

MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Volume 14, No. 1 — Spring 1966

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Cover

Designed by S.H. Bernstein,
Winnipeg Landscape Architect,
for the Association's Annual
Meeting - "Regional Library Service".

Manitoba Library Association

VIRDEN, MANITOBA

MAY 27-28, 1966

GUEST SPEAKER: W.O. MITCHELL,
CANADIAN AUTHOR AND PLAYWRIGHT —

THEME: REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE —

SPEAKERS: MISS DONALDA PUTNAM,
SUPERVISOR, REGIONAL LIBRARIES
DIVISION,
SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL LIBRARY.

MISS MORJORIE MORLEY,
DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES,
MANITOBA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY.

MR. GEORGE NOBLE,
LIBRARIAN,
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA EXTENSION
LIBRARY.

ANNUAL MEETING



Virден - Elkhorn Regional Library

The Virден-Elkhorn Regional Library is now in its seventh year of operation. The library was housed in a large room on the second floor of the Mines and Resources Building in Virден until February of this year when we moved to a beautifully spacious red brick building (4000 square feet of floor space!) in the centre of town. This building has been purchased by the Library Board and is owned jointly by the Town of Virден, the Municipality of Wallace and the Village of Elkhorn. The main library in Virден and the branch library in Elkhorn serve this whole area.

In 1959 we started our library with approximately 1700 books, a quarter of these being in the branch library. Today, we have about 11,000 books. Both libraries are well patronized by adults and children alike. It is very gratifying to see the interest created by our new reference table with reference book shelves on each end and about a dozen stools. After four o'clock each afternoon these stools are well occupied by students doing their homework and making good use of these reference books.

Our circulation has increased every year and in 1965 was 36,870. Now that we are located on Main Street and on the ground level our membership has shown a very large increase. Older citizens now find it so convenient to come in and browse and enjoy our Reading Room.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery Travelling Exhibitions are displayed in the library for several months each year. We also have many displays of the work of local artists and school children. We pick up and exchange about fifty books every month at the Sherwood Senior Citizen's Home. Several country school teachers pick up and exchange about twenty books periodically for their classrooms.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all to Virден for the 1966 Manitoba Library Association Conference.

Vera L. Leckie,
Librarian.

HISTORICAL HORIZONS

Eleanor Riley,
Librarian,
Dept. of Agriculture.

The approaching Centennial gives librarians a golden opportunity to perform one of their most important roles, collecting local history. Every library across Canada should be able to provide authentic facts and interesting anecdotes of local historical significance. The library is the most natural repository for this information. It therefore follows that it is the responsibility of each library to be prepared to answer any questions on local history. The requests for this material will be many. School children from all grades will be asking for it. Speakers at official functions will require it and probably in a hurry. Committees on historical names and historical sites will visit the library. Now is the time to assess our collections and take necessary steps to fill in the gaps. It will not be easy to produce this material in a hurry unless we are prepared well in advance.

Since this material will not all be contained in books, librarians must "dig" for it. The search can be one of the most fascinating and rewarding projects of a librarian's career. It seems reasonable to suppose that leaders who have retired from active participation in community affairs might be called upon to serve on committees whose purpose would be to assist in this "digging".

Files of old newspapers will, in many cases, be the best source. Biographies of local pioneers who attained national fame would have appeared in the earlier issues of Canadian magazines. A resourceful librarian can suggest books or articles on Canadian history which make reference to local leaders and happenings. Archives of Provincial Libraries and Historical Societies will have scrapbooks from which valuable information can be copied. Carefully classified clippings and Xerox copies can form the basis for a collection which will serve each community well.

Of far greater importance is the material which people themselves can provide. Our "old timers" have "first hand" information which in many cases is more accurate and more entertaining than any written articles. Tape-recorded interviews with some of the early settlers may bring to life a wealth of material not otherwise available. (Service clubs are sufficiently interested to furnish tape recorders for this purpose). But such interviews must not be delayed. These people will not always be with us so it becomes necessary to seek their contributions now.

It is essential to publicize the fact that a library is building a collection of local history. Priceless papers, letters and books will not be offered unless the people of the community are aware that their treasures will be assured a safe, honored niche. The season of spring cleaning may see donations of long treasured books and papers. Families moving to new locations may find their personal archives too bulky to take with them. A death in the family may cause the home to be sold; possibly meaning that the library could receive valuable gifts. In many cases the present generation is pleased to know that the possessions of their ancestors will continue to be of value to the community they served so well. Special book plates bearing the name of the donor will provide added incentive.

So far we have been considering the recording of events of the past. There is another kind of history which is equally important. Sometimes we forget that the events of today become the history of tomorrow. Thus, it becomes the privilege as well as the responsibility of each library to keep scrapbooks of current events in the community. Care must be exercised in determining which events are worth recording and herein lies an added impetus to an intensely interesting task.

A project like this will not only benefit the community. It can serve to bring the people and the library closer together, to make the library a vital part of the activities and interest of the people it serves. And last but not least it will bring the Centennial project into every Canadian community and into the hearts of the Canadian people.

THE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF WINNIPEG

offers

A \$200.00 Scholarship for postgraduate study in Library Science

For information contact:

→ The Scholarship Convenor,
University Women's Club,
54 Westgate, Winnipeg.

A Book Review

CHARLES MAIR: literary nationalist

by Norman Shrive.

Published by University of Toronto Press. 1965. 309 p. \$7.50.

REVIEWED BY H. W. BOWSFIELD, PROVINCIAL ARCHIVIST.

The Papers of Charles Mair at Queen's University have been used on many occasions by literary and political historians of Canada. However, until Professor Norman Shrive, now of McMaster University, undertook his doctoral dissertation Mair had never been treated as a "whole" man. To date studies of Mair have been but fragments of his career.

Mair is recalled perhaps as the man who wrote some very uncomplimentary letters about the Red River Settlement people which appeared in eastern newspapers and who received a public whipping at the hands of Mrs. A.G.B. Bannatyne at the Settlement post office in 1869. Literary circles remember him as a nationalistic poet. Historians refer to him as a member of that group of super-patriots who became known as the Canada Firsters.

By a judicious and thorough use of the Mair Papers (covering a period of sixty years), Professor Shrive has added much to the patchy picture we have had of Mair and has interwoven all the elements of his career as a political, social and literary figure. Little has been written previously about Mair as a businessman and settler in Portage la Prairie, Prince Albert and Kelowna, or of his career as a Civil Servant in the Dominion Immigration Service. His biographer sets the literary man within his political, social and business framework and Mair's various careers, once fragmented and isolated, are now united.

Shrive, a professor of English, has devoted considerable attention in his biography to literary criticism. Whether Mair's poetry deserves this attention will be questioned by many for his poetry is of little lasting significance per se and is worthy of notice perhaps only as a forced attempt to develop a national literature. Professor Shrive by his over-attention to Mair's poetry has created a slight imbalance in his study.

Of the many merits in Shrive's work not the least is the critical analysis of the Canada First movement. Mair was one of the founders of this confused, narrow and closed corporation of young men who persistently sought the development of a Canadian national sentiment and who thought of themselves as a social, cultural and political elite. The group was confused in its inability to choose between Canadian autonomy and the Imperial connection. It was narrow in its base as an Ontario, English-Canadian, Protestant movement. And it

was ineffective because it never came to grips with the realities of the Canadian political existence.

Mair's letters from the Red River Settlement were representative of the Canada First mentality. As the other Canadians in the Settlement, Mair made many enemies. As the other Canadians, he was distrusted and disliked. He was as satirized by Alexander Begg, "a bumptious and cocksure young man". Age and experience in the West had, however, their mellowing effect and though he remained a nationalist his attitudes were no longer based in Ontario. He learned to understand and appreciate the problems of the frontier. Still, Mair's story is a sad one, the study of a succession of lost causes in political ideas and in poetry. Professor Shrive has made a distinct contribution in his account of the man and his times. Historical writing in Canada, particularly in the field of biography, has been happily enriched since the appearance of Donald Creighton's life of John A. Macdonald in 1952. To this new era in Canadian writing Professor Shrive has added a new title in the growing list of such studies.

MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

SCHOLARSHIPS

THE MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION IS
OFFERING TWO SCHOLARSHIPS OF \$ 150.00
EACH TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED
BY AN ACCREDITED LIBRARY SCHOOL.

Application forms may be procured from
this library or from:

The Corresponding Secretary,
Manitoba Library Association,
380 William Avenue,
Winnipeg 2, Manitoba.

When completed, applications should be
returned to the Corresponding Secretary
before July 15, 1966.

Manitoba Libraries in Review

MANITOBA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The library in the Manitoba Institute of Technology is younger than the school itself. Although the school was opened in 1963, the post of librarian could not be filled earlier than May, 1965. In this period, Miss G. Perrin, Instructor of the Library Assistants' Course, was doing her best in dividing her time between two equally demanding jobs.

The library occupies a central location in the school, and it was opened to the students in December, 1965. There are at present 1086 books, mostly of a technical nature and more than half of which have been acquired since the beginning of this year. Top priority is being given to building up an up-to-date, well-rounded collection. A federal grant of \$15,000.00 has been promised and has boosted our efforts in this regard. Book selection is done by pursuing the bibliographical sources relative to the subjects taught in the institute, and by receiving requests from the instructors who co-operate enthusiastically. We are confident of having a good collection of books within a year. The library received 207 periodicals and the number is always increasing as periodicals are the backbone of technical studies.

Circulation figures are increasing as the library acquires more materials. As probably befitting a technical school, the library uses a charging machine and has found it a point of interest among the technically minded students. Periodicals and the reference collection are used considerably by both staff and students. The number of reference questions is increasing even at this initial stage and the range is quite surprising indeed -- it varies from microwaves to L.S.D.! Several groups of students have been given library instruction at the instructor's request and it will be given regularly at the beginning of the academic year and whenever necessary.

To date the library has been a closed-stack library to help the library staff in organization; but beginning in September, 1966, the stacks will be open.

With libraries elsewhere, M.I.T. Library shares the problems of a shortage of staff and space. More space will be provided this summer by the addition of the area of a classroom. Additional library space will also be available when the Institute of Applied Arts is opened. The library staff is providing the necessary information to help in organizing the library of the Vocational Centre at The Pas, Manitoba.

The Manitoba Institute of Technology Library, like the school, stands at the threshold of new developments. We are happy with the progress made, but are very much aware of the areas needing improvements. We look forward to another year of great activity and growth.

Ganga B. Dakshinamurti,
Librarian.

NEWS

Librarians ...

Miss Eileen McFadden, Librarian of Brandon College Library, was elected President of the Brandon Council of Women, March 22, 1966.

Miss Dorothy Martin, B.A., is currently working towards a B.L.S. degree at the University of British Columbia. She will rejoin the Fort Garry Public Library staff on July 1, 1966.

Members of the association will be pleased to hear that Kent Oliver, Librarian of the Federal Agricultural Research Library, is back at his office after an absence of several months.

Mr. Carl Wicklund, Chief Librarian, Brandon Public Library, resigned his position on April 1, 1966. Mr. Wicklund held this position for six years. During these years, the circulation of library material increased from 85,000 to 138,000.

Mrs. P. O. Hancharyk has recently joined the staff of the Fort Garry Public Library.

Misses Anne Mohr, Doris Moffat and Sharon Tully, of the Winnipeg Public Library, have been accepted and will be attending the University of British Columbia Library School in the fall.

Libraries

The Fort Garry Public Library has received a bequest of more than \$1,000 worth of books from the estate of H.P. Leo Rutherford. The collection includes a number of encyclopedias, dictionaries and other reference material covering a wide variety of topics.

WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY - HENDERSON REGIONAL LIBRARY - AGREEMENT

The Winnipeg Public Library and the Henderson Regional Library have reached an agreement for the exchange of services which took effect on April 1, 1966. Under the terms of the agreement the Winnipeg Public Library will make its facilities available to residents of the area served by the Henderson Regional Library and the Henderson Regional Library will make its facilities available to the residents of the city of Winnipeg, each on the same terms as resident borrowers. Each patron will be required to register in his own library and if he does not present an up-to-date library card from his home library he will be required to pay a non-resident fee. The plan is set for an experimen-

tal period of one year and full records of library use will be kept. The data gathered will be useful in planning future co-operation between the two libraries and is expected to throw light on the problems of library services in a metropolitan area. Each library sees immediate benefits in this arrangement for its own clientele. It may be viewed as a first step toward the goal of a metro-wide library card.

West Kildonan Public Library has entered into an informal agreement with the Winnipeg Public Library for the processing of books. Charges are on a piece-work basis, with delivery on a two-week cycle. Mrs. Ruth Good, librarian of the West Kildonan Library, anticipates that the result will be to free her staff for more pressing duties, foremost of which she rates reference service to school children.

The Winnipeg Public Library has subscribed to the computer-produced catalog of the Ontario New Libraries Project (ONULP). It is the intention of the library to incorporate this carefully selected library into its basic collection. Mr. H. H. Easton, Chief Librarian, foresees the possibility of using copies of this catalog at various points as a partial guide to the resources of Winnipeg's Central Library.

The Winnipeg Public Library is getting a great deal of use out of Library Technology Reports, published by the American Library Association. This service is of course available for consultation by any library which wishes to do so.

Literature

The Medical College Library, University of Manitoba, has recently published the following bibliography: Catalogue of Books on the History of Medicine in the Ross Mitchell Room, of the Medical College, University of Manitoba. 1966. 133 p.

A library kit on mental retardation is available from the Canadian Association for Retarded Children, 87 Bedford Rd., Toronto, Ontario. The kit consists of nine pounds of material including books, articles, and papers covering many aspects of mental retardation suitable for lay and professional people. The cost is \$5.00 plus \$1.90 for shipping charges.

NEW CANADIAN LIBRARY PERIODICALS:

Bookman, published by the Ontario Northwestern Regional Library Co-operative. Bi-monthly. From: The Co-operative, Waterloo and Moodie Streets, Fort William, Ontario.

The Town and Country Librarian, published by the London, Ontario Middle-sex County Library. Semi-annual. From: The Library,

County Bldg., Rideout St., London, Ontario.

Lake Ontario Regional Library Co-operative Newsletter.

From: The Co-operative, 520 Weller St., Peterborough, Ontario.

Meetings

Mr. D. W. Foley, Chief Librarian of the University of Manitoba Library was guest speaker at the Manitoba Library Association general meeting, March 16, 1966. He spoke and showed slides on his trip to Russia last summer. The meeting was held in the Library Theatre of the Elizabeth Dafoe Memorial Library, University of Manitoba.

A general meeting was held on April 21, 1966 at the Canadian Wheat Board Building. The program was provided by the Computer Society of Canada and consisted of a panel which included Mr. Maurice Head of the Wheat Board, Mr. Don Mathieson of Great-West Life, and Mr. Michael Burns of IBM. Slides and a film were shown and a tour of the computers used by the Wheat Board was given. (Articles based on this program will be published in a future issue of the Bulletin.)

MEMO TO LIBRARIANS

When you have news items of interest to other members of the Manitoba Library Association why not drop a note to the Bulletin Editor, c/o 308 Norquay Bldg., Winnipeg 1, Manitoba. A postcard will do.