical style of the

letter. I am sure that there was no intention to deceive or misrepresent.

To the Soap Box:

## "IT'S OLD HAT!"

In the October issue, I expressed, some what bitterly perhaps, my disappointment in not having my position re-classified. For those members of the Staff Association who were members of the Employee's Union in 1946 when the first issue of THE QUESTION MARK was hot off the presses a re-reading of that issue and subsequent ones, will, I believe, evoke the response "It's Old Hat!" And for those of you who hold the maxim "History Does Not Repeat Itself" might also re-read that first issue. Note how that familiar tune "Classification" occupies most of those issues. In brief, "To re-classify or not to re-classify", is then, as now, still the question. Here we are 19 going on 20 years later, and still the tune of classification lingers on, somewhat nostalgically. Is the year 1966 going to give a repeat performance of that old refrain? I hope not!

JOSEPH HARPER

# Focus of Department Heads

To the Editor:

I wonder how much the department heads realize that they are often (but not always) the cause of low morale? Is not low morale caused, to a great extent, by listening to the constant extreme rejection of new policies, the constant bickering which occurs between departments, and the constant lack of cooperation? Nothing will be accomplished (and consequently morale will remain low) if these attitudes remain unchanged. Such stumbling blocks are little more than childish and/or defensive behavior on the part of the department heads.

To quote from Practical Administration of Public Libraries by Wheeler and Gold-hor, page 93...

Recognition: Psychologists and specialists in industrial relations are well aware that morale thrives on appreciation and on favorable comment for good work.

The Chief's Attention to Sug-

gestions: A staff quickly measures administrative cordiality to new ideas. Does the librarian or department head have an open door but a closed mind? Confidence and enthusiasm mount when it is discovered that the chief is not too busy, but interested in details, knows what is going on, understands the value of a suggestion and does something about it. Within a department, suggestions may have consequences to the individual, maybe resentment and opposition from the head, and strained relationships. The librarian's task is to develop department heads; their task is to build the administrative interest of assistants, until all place the improvement of their department above personal pride and sensitiveness. He needs also to be the coordinator, gatherer-up and information spreader between departments, to avoid confusion and cross purposes.

PAH

To the Editor:

The Office of the Officer-in-Charge of Reader Services wishes to express its appreciation to those members of the staff, both in the Central Library and the Branches, to the Sullivan guards, and also to the duty policeman, for their cooperation during the emergency created by the power failure and resultant blackout.

WILLIAM R. LEWIS

To the Editor:

Earlier this year the Library appointed a Coordinator of Cataloging and Classification whose primary function, as stated in the announcing G.A.N., was to execute the cataloging and classification policies of the BPL. For many years now we have had coordinators in our midst and most of us are more or less familiar with their respective duties which are mainly to oversee the duties in their particular area. Why then, in this instance, should these duties change so drastically? Why has this new Coordinator been allowed to assume more responsibility than any coordinator heretofore? It seems nonsensical to leave Department Heads in such departments if coordinators are going to usurp their

the rule or is this to be the policy of the Library in the future? If so, isn't it a waste of the tax payers money to have Department Heads too?

I'M REALLY CONCERNED

## IN MEMORIAM

## HARRIET SWIFT

On October 25, 1965, Harriet Swift, Curator of Americana, Emeritus, died after a long illness. Daughter of Lindsay Swift, himself a long-time Library employee and Editor of the Library Bulletin for 25 years, Harriet entered the service in 1921 as a Probationary Assistant in the Executive Department. In 1926 she was transferred to the Special Libraries Department as Assistant in-Charge of the Barton-Ticknor Room. When this was transformed into the Rare Book Department upon the appointment of Zoltan Haraszti as Keeper of Rare Books, she continued as Assistant in Charge until 1940 when she became Curator of Americana, a position which she held until her retirement in September, 1959.

Energetic and forthright, never reluctant in expressing an opinion, Miss Swift was a loyal and valued member of her Department, ever ready to help a young assistant. Even after her retirement, Harriet continued to work at her desk clearing up "snags" and hoping to organize the many rare children's books into a comprehensive collection. This project, however, was abandoned when she undertook part-time employment in the Library of the Massachusetts Horticultural Societyafitting place for one so fond of plants and gardening.

We can only regret that Miss Swift's final years at her retirement home in Rockport were marred by persistent and serious illness. She will be much missed by her many friends and associates. A Fund is being collected, in hopes of perpetuating her memory in some small way.

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Jerome A. Crowley, Jr.--Bookmobiles William Moreland--Branch Issue

Transferred

Mary Jo Campbell--from Book Stack Service (Center Desk) to Kirstein William King--from Book Preparation to

Periodical and Newspaper

Ronald Logan--from Periodical and Newspaper to Science and Technology (Patent) John Pelose--from Branch Issue to Duplicating

Maternity Leave of Absence

Mrs. Brenda Brewington--Central Charging Records

Retired

Florence McManus -- Faneuil

Terminations

Ernest A. Dimattia-Science and Technology, to accept position of Director of Salem Public Library

Mrs. Grace M. Duffy--Lower Mills, to remain at home

Mrs. Willie Mae Davis--Mount Pleasant, to move to New York

Invites you
to a

Conducted Tour of the

FRANCIS A. COUNTWAY LIBRARY

OF MEDICINE

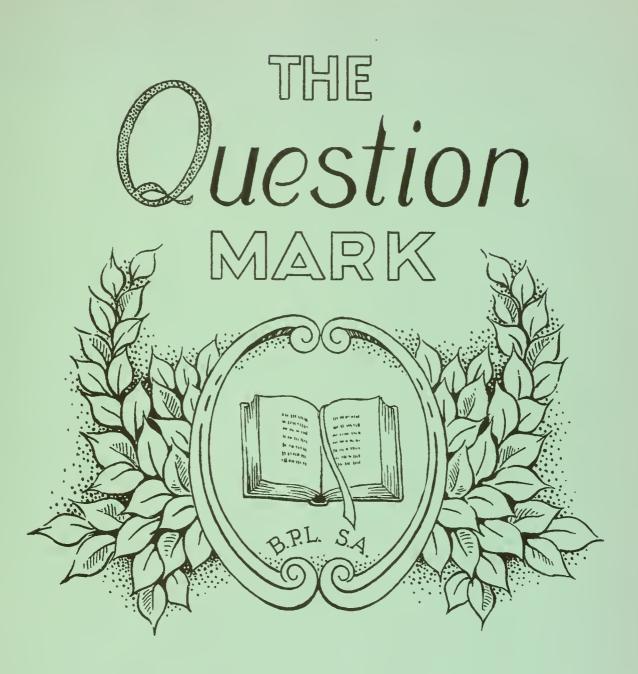
OVI

Juesday Morning-December 7,1965 at 10 a.m.

This tour has been arranged especially for the Staff Association

EVERYONE IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND





THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

DECEMBER 1965



#### THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Staff Association

Volume XX. Number 11

December, 1965

Publications Committee:

Harry Andrews; Evelyn Isaacs; Sheila M. Stevens; Sarah M. Usher, Indexer; Martin F. Waters, Chairman.

Publication Date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material:
The tenth of each month

It shall be the object of the Association

- (a) to foster professional librarianship
- (b) to further the common interests and the welfare of the bibliothecal staff
- (c) and to promote greater efficiency in library service.

One of the benefits that sometimes comes to "always-late" editorial boards is that once in a while some good news comes along which the smart "on-time" editorial boards miss by their promptness. And so, being able to comment on the good news of the pay increase which most of the LA's and some others have been granted gives us an additional reason to be thankful that we are again late in publishing. It is unusually pleasant when a pay raise comes at Christmas, and the timing on this one is just about perfect.

Although we don't like to imply that there is a direct relationship between letters to the Soap Box and money, you will note that there are no letters of complaint this month. Which we think dramatically demonstrates the truth of the old saying that when money comes in the door, letters to the Soap Box fly out the window.

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

My thanks to everyone who contributed their time and talent to the very successful reception for Mr. and Mrs. McNiff in November. Both Mr. and Mrs. McNiff expressed their appreciation and pleasure in meeting the Staff.

I wish to express my thanks also to Mr. McNiff and to the members of the Program Committee who arranged for the Countway Library tour. Those of us who attended found it a most enjoyable and

educational experience.

On December 10th the Executive Board and I met with Mr. McNiff to acquaint him with the goals and histor; of the Staff Association and to discuss some of the problems which have contributed to the low morale of the staff.

The first item under discussion was the salary schedule. As I stated in the President's Notes in the November issue of the QM, Mr. McNiff expressed his concern for the welfare of the staff and his desire to work out an equitable salary schedule. Provision has been made in the 1966 budget for a salary increase but Mr. McNiff could not say, at that time, just how such an increase would be distributed. The size of the budget allotment for the library is still dependent upon the solution of the financial problems of the City and the Commonwealth. Mr. McNiff did say, however, that he believes the Staff will not be disappointed when the increases do come through.

In-service training and orientation were also brought up for discussion, Mr.McNiff mentioned the fact that this was on the agenda at a recent Division meeting. He found the presentation most interesting to but said that he would like to make a thorough study of the situation before committing the Administration to any program.

Other problems, including a new study of the re-classification of the L. A. Service and the lack of communication between the Administration and the Staff and between divisions were also discussed. Mr. McNiff plans to make a complete study of every facet of the B.P.L. and said that he would keep in mind the problems which we discussed with him.

Both the Executive Board and I felt that the future of the Staff and the BPL promises to be most exciting and rewarding.

MARY T. CROWE

President

## W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM 1874 - 1965

A great many years ago, in the "dark backward and abysm of time" before I came to work in the BPL, my friends and I used to hang around in the old West End. The place as Joshua Bates had recommended, was warm, roomy, well-lighted, comfortable, and open every evening, the collection excellent, varied, and accessible, our curiosity insatiable, and other distractions few, so we did a good deal of browsing and reading. One of the books we ran into at the time was THE MOON AND SIXPENCE by W. Somerset Maugham, who died at 91 last week, and even today I remember some of the excitement we felt at the time. Knowing little of the distinction between fiction and non-fiction, and not yet having formed the librarian's habit of reading reviews and books about books, I thought the book was a biography of a painter named Strickland, and immediately wanted to know more about such a remarkable man. I didn't like to ask the Librarian or the assistants, so I ransacked the biographical dictionaries and encyclopedias in the place, and got nowhere fast. So one of my friends and I decided to make a pilgrimage to the big Library on Copley Square, and we spent one whole Sunday afternoon in Bates Hall and the Fine Arts Department looking in vain for material on the life of Charles Strickland, painter. It was not only frustrating but sad. We couldn't understand how so important a painter, as described in the book, wouldn't even have a line in an encyclopedia.

That item got itself straightened out in my mind later when we all read almost all of Maugham's books as they came out. But his reputation waned. A few years ago Edmund Wilson, that loner among literary critics and unofficial arbiter of literary reputations, wrote a deadly piece on Maugham in one of the periodicals, and killed him dead for the intellectuals.

## W.S. Maugham

In 1964, on the occasion of Haugham's 90th birthday, there was some flurry about him in the papers. I thought I would get into the act and wrote him a longish letter about the episode above, to remind him how much he had meant to some young people many years ago, and to cheer him up against the Wilson attack. He wrote back from his villa on the Riviera pretty promptly, as follows:

"... Thank you for your charming letter and all the nice things you say; I was touched and much pleased. You must forgive me if I reply briefly. My recent birthday produced an avalanche of nearly two thousand letters, and at my advanced age and in my indifferent state of health, I find it all a bit of a strain..."

The public disregards the critics and still read Maugham, but not all of him. OF HUMAN BONDAGE, THE MOON AND SIXPENCE, THE RAZOR'S EDGE, CAKES AND ALE, RAIN, AND ASHEDDEN still circulate frequently. Fledgling writers read his THE SUMMING UP and other autobiographical pieces. myself would like to reread an old book of his if the talented, competent, and obliging people in the General Reference Department will hunt it up for me. was about a doctor in the Far East who would close the office at noon, and he and his assistant would retire to an inner sell become their hallmark. darkened room, and sitting in different corners would spend hours smoking opium pipes, with such resultant feeling of well-being that the uphoria communicated itself to the reader.

#### HARRY ANDREWS

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# Bow To Dorothy Ekstrom

Seen in the Children's Rcom at Memorial during Children's Book Week - a large basket of gourds, each gourd presented by a child with the following sign:

> To Mrs. Ekstrom Our Librarian who makes every week Children's Book Week at the Julia Ward Howe

# Mr. and Mrs. McNiff Welcomed

The BPLSA reception for Mr. and Mrs. McNiff, held in the Lecture Hall on Friday evening, 19 November 1965, easily captures honors as the most successful Association affair of the year and the best attended event in recent years. Joining the guests of honor in the reception line were the President of the Association, Mary Crowe, the Vice-President, Linda Ivers and William Lewis, representing the Executive Board.

The setting was superb. The caterer, in addition to serving an excellent collation, succeeded in transferming the usually severe lines of the Lecture Hall into a flower bedecked formal room worthy of a Washington diplomatic affair. Complementing the room decor and adding tone to the occasion was the inclusion of chamber music from the Baroque period by members of the staff of the Music Department: Ruth Bleecker, John Bundy, Angelo Mammano and Natalie Palme.

Those in attendance included Monsignor Murray and Mr. and Mrs. Canham of the Library Trustees, the tcp administrative officers of the Library and their wives, department heads by the score and a good representation of the rank and file of the Library staff. The size of the turnout was in itself a testimonial to the guest of honor. Mr. and Mrs. McNiff responded to the congratulations and well wishes of the assembled guests with a becoming modesty and grace which might

It was a truly delightful evening!

#### IN MEMORIAM --- LEONARD J. KANTER

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On November 18, after a very long illness, Leonard J. Kanter passed away. Leonard had been on the staff of the Library for almost forty years, beginning in the old Special Collections, then, successively, Music, Newspaper Room, Patent Room, and Book Stack Service.

Leonard was a quiet man, uncomplaining. He delighted in the pun. He always tried to be of service, whether helping the public or calling the attention of a colleague to some forgotten reference book. His world outside the Library he enriched by his work with neighborhood youth groups and with the elderly.

Our sympathy to Mrs. Kanter and to his children.

## B. Gertrude Wade Honored

The atmosphere was one of good cheer tinged silently with regret at losing a good friend, teacher, and "Our Boss". We were drawn together around the table, heavy with Dorothy Ekstrom's preparations for our Sunday dinner, and the next hours were filled with excitement and laughter.

Mrs. Anne Bromer cleverly had arranged for us to sing "To: B.G.W." to the tune of "Manyana" and we verbalized our thoughts with wishes for the best of all things in life.

Reluctantly, some of us left early but coffee and good talk lasted into the wee hours.

So long, Miss Wade. But not goodbye.

To: B.G.W.

(To the Tune of "Manyana")

For many years you've been a part of this the BPL

And we will bet it won't forget the gal who gave it hell,

The City Point, The Codman Square, and then old Faneuil

And best of all our favorite two, MP - Memorial.

#### Chorus

We'll miss you And wish you Shalom, au revoir, and fond adieu

The Appalachian Mountain Club of this you're very proud

And even though you're chased by bears you wouldn't cry out loud,

You hoist your pack upon your back and it must weigh a ton,

Your shoes they leak, your sneakers squeak, but this you say is fun.

#### Chorus

All the young adults you help, they say
you're mighty grand
The adults and the children have received
your helping hand,
And everyone both here and there will
miss you very much
For they agree with us today that you

Chorus

must keep in touch

A fond farewell is made today from us your employees

As you join psychology in lieu of libraries,

We wish you luck, we wish you well, we wish you all success

And more than that, our Dear Miss Wade, we wish you happiness.

Chorus

Your Staff at

Memorial - Mt. Pleasant

QUOTES FROM ANTIQUARIAN BOOKMAN

## December 6, 1965; page 2070

"....report from St. Joseph, Mo., that Mayor Arthur Meers received an envelope containing some ashes and an unsigned note reading: 'In protest against the recent increase of overdue library book fines from three to five cents, I have burned my library card.'"

# November 15, 1965 - page 1835

"...The TTML3 LIT. SUP. (Oct. 24 and 31) has been carrying on a controversy over the limited cataloging of erotica and suppressed books in the British Museum. N.F. Sharp, Keeper, Dept. of Printed Books (B.M.) states that Private Case books are now being entered in the General Catalogue "as fast as the availability of staff time allows... as a normal cataloging process.""

Private Case in the British Museum corresponds roughly to former BPL categories of Inferno and Reserve Collection. We are assured that the same practice is being followed here in making the books available in the catalogue as time allows.

HARRY ANDREWS

# HARRIET SWIFT MEMORIAL

Contributions to the Harriet Swift
Memorial have been most gratifying. The
Committee has received suggestions as
to the type of memorial but has postponed
its decision until after the holiday
season. It takes this means of expressing thanks to those who have already
participated in the memorial.

#### THE COMMITTEE

## Writer and Editor

The TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT (London) remains almost the best book-review magazine in the English-speaking world. and is one of the most interesting papers to read regularly. An outstanding feature is its Letters to the Editor section A reader will make an objection to something a reviewer said, another reader will comment on the objection, and away they go. For months the battle will rage, with courtesy and good humor but seriously-cn a new reading of a much anthologized peom by Tennyson, what the Norwegians now think of Quisling, the neglect of the Bronte house at Haworth, how Doris Langley Moore used the Pyron manuscripts still jealously guarded by his noble descendents, how George Painter represented a still living friend of Proust in his recent biography, or a new Wise forgery discovered at the University of Texas.

The latest such epistle-fest was started on Sept. 23 with a letter from Louis J. Halle, well-known American political scientist and now at the Graduate Institute of International Studies at Geneva, not in answer to a review, but with deliberate intent to start a discussion on the relations between the writer and the editor in the modern publishing world.

He says:

"...although discussion of the writer's role frequently appears in print, one finds little about the editor's-in spite of the fact that the editor's role has been increasing to the point, where....it exceeds the writer's. Today ... the writer contributes the raw material that the editor refines or reshapes to make the finished article...in the style of the periodical rather than the author ... This is stultifying to stylistic distinction. It is death to idiosyncracy.... most editors prefer what everybody says to what everybody does not say, and prefer it to be said in the language in which everybody says it. Consequently it is hard to get by them with a thought or a phrase that is not common currency...."

The letter goes on at considerable length with many examples of editorial invasions into authors' manuscripts, but also, in fairness, citing cases where such editorial reshaping is necessary, as when an article is written by a man who is an expert in his subject but not expert in writing about it.

Many letters have already appeared commenting on Mr. Halle's views. Several authors gave horrible examples of their own experience. Professor Morgenthau, of the University of Chicago wrote in indignation about his breaking with COMENTARY because they had changed something he had written for them. Finally TLS itself wrote an editorial on the subject, deriding the professor's claim to the sacrosanctness of his every word. But the letters in general agreed that a writer has a right to have his words printed as he had written them.

Thoush our situation on the smaller arena of BPL is somewhat different, relations between writer and editor also occasionally get strained. The job of Editor on the Question Mark is thankless and burdensome, and all members of the Staff who have held it are to be commended for their library patriotism and responsibility, But it has never been clearly outlined as to what scope the Editor has in deciding what is to appear in the paper and in what form. One recent Editor had a large representative committee. met with them regularly once a month for several hours and discussed every item to be included in the next issue, including his editorial. Another rejected several letters relevant to BPL affairs without consulting his committee, and a third took the next logical step and said he needed no committee and no meetings at all.

The Question Mark exists not only for the reporting of vital statistics of staff members. It has to be vigilant about the way both Staff and Administration live up to the standards admirably summarized as the object of our Association on the front page. And an arbitrary Panjandrum as Editor will not do.

HARRY ANDREWS

#### PERSONNEL NOTES

Entered
Ellarose Leimberg(Mrs.) - Codman Square
John C. Foley - Book Purchasing
Donald A. McQuaid - Periodical and
Newspaper
Raymond Salter - Book Stack Service
Leroy Dixon - Book Stack Service
Richard R. Mansur - Office of Records,
Files, Statistics (NE Coop Student)

#### Transfers

Barbara Stenglein - from Charlestown to Mattapan Marjorie M. Gibbons - from Washington Village to South Boston William Poreland - from Branch Issue to Open Shelf Dennis M. Sarsfield - from Open Shelf to Branch Issue Grace M. DiGange - from Dorchester to Mattapan

#### Ceased

Mary L. Harrington, Bookmobile -another position - to work in Germany
Mrs. Barbara J. Beach, South End - to stay at home
Mrs. Lana Reed, Home Reading Division
Office - to stay at home
Sally Lee Shoemaker, Cataloging & Classification R&RS - another position
Adria Cimo, Audio Visual - to be married and move to California
Martha Jane Monazynski, Information Office -another position
Nancy E. Peace, Education - to attend
Wesleyan University

# Maternity Leave

Mrs. Ann M. Duggan - Bookmobile

#### CONGRATULATIONS!

To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hulme (Duplicating Section) on the birth of a 7 lbs.  $8\frac{1}{2}$  oz. baby boy on December 21st. Needless to say the Hulme's have decided to name their second child, first son, Joseph Jr.

