



B U L L E T I N

MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

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MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Executive 1953 - 1954

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M.L.A. ANNUAL MEETING, Sept. 25th, 1953

Publication of "Canadiana" and compilation of a Union Catalogue are the main activities so far undertaken by the National Library, Dr W. Kaye Lamb reported in an address which highlighted the Annual Meeting of the Association held at the Professional and Business Women's Club on Friday, September 25th.

Dr Lamb presented to an attentive audience of more than forty members and friends what he termed a verbal newsletter on the National Library.

The Act providing for the establishment of the National Library which was passed in 1952 and came into force on January 1st, 1953, gives four very definite powers to the National Librarian. First, the Librarian may undertake the collection, by purchase or otherwise, of books for the National Library (books being defined as library matter of every kind, nature, and description). Secondly, the Act provides that two copies of every book published in Canada for sale or circulation must be delivered to the National Library. The National Library Purchase Account will give the Library grants rather than appropriations, so that they can either be spent during the year or, if preferable, be carried over. Finally, the Librarian may sell or otherwise dispose of books which may be deemed surplus - this feature is important from the point of view of storage space.

In speaking of the Union Catalogue, Dr Lamb said that catalogues representing nearly three million volumes have been microfilmed in the major libraries of the country, and that Miss Martha Shepard and Mr Ian Wees will be in Winnipeg within the next few months to start work on the photographing of the catalogues of the University of Manitoba and Provincial libraries.

"Canadiana", the bibliography of Canadian publications, has proved most valuable; but Dr Lamb asked that librarians write to Dr Jean Lunn, the editor, telling her whether they find it useful and offering suggestions for its improvement. The coverage, he said, has been most satisfactory, as a check against the listings by the Library of Congress of publications of Canadian interest had shown that in a three-month period only three items were missed in "Canadiana" and they were foreign language publications originating outside North America. The local publications are the most elusive, and Dr Lamb asked for the co-operation of all librarians in notifying the National Library of items published in their own regions which have been missed in "Canadiana". The 1952 volume of "Canadiana", which is now ready, lists nearly 4,500 items.

The Book Deposit regulations have been in effect for several months; and Dr Lamb reported that the publishers have been most friendly and co-operative.

Dr Lamb paid special tribute to the work of the staff of the Parliamentary Library following the fire last year, in saving and restoring all but a few hundred books of minor importance. He told how the Parliamentary Library is being renovated and made fire-proof, yet retaining as much as possible of its old charm.

A.S. Mathers of Toronto has been commissioned to draft plans for the National Library building which is to be situated on Wellington Street on the site presently occupied by temporary buildings housing the Department of Trade and Commerce. While many problems in connection with planning so important a building are being encountered, Dr Lamb hopes that it will be possible to have a building both beautiful and functional. The present plan is to have stacks for two million volumes and to rely upon acquiring cheaper storage space on the outskirts of Ottawa when this capacity is exhausted.

Dr Lamb's address left the meeting in no doubt that great things are being accomplished at the National Library and that its future could not be in better hands.

A vote of thanks to Dr Lamb was moved by A.F. Jamieson, and congratulations were expressed to Mr Johnston and Dr Lamb on their being awarded Honorary Degrees at the Special Convocation of the University of Manitoba held to mark the opening of the new Library.

Reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee chairmen, told briefly of the activities and accomplishments of the Association during the past year.

The membership stands at 82, and the Association's financial position is good, despite the cost of publishing and distributing the Bulletin to a mailing list of 125. Publication of the Bulletin is an important achievement in the history of the Association.

The Special Committee on the Union List of Serials in Greater Winnipeg libraries has been engaged in the preparation of a revised edition of the Union List; and the President read a letter from Mr V.D. Hurst, manager of the Western Canada Insurance Underwriters' Association, offering equipment and material of his organization to assist the Manitoba Library Association in this project. This kind offer of help is warmly welcomed, the President declared, since to attempt unaided an expensive undertaking of this type would strain the resources of the Association.

The meeting ratified changes in Article 4 of the Bylaws of the Association: dissolving the Committee on War Services, which has happily been dormant for several years, and the Committee on Library Extension and Co-operation; amalgamating the committees on Public Relations and Publicity; and establishing

a Bulletin Committee with the Editor as Chairman.

Following brief remarks by the President, the report of the Nominating Committee was adopted and the new President, the Rev. Fr A.J. Cotter, was called to the Chair. A list of the 1953-54 executive is given on p.1 of this issue.

R. Bugey.

Professional Pride

At the latest CLA Conference it was observed that, even, with allowance made for numerical inequality, the western representatives were not making an adequate contribution to the discussions, so that they seemed to be both without formulated opinions on matters of general interest and unable to present their particular problems for general consideration.

Now, it would be ridiculous to set out after opinions and verbosity in order to cut a figure at the next conference. But this past defect is a symptom of a condition unhealthy for ourselves and irresponsible towards our colleagues. It is a state of inertia; unhealthy because, though servants and handmaids to the intellectual world, we let our intellects stagnate; irresponsible because, so far from helping others with their burdens, we are allowing them to bear ours as well.

It is a state understandable enough. We are, for the most part, too remote one from another to enjoy the regular encounter of wits that is almost a necessity for the balanced development of the opponents. Some persons blossom in isolation; most of us moulder away: the mind, too, needs its mate for fertility. Then, we are often stunted rather than stimulated by our surroundings. The struggle to maintain our profession at all leaves little opportunity or energy for developing beyond the mere elements and mechanics of the work. There is so weak a tradition of reading among the majority of the prairie population, and the present generation is so powerfully deflected by the easier pastime of picture-gazing, in bundles or on reels, that we can seldom produce or encounter either the voracious or the fastidious reader, to empty our shelves and to try our critical faculties as well as our budgets.

But, if there are factors for which we are not directly and individually responsible, there are others in which the failure is primarily our own. It is only by our own effort that we can recognize our real function in the community, and, by discovering a goal beyond the daily routine, be encouraged to reform, supplement, or re-direct, the routine in order to assimilate it to the goal. We must learn to be humble enough to do our utmost even in inconspicuous tasks, and alert enough to recognize the importance of even the inconspicuous.

A.E.M.

ST VITAL LIBRARY SERVICE

With the passing of the Library Bylaw in St Vital on October 28th, this municipality has gained the distinction of being the first municipality in Greater Winnipeg to pass a Library Bylaw under the Manitoba Libraries Act of 1948. We share with Dauphin and St Boniface the honour of pioneering in the establishment of a tax-supported free Public Library for the use of all residents in the area under provincial legislation.

St Vital is a widespread, partly rural community with an estimated population in 1953 of 20,000 persons. To provide an adequate library service in this municipality under the financial provisions of the Manitoba Libraries Act is going to try the resourcefulness of the Library Board to the utmost. The Act provides that one mill on the total assessment may be set aside for the operation of a library. In St Vital this will mean a sur of about \$8,000. In addition there will be the Provincial Government grant of \$400 a year, plus the initial grant of \$400 given the first year for a new library.

In placing these facts before the librarians of Manitoba, we may well be asked what does the municipality of St Vital expect to get in the way of library service for an annual budget of \$8,400; what organization or group of persons was foolhardy enough to go ahead with a library bylaw knowing that to ask for library service under the terms provided was asking for an impossibility.

The Parent-Teachers Association, which took the initial steps in this movement and worked so hard to bring out an informed public opinion on election day and give the bylaw a substantial majority, is well aware of the hard sledding ahead. Its members are quite prepared to supply indefinitely the support, assistance, and encouragement, that will be required to make the library a success.

For many years there has been in St Vital a deep desire to have a public library. Several organizations, including the Women's Institutes - those stalwart supporters of the library movement in Manitoba - took in the past tentative steps towards the establishment of a library; but the attempts came to nothing for want of legislation and financial support. However, with the successful establishment this year of a library in St Boniface-Norwood, the people in this community were encouraged to go ahead and follow their example.

Early this year the Parent-Teachers Association appointed a committee to examine the situation and take such steps as he thought necessary to find out if there were a substantial body of opinion in favour of a library. In this way was formed the "Friends of the St Vital Public Library". A Library Tea was held; everyone who came signed his name and address in a book and thereby became a charter member of the group. A pro-tem. executive was named, who accepted the responsibility of making a house-to-house canvass with a library petition and of

presenting it to the municipal council.

A public meeting was held on September 17th, at which a clearer idea of what a library would mean in the municipality was given to a large and interested audience. Two guest speakers on this occasion were Mr John Russell, Librarian of the Norwood Public Library, and Mr George Noble, Director of the Manitoba Library Service. These two speakers in no uncertain manner placed before the audience the cold hard facts of library costs; but, far from feeling any discouragement, both the audience and the Friends of the St Vital Public Library were the more determined to make the library a reality and a success.

What is the position now that the bylaw has been passed? The Municipal Council will appoint a Library Board, which will, in turn, appoint a librarian, find accommodation for the library, and administer the finances. These steps will not in themselves produce a library, but they form the framework in which a library in St vital will come into operation. The Friends of the St Vital Public Library believe that there will remain wide scope for their efforts. To begin with, they will hold book drives to augment a book stock that, derived only from the annual budget, would be quite inadequate to serve a community of 20,000 persons. They will form a volunteer auxiliary, whose members will carry out routine tasks in the library under the direction of the trained librarian. And they will pursue every avenue to obtain additional funds for the library and make sure that the available income is used to the best advantage.

We believe that, if our library is the success that we confidently expect, other municipalities will soon follow suit and pass corresponding bylaws for their own communities. What, then, will be the attitude of the city of Winnipeg and the province of Manitoba to these developments? When plans are being made for the amalgamation of the municipalities with the city of Winnipeg, will library service be one of the benefits that the municipalities may expect from it? Could the province not be induced to increase its library grants to the point where a regional library could offer service in keeping with the educational programme laid down for the province? At the present time there are no answers to these questions; but with the St Vital library away to a good start we believe that there is another bright gleam in the rather gloomy picture of library development in Manitoba.

I. Moore.

The large numbers of Manitobans who speak languages other than French and English add to the problems of our hard-pressed profession. A survey of existing resources might force us to recognize the discrepancy between the need and the supply. The lack of any reading habits in many European emigrants allows us to concentrate on encouraging the English reading of the second generation; but, since it is commonly found difficult to stimulate reading habits in persons from non-reading families, there is good reason for providing whatever reading matter the present adult generation will use.

YOUNG CANADA'S BOOK WEEKNov. 15-22, 1953

"To stress the need for good library service to boys and girls, and to encourage the reading of worthwhile books..."

This year Young Canada's Book Week, sponsored by the Canadian Library Association and under the patronage of Mrs Hugh John Fleming of Fredericton, N.B., will profit by the experience of past celebrations. At the Panel Discussion "Evaluation of Young Canada's Book Week" held at the CLA Convention in August, Miss Grace Crooks, Chairman of YCBW for 1953, gave a report on plans for '53 and stated that "these are easier to make and more successful as the years go on."

It was very interesting to listen to librarians and teachers outline their own ideas and projects. These included:

1. Book review contests: the entrants are encouraged to turn in original work in their own style; winning entries are sent to the author reviewed, who often will write back to the child.
2. Posters in store and office windows.
3. Story dramatizing, with or without appropriate costumes and scenery; play readings; puppet shows.
4. Essays of two or more pages on such subjects as: Why I Read; What I Have Read; The Importance of Good Books; and so on.
5. Distribution of YCBW Booklists to school libraries.
6. Book displays in libraries, schools, etc.
7. Book talks to children by librarians, teachers, authors; book talks to adult groups such as Parent-Teacher or Home & School Associations.

Adults, whether individually or by groups, may procure supplies for YCBW from the Canadian Library Association
att'n Mrs Doreen Mackay
46 Elgin St., Ottawa.

YCBW is endorsed by Departments of Education across Canada. It will receive publicity on a national scale from CBC programmes and will be featured in newspapers and magazines.

G.C. Noble.

JOHN LESLIE JOHNSTON - A TRIBUTE

Of the six hundred invited guests who were present on September 26th at the conferring of degrees by the University of Manitoba, there was surely not one who did not feel a glow of pride and pleasure when Mr Leslie Johnston mounted the rostrum to become a Doctor of Laws honoris causa.

Mr Johnston has come to occupy an enviable position in the community chiefly because he is the man he is. Certainly the regard in which he is held extends beyond the limits of the city and the province, and doubtless his sphere of influence will widen as the years go by. This influence is the result of wide and varied experience combined with a genial spirit and an uncommon interest in the public welfare.

Mr Johnston was born in Windsor, Ontario, in 1898. The family moved to Winnipeg in 1902 and then to Oak Bay, Victoria, in 1912. The breadth of view he now possesses may be in part a result of these changes of domicile during his formative and most impressionable years.

In 1919 he entered the civil service of Manitoba as Accountant on the staff of the Department of Education. In 1920 he became secretary to the Hon. R.S. Thornton, then Minister of Education, and served successive Ministers until 1928. His experience in this Department has made him one of the best informed men on the subject.

But it was with his appointment as assistant Legislative Librarian in the same year that he moved into a sphere which seems to be his very own, one which has called forth his finest abilities. When in 1937 he became Legislative Librarian for the Province of Manitoba, it soon was evident, as it has been ever since, that he was the right man in the right job. For he has been a faithful servant of the Government during the succeeding years; and while he has served the Library, he has served, also, the public. Anyone who has been in his office and has witnessed his courteous response to students, scholars, and writers, in search of the most varied information, could not help but be impressed by his tireless efforts to help every seeker.

Yet his activities have not been confined to the Library. He has been Chairman of the Library Committee of the Greater Winnipeg Co-ordinating Board for War Services. It was he who sparked the committee which prepared the plan for regional libraries in Manitoba. Other services include: chairmanship of the Manitoba Library Association 1944-45; membership in the Council of the Champlain Society 1950.

None of this has touched the core of excellence of the man himself, whose chief claim to public honour is his integrity of character and his whole-hearted devotion to the public good.

A.J. Cotter.

Recent Additions to the Shelves of the

MUSTWEEHAV LIBRARY SERVICEBaldwin, Manic A.

I leap over the wall: the story of a girl acrobat.

Fosdick, H.E. "Fearless"

On being fit to live with: a short guide to long marriages.

Hemingquand, W. Somerset

Novels: their use and abuse.

McCarthy, Juan Joseph Benito Adolf

The Red Raver runs north: communist infiltration into Canada.

McRandy, Sally

No time for tears: the Odyssey of a bubble dancer.

Monster, Ratnik

The Sadistic swamp. (The Sloughs of America series, no.717).

Omar Khayyam

The Red boat; trans. from the Persian by F.Scott Fitzgerald.

Potter, Stephen

Best ploys of 1952-53; with the Yearbook of Gameslifemastery.

G.C.N.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMES TO ST BONIFACE

Public library service was inaugurated in St Boniface on June 1st, 1953, when Alderman Gladstone Shearer, Acting Mayor of this, Manitoba's second largest city, cut ribbons in the French and English sections of the Library, thus formally declaring open both Branches of the St Boniface Public Library. Addresses in English and French were delivered by Mr Shearer and Alderman René Dussault, Chairman of the Public Library Board, before the assembled guests at the Provencher Avenue (French) and Norwood (English) branches of the new Public Library system. Coffee and refreshments were served by the ladies of the "Friends of the St Boniface Public Library" after the opening ceremonies. The Library was open for public inspection until nine o'clock that evening.

The first books were circulated at 2 P.M. on June 3rd, and since that time

the Library has been experiencing a tremendous response from St Boniface citizens. The Branches are administered separately, but both operate under the jurisdiction of the one Board, consisting of two Aldermen and six citizens. Monthly Board meetings are held which are attended by both librarians and the Secretary-Treasurer.

Each Branch had its own particular problems to face at the start. The Norwood Branch began with nothing; and from the appointment of the Librarian on Nov.1st, 1952, everything from office furniture to shelving and books needed to be acquired. Cards had to be bought for the books, the catalogues, and registrations. Systems of procedure had to be decided upon and established. Books had to be chosen and purchased.

For this last problem we used, and found indispensable for our basic list, such standard reference tools as the ALA Booklist, the Standard Catalogue for Public Libraries, the Fiction Catalogue, the Ontario Library Review, the New York Times and the New York Herald Tribune book reviews. In addition, many books were obtained through a book drive held throughout the city: this device often produces a great amount of useful material, including many out-of-print books.

If the adults received the new Library warmly, so did the children, also. At the Norwood Branch, the shelves in the Boys and Girls Department were practically stripped of reading material. Orders had to go out for more Children's books, and the months since June have seen an increased flow of reading matter to the shelves for both youngsters and adults. Some figures will perhaps better illustrate the story at the Norwood Branch:

1. Registrations

Boys and Girls.....	841
Adults.....	682

1,523 (as of October 23rd, 1953)

2. Circulation

Boys and Girls.....	5,644
Adults.....	5,522

11,166 (June 3rd - Sept. 30th, 1953)

3. Books on shelves: June 1st, 1953.....1,731
 Oct. 23rd, 1953.....2,783

i.e.: an increase of 1,052 volumes, or nearly 100%.

Periodicals, also, are available at the Library for readers to borrow; and the Norwood Branch has a small collection of material in the French language as a service to its bilingual borrowers.

Each month sees an increase in both registrations and circulation, and the peak seems not yet to have been reached. The Library's hours are 2:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. on week-days, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. on Saturdays. This makes a total of 35 1/2 hours each week that the Library provides book service to the residents of St Boniface. There is a permanent staff of two at the Branch, with extra student assistance on an hourly basis each day.

Thus did St Boniface join the ranks of the towns of Manitoba which have free public library service. The opening of our library system climaxed the years of preparation from the first forming of the idea until the first books were borrowed by residents of this bilingual city.

J.S. Russell.

Editor's note: This account of the Norwood Branch of the St Boniface Public Library will be complemented in our next issue by an account of the Provencher Avenue Branch by its Librarian, Mme G. Fortin.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA LIBRARY

The new library building of the University of Manitoba was officially declared open by Premier D.L. Campbell of Manitoba on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 26th. The event was marked by a Special Convocation, at which the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was given to two noted Canadian librarians (J.L. Johnston, Provincial Librarian of Manitoba, and Wm Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist and National Librarian), as well as an honorary LL.D. to the painter Lawren Harris and an honorary D.Litt. to the novelist Hugh MacLennan.

This Convocation served, also, to emphasize three features of the building: its exhibition wing, through the degree conferred on Mr Harris; its ethnic libraries, through a commemorative scroll presented to the Rev. Einar Sturlaugsson, the donor of a large collection of Icelandic periodicals; its nucleus of "rare books", formed largely by the Sellars and Dysart collections, the latter being the gift of the Manitoba Brewers' and Hotelmen's Welfare Fund, now formally presented to the University. A selection of the books from these and the Icelandic and Slavic collections was on display; an exhibition on a larger scale is planned for January, 1954, and some account of the collections will be published in a later issue of this Bulletin.

The new building, designed by the Winnipeg firm of Green, Blankstein, Russell &

Associates, comprises three main sections: the south wing, containing the exhibition gallery and a small theatre; a lower and an upper reading room, which extend across the full length of the main block's west front; three storeys of book stacks, which, with the offices, occupy the eastern portion of the main block.

The exhibition gallery will be used chiefly for the series of displays arranged during the academic year by the School of Architecture; but for at least one period it will be resigned to the Library staff for a book display - lesser book displays are provided for by exhibition cases on a mezzanine floor off the main lobby. In the gallery, complementary fixtures of swivel ceiling lamps and a network of floor sockets to hold removable supports for upright stands make possible displays arranged in a variety of patterns across the room. The adjoining theatre has seats for 81 persons and is equipped for film projecting.

In the two reading-rooms a maximum of natural light is assured by full-length windows along the north and south walls - for this part lies in front of the south wing. The west wall, the object of much comment, has its facing of Tyndal stone pierced only by six rows (three to each floor) of single glass bricks (alternating 11-10-11 bricks in the three rows), which give the exterior a resemblance to a fortress, but inside most usefully break the glare of the declining sun. They become suffused with the colours of the sunset, and after dark send the inside lights sparkling across the campus.

Although the move from the several departmental libraries disturbed one set of conveniences in library service, the new building provides for another. The current periodicals are assembled in a reading area opening off the main reading-room, and the maps in a corner beyond the periodicals. There is a bibliography room midway between cataloguers and reference librarians. On the ground floor the Architecture students, deprived of their former study quarters, have one corner marked off for their use and to hold their books; and there is a room that houses the microfilm reader, and another that is intended for a music listening-room. Upstairs in the stacks there is an Icelandic reading-room, a row of seminar rooms, and one that contains the "Rare Books" collection. The sunny south-east corner on the three floors in descending order holds the Library Board Room, the staff lounge, and the receiving room (for packages, not guests). Each floor of the stacks has a series of carrells (individual study cubicles) round the windows on the north and east walls, a total of 124, while provision for more private working quarters for sixteen members of the faculty has been made in a glassed-in compartment that extends out into the upper regions of the main reading-room, at the level of the third floor of the stacks.

The majority of the books on the Fort Garry site were moved into the new building within a period of little more than a fortnight, between the end of the spring exams and the opening of Summer School. Re-organization, and settlement of problems both antedating and caused by the move, are still in progress and will very likely not be finally disposed of for some time to come. The guarantee that the University Library will provide a more adequate service for faculty, students, and community, lies in its possession of the necessary physical equipment.