

**MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN**

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**Cover**

Winnipeg's City Hall, site of the  
Manitoba Library Association's Annual  
Conference. Photograph courtesy of  
the Manitoba Department of Industry and  
Commerce.

# **Manitoba Library Association**

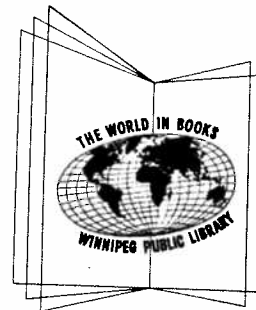
WINNIPEG

June 2-3, 1967

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. J. Matthews, Professor of English  
Literature, Queen's University, Kingston,  
Ontario

HOST LIBRARY: Winnipeg Public Library

## **ANNUAL MEETING**



### **A MESSAGE FROM H.H. EASTON, CITY LIBRARIAN**

The Winnipeg Public Library (or more properly, the Libraries Department of the City of Winnipeg) is honoured to welcome the annual conference of the Manitoba Library Association.

An event-filled decade has slipped by since the Association last met in Winnipeg. Libraries have mushroomed all over the Province, from Morden-Winkler to Thompson, from Pinawa to Russell, until over 60% of Manitoba's people are served by public libraries. Around Winnipeg, a half dozen attractive new library buildings are the focal points of community pride.

Things have moved in Winnipeg too. Four new branches have been added to the system, three of them in new buildings. The bookmobile has grown to a fleet of three. Service has been extended to crippled children, senior citizens and shut-ins.

In spite of the impressive record, this is no time for complacency. Much remains to be done. There is still a large segment of the population which does not have library service. There is great variation in the quality of service available through existing public libraries. For example, the size of book collections to which library users have direct access runs from about 5,000 for some regional libraries to 140,000 in Winnipeg's Central Library.

This lack, these inequalities must be corrected as far as it is possible to do so. It can be done, with modern techniques and with a large measure of goodwill. This is the challenge as we meet again in Winnipeg.

# EVERGREEN REGIONAL LIBRARY ICELANDIC COLLECTION\*

S. Stefansson,  
Secretary,  
Evergreen Regional Library Board

## THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW ICELAND

In 1875 the government of Canada set aside for exclusive settlement by Icelandic immigrants a district on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg, which at that time lay north of Manitoba. The first settlers, who arrived there October 21, of the same year, called their colony New Iceland and their first settlement in it Gimli.

These pioneers must have had implicit faith in the Icelandic saying, "Blindur er bókláus maður," (Without books a man is blind), for in their small chests and bundles which contained only the barest necessities of life and a few of their dearest treasures, they had conveyed their books... across the ocean... to Ontario... finally to New Iceland. Their first plea for a school was sent out nine days after arrival; their first paper, hand-written, was issued the ensuing winter; and occasionally poetry, also hand-written, was publicized by nailing copies to trees!

During the next two years of incredible hardship, death thinned their ranks considerably, but the survivors gave a hearty welcome to the patron of the colony, Lord Dufferin, then governor-general of Canada, on his arrival September 1, 1877. After visiting many homes he said: "I have not entered a single hut or cottage in the settlement which did not contain, no matter how bare the walls or scanty the furniture, a library of twenty or thirty volumes."

In the transition period from Icelandic to English, the culture of the colony was largely maintained and fostered through these books, and is so to some extent even yet among older people of Icelandic origin, with new books and publications from Iceland being brought across the sea, and also a sizable number of periodicals published by the colonists themselves in the early days. Although few in number, they even ventured to found a publishing company.

The constant demand for reading matter led to the creation of library associations to establish collections of books and periodicals available to members. In fact, they served as community libraries, the books being housed in private homes, or else in places frequented by the public. The first of these societies, the Aurora (Aurora... Dawn), was founded at Gimli in 1887 by Mr. Gudni Thorsteinsson and Mr. Jonas Stefansson, who gave some of their private book stock to it. Other such societies sprang up throughout New Iceland (as indeed they did in Icelandic settlements everywhere on the continent). The Aurora Library Association was shortlived, but a successor, Lestrarfjelagid Gimli (the Gimli Library Association),

\*This article will also appear in a forthcoming Canadian Library Association Occasional Paper and has been published with the Association's permission.

founded in 1911, still remains, and was active till January 1967. Others still surviving are Harpa (the Harp) of Riverton, active till December 1965, and one operated by Esjan of Arborg, a chapter of the Icelandic National League, which is still active.

These three have now donated or pledged their book stock or selections from it to the branches of the Evergreen Regional Library in their respective communities, with a record of all of it to be kept at the central library in Gimli. The Icelandic book collections so far received or pledged consist of some 3,600 volumes, with more being added by private donation. Many of the books are, however, duplicates. They vary in quality from non-descript popular novels, original or translated, to the choicest masterpieces of Icelandic literature. There are also some excellent translations of works of high literary merit from various languages. Non-fiction predominates somewhat over fiction, especially if periodicals are included, as they generally are in Icelandic libraries. There is a considerable amount of poetry, biography, history, memoirs and folklore.

Taken together, these collections constitute a tangible record of the culture of the pioneer Icelandic colonists of Canada and of their descendants.

## THE EVERGREEN REGIONAL LIBRARY

The Evergreen Regional Library was established through a referendum passed by five municipalities at once, and is the largest rural regional library in Manitoba. Its branches at Arborg and Riverton and its central library at Gimli, were all opened on the same day, November 1, 1965. It also serves the rural municipalities of Gimli and Bifrost. The town and the rural municipality of Gimli have now by joint effort erected a centennial library at Gimli to serve as headquarters for it.

The Evergreen region includes much of what was formerly New Iceland. After the colony was thrown open to general settlement, people of various ethnic origins moved into it and their descendants occupy it now, side by side with those of Icelandic origin. Some of these groups, too, endeavored to maintain community libraries in the language of the first pioneers.

To preserve the culture of these varied groups, the Evergreen Regional Library, while having its main book stock in English, has for one of its objectives to become multilingual, and welcomes contributions in any language, provided the books be acceptable for library use.

## NEWS

### BRANDON COLLEGE LIBRARY

Brandon College gains university status on July 1, 1967. The institution offers university teaching in four fields - arts, science, music and education. Its origins go back to Prairie College which was founded in Rapid City by Baptists in the early 1880's. Brandon College itself began at the turn of the century as a Baptist liberal arts and theological institution. It was first affiliated with the University of Manitoba, then with McMaster University and subsequently with Manitoba again from 1938 when, in grave financial crises, it was reorganized as a private non-denominational liberal arts college.

The College has reason to be proud of its academic record. Each year, even in the depression, a significant number of graduates proceeded to advanced training in the professions and subject fields. From this number the College can boast The Honourable T. C. Douglas, Mr. Stanley Knowles, Dr. W. Bigelow, distinguished Toronto surgeon, and many other well-known professional people. Many Canadian scholars have served the College faculty. Of special note are two presidents - John R. C. Evans who steered the college through thirty years of economic deprivation and John E. Robbins who has guided the development through the expansion years.

The College student body, faculty, facilities and library have been undergoing progressive growth during the past few years. Nearly 800 full time students were enrolled in 1966/67. The library has a collection of nearly 60,000 volumes and a staff of 14 full-time and three-part time members.

Miss Eileen McFadden, Brandon College Librarian, attended a meeting of Western Canadian university library administration hosted by the University of British Columbia in February.

Mrs. Maria Szalay attended the recent conferences on the Anglo-American cataloguing code and on automation, both of which were held in Vancouver in April.

Mr. T. A. Mitchell, Supervisor of the Resources Centre, Faculty of Education is studying at the University of Western Michigan during the spring quarter.

The Manitoba Government 5% sales tax passed at the recent session of the Manitoba Legislature will not apply to books, newspapers and periodical publications.

Miss Marjorie Morley, Provincial Librarian, and Miss Gertrude Perrin, Instructor, Manitoba Institute of Technology attended the Workshop on Library Automation at the University of British Columbia, April 10-12, 1967.

The following staff from the University of Manitoba also attended the Workshops on the Anglo-American Cataloguing Code and Library Automation: Miss K. Coddington, Mr. Derek Francis, Mrs. M. Wilcock.

### WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY

A very successful Canadian Library Week was held. Special displays were on at all branches. At Osborne Branch several local stamp collectors displayed their collections, at McPhillips the Horticultural Society helped with a timely gardening display, in the Downtown Branch window modern teaching aids were on display, courtesy the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba. Banned books were displayed at Cornish, and photography at the St. John's Branch. The West End Library displayed a microfilm reader and the River Heights Library displayed travel and illustrated children's books. The Main Branch had a paper money display and provided one evening of live entertainment with several dance groups. Events were accompanied by book displays and booklists. Another feature of library week were the book awards. These were donated by publishers. The Canadian Library Week Banquet at which Mr. James Gray, author of *The Winter Years* was guest speaker, was attended by 225 guests.

Mr. H. Easton, Mrs. Helen Robertson, Mrs. M. Allison and Miss C. J. Pert will attend the Canadian Library Association Conference in Ottawa, on June 17-22, 1967.

Miss N. Siemens will attend the American Library Association Conference, June 25 to July 1, 1967 in San Francisco.

### MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Manitoba Library Association is offering two scholarships of \$150.00 each to students accepted by an accredited library school for study towards a Bachelor of Library Science Degree. Application should be made before July 1, 1967. Forms may be obtained from: Miss A. L. Florence, Chairman, Scholarship Committee, Winnipeg Library Service Centre, 436 William Avenue, Winnipeg 2, Manitoba.

MANITOBA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION  
(as amended to date - June, 1965)

Article 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Manitoba Library Association.

Article 2. Objects

The objects of the association shall be to promote library service and librarianship to advance the common interest of those engaged in library work and to stimulate public interest in libraries in the province of Manitoba.

Article 3. Members

Any person or any organization in the province may become a member.

Article 4. Officers and Executive Committee

- (a) The officers shall be members in good standing.
- (b) The officers shall be: a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, and a treasurer to be elected at the annual meeting.
- (c) These five officers shall, together with the retiring president, chairman of standing committees also to be elected at the annual meeting, chairman of special sections and members of the Council of the Canadian Library Association residing in Manitoba, constitute the Executive Committee.
- (d) The executive committee shall have power to add to its number not more than three members for the purpose of providing representation for regional areas not previously represented.
- (e) Five members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the executive.
- (f) Any three officers of the association shall constitute a sub-executive committee for the purpose of taking executive action on any emergency matter which may arise.

Article 5. Duties of officers

- (a) President - The president shall preside at all meetings of the association and of the executive committee, and shall be ex-officio a member of all committees, and perform such duties as usually devolve upon the president.

- (b) Vice-President - The vice-president shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the president in his absence, or on request.
- (c) Secretary - The secretary shall keep the minutes of all general and executive meetings and attend to all correspondence, shall be responsible for notification of all general and special meetings, and shall present an annual report at the annual meeting of the association.
- (d) Treasurer - The treasurer shall collect dues, give receipts, and enter same in proper books; be custodian of all funds of the association; keep the same on deposit in a bank designated by the executive; submit a financial statement to each executive meeting; and make an annual report of receipts and expenditures at the annual meeting of the association.

Article 6. Committees

Standing committees shall be established by the by-laws of the Association.

Article 7. Sections

- (a) Special sections of the association may be organized as provided in the by-laws.
- (b) Each section shall represent a field of activity distinct from that of other sections of the association.
- (c) Each section shall have complete autonomy over, and responsibility for the conduct of its own affairs and the expenditure of its funds.

Article 8. Dues

- (a) The fiscal year of the association shall be from May 1st to April 30th.
- (b) Personal membership dues shall be two dollars annually for members residing in nineteen municipalities which make up Greater Winnipeg; one dollar annually for members residing elsewhere in Manitoba.
- (c) Corporate or organizational membership dues shall be ten dollars annually.
- (d) No one shall be a member in good standing until the annual fee is paid.
- (e) All fees are due and payable at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Article 9. Meetings

- (a) The annual meeting of the association shall be held on a day between May 15th and June 30th.
- (b) There shall be also at least four other general meetings from September to May at times to be set by the programme committee.
- (c) Special meetings may be held at the call of the executive committee or the sub-executive.

- (d) Notices of the annual meeting shall be mailed to all members in good standing ten days prior to the date of such meeting.
- (e) For the transaction of business at any general meeting and for the election of officers twenty per cent of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Article 10. Tenure of Office

No member shall hold the office of president or vice-president for longer than two years in successions.

Article 11. Amendments

- (a) Amendments to the constitution of this association shall be made only at the annual meeting thereof, by a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- (b) No proposition to amend shall be acted upon unless written notice thereof, signed by at least ten members of the association, has been given to the secretary at least twenty-one days prior to the date of the annual meeting.
- (c) A copy of such proposition shall be embodied in the notice of the next annual meeting.

B Y - L A W S

Order of Business

- By-law 1. (a) At all regular meetings of the association, the following shall be the order of business, subject to change, however, by vote of those present:
1. Reading and confirming of the minutes of the previous meeting.
  2. Unfinished business and business arising out of the minutes.
  3. Reports of officers.
  4. Reports of committees.
  5. New business.
  6. Adjournment.
- (b) At the annual meeting, the report of the nominating committee and the election of officers and chairmen of standing committees shall follow new business.

By-law 2. Annual Reports

The secretary, the treasurer, and the chairmen of the standing committees shall present written reports at the annual meeting.

By-law 3. Nomination and Election of Officers and Chairmen of Standing Committees

- (a) A committee to nominate officers and chairmen of standing committees shall be appointed by the executive committee not less than one month prior to the annual meeting.

- (b) Any member of the Association may make additional nominations from the floor at the annual meeting, provided that consent to stand has been obtained from the nominees.
- (c) In case more than one member is nominated for any office, election shall be by ballot, and when more than two members are nominated for any office, the preferential voting method shall be used.

By-law 4. Standing Committees

- (a) The standing committees of the association shall include:
  1. A committee on programmes to make plans and arrangements for the regular meetings of the association.
  2. A committee on membership.
  3. A committee on legislative and co-operation with state departments.
  4. A committee on publicity and public relations.
  5. A committee on publication and distribution of a bulletin.
- (b) The Chairmen of the standing committees shall appoint the members of their committees.

By-law 5. Special Sections

On recommendation of the Executive the association may establish special sections under the following conditions:

- (a) Not less than 51% of the members of each section shall be members of the Manitoba Library Association.
- (b) The purpose of each section is to promote library service and librarianship within the field of its special interest and to co-operate in the promotion of general and joint enterprise with the association and all other library groups.
- (c) The presiding officer of each section shall present a report at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Library Association on the work of the year.

By-law 6. Special Committees

The executive committee may appoint special committees.

By-law 7. Provision to fill vacancies

The executive committee shall have power to fill any vacancies which may occur among the officers, the chairmen of the standing committees, or the members of the special committees.

By-law 8. Finances

- (a) The executive committee shall have power to incur expenses in the working of the association.
- (b) The executive committee shall authorise by resolution, the treasurer, or the president, or the vice-president, to sign and endorse all cheques and generally conduct the banking business of the association.

(c) The accounts of the association, including the balance sheet and general statement of income and expenditure, shall, prior to each Annual Meeting to which they are to be submitted, be audited by an auditor who shall be appointed by the members at the preceding annual meeting.

By-law 9. Power of Executive Committee

The executive committee shall have power generally to do all such things as in the opinion of the committee may be necessary or expedient to carry out effectively the objects of the association.

By-law 10. Amendments

These by-laws may be amended, or annulled, or have others substituted in their place or added to them by the executive committee, such changes to be confirmed at the following general meeting of the association.

Ed. note: Amendments to the constitution will be discussed at the business session of the Annual Meeting, June 3. Please bring this copy of the constitution for reference.