

Bulletin



*Manitoba
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Association*

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MANITOPA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

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PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRESS IN MANITOBA, 1958

May 12, 1958
TRANSCONA, Man.

"We have returned the three boxes of books which were on loan to us from the University Extension Library... We shall be opening our new library soon, early in June we hope, so will not need further shipments from your service. We should like to thank you very much for all your past cooperation and interest which we feel has helped us considerably in rousing an interest in libraries in our town.

"We have obtained the services of Mr. Stephen Buri as our librarian. He has had experience in library work in Cincinnati in a college library there. Also Miss Morley has helped in the selection and supervision of cataloguing the books... Thanking you once again for all your past help, I am

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Laurie Tegelberg"

The above excerpts from Mrs. Tegelberg's letter serve to point up one or two facets of the "new, improved" library picture in the Province. First, the Open Shelf-Travelling Library facilities of the University Extension Library have tended to encourage and stimulate the establishment of tax-supported public libraries, rather than "sap the initiative" of communities receiving such service. Recent announcements of the opening dates of two regional and two municipal public libraries in areas formerly using the University Extension Library seem to support this view. Secondly, books by mail and express - "mail order" library service - tend to whet the appetite for more books on shelves, close at hand. Thus, with the modest financial assistance of the Provincial Government, the communities listed below open their own library doors this summer:

Mrs. G.V. Watson,
Flin Flon Public Library,
Flin Flon, Manitoba.

Mrs. R.E. Coulter,
Russell & District Regional Library,
Russell, Manitoba.

Mrs. T. Tobain,
Glenwood, Souris Regional Library,
Souris, Manitoba.

Mr. Stephen Buri,
Transcona Public Library,
308 Oxford Street,
Transcona, Manitoba.

The Librarians plus two typists have been busily engaged in the Provincial Library ordering and classifying books, periodicals and pamphlets under the guidance of the Director of Library Services. The staff of the Provincial Library had selected the books prior to the arrival of these librarians. Future service from the University Extension Library will not be entirely cut off from readers in these new library areas; interlibrary loans of special or hard-to-obtain material will be available.

ST. JAMES PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENS

February 8, 1958
ST. JAMES, Man.

The first public library in Manitoba to be built entirely through public funds opened in St. James Saturday, February 8, 1958. Other library buildings in the province have been financed either through Carnegie grants or private donations, or were originally built for other purposes. The \$60,000 to construct the St. James library was raised through a city referendum last fall. It is the first public library to be built in Winnipeg since 1915, when the Cornish and St. John's libraries were constructed. Located at the corner of Portage Ave. and Wallace Road, the one-storey brick structure is just west of its old location in St. James Collegiate. The 60-foot square building has 7,200 feet of floor space, 6,700 more than at the Collegiate. Reading rooms have sound-proof acoustic tile ceilings and silent light switches. Indirect lighting and two large picture windows provide natural illumination.

The library now has 8,000 books, but the new building could handle about 30,000. Last year the library circulated about 73,000 volumes. Congratulations go to St. James' Chief Librarian Mr. John Russell for the completion of an important undertaking.

-- Winnipeg Tribune, Feb. 7, 1958

NEW LIBRARY BUILDING PLANNED FOR FORT GARRY

April 24, 1958
FORT GARRY, Man.

Mr. Justice Ralph Maybank has consented to chair a committee to work toward a new Fort Garry Library building. Members of the Library Board, along with a group of interested Fort Garry citizens met Monday 21st April with George Stewart, architect for the proposed new structure, and as a result of the discussion Mr. Maybank was asked to accept the chairmanship. Members of the committee have yet to be appointed and will probably number seven to fifteen, including the five Board members.

The proposed new library will be located on the Pembina Highway property immediately south of the Municipal Hall. Preliminary sketches have been prepared by the architect, and a scale model of the exterior constructed. The building will cover 4,800 square feet, and its capacity of 30,000 volumes is estimated to serve the Municipality for approximately 10 years without structural additions. Plans show an L-shaped structure with the children's wing at the rear. There will be an adult reading and reference room, and accommodation for general work rooms, staff rooms, and a film library.

-- Fort Lance, April 24, 1958

February 8, 1958
SOURIS, Man.

Mr. G.C. Noble
Librarian
University Extension Library

Dear Mr. Noble:

I am enclosing the following information which I hope can be used by the Bulletin.

Souris has always been a library conscious district. For over thirty years the members of the local I.O.D.E. have kept up a very splendid library. All the work in this library has been voluntary. The book lovers of Souris owe a great debt of gratitude to this group.

However, when some few people of the town became interested in the government's offer to provide a grant of \$10,000 towards Regional Libraries they decided that now was the time for Souris to step forward and take advantage of this opportunity.

A group of interested people was called together by Miss Vera Patrick, whose home is Souris, and who had just retired from teaching in Daniel McIntyre School, where she did a great deal of work in the library. She knows library work and the Regional Library Act down to its finest detail. Thus it was that the Souris library committee got away to such a good start. An executive was formed with about twelve members who were very anxious to get the Regional Library in Souris.

The members of the group went to every home in the town and Municipality of Glenwood which borders the town. The members were not satisfied in getting the required signatures necessary in order to place our petitions to the Council. They got many times the number needed. This was not done without expending considerable energy and time and meeting a certain amount of opposition.

Visits were made to Councils of surrounding Municipalities to seek their co-operation. Miss Patrick arranged for two book displays to be set up by the University Extension Library.

The council decided to accept the petition and voting was to take place in October. The committee decided to go on an All Out campaign. The members of the local Rebekah Lodge made house to house calls to be reassured that all who signed the petitions were going to vote. The members of the Women's Institute also canvassed the farms in the district to get all votes accounted for. Banners were printed to put on cars advising all to vote. Window displays were put in local stores. The committee was worried for a while when a counter-proposal was introduced that Souris needed a new school more than a library.

We voted in October and were delighted when the By-Law passed both in Souris Town and the Municipality of Glenwood. A Regional Library Board was formed with Mr. H. Buscarlet as Chairman, Members, Mr. C. Saunderson, Mr. R. Cartlidge, Mrs. J. Philip and Mrs. J. Leslie as secretary.

This group owes a great deal to Miss Marjorie Morley, Librarian at the Legislative Building and to Mr. M. Coleman, Librarian of the Brandon Library, who gave greatly of their knowledge and experience.

The committee was lucky in getting a suitable location for its library at a reasonable rent. Applications for librarian were called for and again luck was with the committee in securing the services of Mrs. Ada Tobain who is an avid reader and has an extraordinary love of books. Mrs. Tobain is taking a course in librarian work in Winnipeg at present where \$5,000 worth of books are being ordered and catalogued for the Souris Library.

The committee hopes to be ready to open the library in May or June and to bring a great new world of reading to the Souris public - truly a dream come true.

Sincerely,

Mrs. F. Ruth Leslie

June 2, 1958
SOURIS, Man.

The Librarian
University Extension Library
Winnipeg, Man.

Dear Friend:

I am packaging this book up for Ronald this morning. I must thank you for all your kindness in sending me books these past few years.

You have no idea the immense enjoyment I have had from them. I am sorry indeed that we have to sever our ties. I feel as I were losing a very dear friend. However, I shall make ample use of our own library now but shall always remember the many hours of happiness I derived from your books.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Allan Barclay

LIONS CLUB TO BUILD PUBLIC LIBRARY

February 20, 1958
DAUPHIN, Man.

Members of the Dauphin Lions club decided in February to build a Public Library building to serve the people of Dauphin and district. Approximate cost of the project is to be \$35,000.

Five projects have been given careful consideration by the club in recent months, and a vote by ballot was taken. Better than 95 per cent of the roster of 63 voting members cast their ballots to choose the public library project, and when the final decision was announced a motion that the vote be made unanimous carried 100 per cent.

The proposed new library will give greatly enlarged facilities over the present one and it is expected that there will be adequate accommodation also for a school for retarded children as a future undertaking for Dauphin. Built of masonry and glass, and designed by Roy M. Lev, of Winnipeg, the 60-foot long building will contain reading, reference, and administrative sections on the second level, and the children's department on the ground floor.

A site has not yet been selected but there are several in mind. A committee is to be set up shortly to start the ball rolling and construction of the library facilities is expected to begin soon.

— Dauphin Tribune, Feb. 20, 1958

SOME BOOKS I HAVE ENJOYED

by

D.N. RAINFORD

In my library I have never gone after the newest books, leaving these to those pale ladies of indeterminate age who hover around the Returned Books' Stand and snap them up like hens at feeding time, presumably on the recommendation of the bright new covers only.

Rather, I like to browse around the regular shelves and look up a few older friends. Some have passed on, to make room for younger, if not sturdier ones, but many are still holding their own and all of those I mention below are still listed at my library.

"Invasion 1940" reminded me of the younger Peter Fleming and his engaging and witty story of his incredible journey through China and up into the Sin Kiang country, told in "News From Tartary". Never an ardent lover of travel books myself, Fleming's I have enjoyed. He makes one interested in himself, as much as in the scenes of his wanderings.

Still read, I find, is Phillip Guedalla's "The Duke". His life of Wellington showed this author at his best; he had a subject and time that could fill his ample style and suit his purple passages, which pall somewhat in his other books.

The recent tragic death of Joyce Cary reminded me of the happy time I spent with his delightful "Mr. Johnson", the tale of a West African Negro clerk. Richly amusing, the story has the authentic flavour of character and background achieved only by the true artist.

We have to thank the unlikely person of Stanley Baldwin in the 1920's for giving Mary Webb the wide audience she deserved. I have just glanced again through the pages of her "Gone to Earth" and found the old magic crowding out of them once more. Rarely does a writer (Hardy springs to mind) entwine the atmosphere of the elements and the things of nature into the human story. The delineation of the timid, half-wild Hazel is a wonderful picture and the story proceeds tragically to an end that I vividly recall left me gasping.

A very limited novelist, in my opinion, is Anthony Powell, book-critic himself for the famous "Punch" magazine. However, his "A Question of Upbringing", a tale of middle class English schoolboys, is well worth the time of the most eclectic reader. Here is a real craftsman at work - a pity he couldn't keep it up in the sequel "A Buyer's Market", in which he over-plays understatement so much, I found passages that baffled me.

I must confess the novels of the late George Orwell left me cold. I dutifully read "1984" and went on to "Animal Farm" and "Keep the Aspidistra Flying" - somebody was wrong, maybe me. So it was with a thrill of surprise that I came upon his book of essays "Dickens, Dali and Others". For me he became a changed man; his lucidity, turn of phrase and shrewd penetration were a constant revelation of a very original mind. The long Dickens essay is a must for all Dickensians. The book also contains shorter essays on P.G. Wodehouse and Rudyard Kipling and, to show his versatility, Orwell goes on to examinations of the comic picture postcard and boys' weeklies (rarely, if ever, have these last two subjects received such thorough analyses from an "egg-head").

Hugh Walpole is another author I consider over-rated, although he reaches great heights in his "Rogue Herries". I enjoyed the later books in the Herries series, but with decreasing interest; this lengthy chronicle never quite recovers from the death of Francis Herries, the "rogue", at the end of the book to which he gives his name. It is given to few of us to be a Galsworthy.

Lastly, any ex-serviceman, particularly a soldier, should not miss reviving memories with Gerald Kersh's "Clean, Bright and Slightly Oiled". Autobiographical, his account of the futile efforts to make Guardsman Kersh an officer is highly diverting.

Even a brief summary such as this must make room for mention of that old master of the short story, W. Somerset Maugham, who has always maintained a

¶ Ed. note: Recently this situation has been partially remedied with the appearance of "Boys Will Be Boys, the story of Sweeney Todd, Deadwood Dick, Sexton Blake, Billy Bunter, et al." Lond., Michael Joseph, 1957.

story should have a beginning, a middle and an end, and proved it so often to confound the little architects of the formless incident.

So there are a few of the books I have enjoyed over a somewhat undisciplined period of reading for pleasure of twenty-five years. Not to everyone's taste, maybe, so on your next visit to your public library, browse around and make up your own list - you'll find it's fun.

CAN IT BE MEASURED?

by

Charles Leavens

In the old Margaret Scott School, now called Isaac Newton #2, there is this year an unusual set-up - unusual in that there we have nothing but grade seven, except for one ungraded class and one slow learner class. In all we have 300 pupils. Once a week each class has one library period. During January this year I gave all of these but the ungraded the Schonell Reading test. It occurred to me that you might be interested in how I did this and in any general results I achieved.

It was after the class had either renewed their books or taken out new ones that I began my testing. To cover a class took three separate library periods, each pupil spending about two minutes with me. As each pupil came up on call he or she was prepared to tell me his or her age in years and months. This I checked quickly by asking what the month of birth was. Each pupil sat facing me, a few feet away from the class and whispered the words on the test to me. Each showed keen interest, some even coming after four when I suggested it in instances where I wanted to clean up a few remaining members of the class. Few showed any nervousness.

The Schonell word list for reading is divided into ten groups of ten words each -- written across the paper in fives. Each group represents a year or a year's level. Any child who reached any point after making five consecutive errors was stopped and thanked for his effort. If he reached the eighth year and the sixth word of the next group of ten I counted his reading age as 8.6. Thus I had the chronological age and the reading age side by side. Here, I might say that four pupils of the Grade 7A reached the end of the sheet which I counted as Grade X or 15 year level. These pupils have quite high IQ's, I found on checking, but were not necessarily at the top of their class.

In a few cases where I thought I might have erred in my estimate of the pupil's reading level, or for verification, I shortly afterwards gave the pupil the Holborne Test of sentences. In each of these few instances, the results came close enough together to satisfy my mind. For example, the pupil at the top of the A class, with chronological age of 12.1 read at the Schonell 12.5, and on the Holborne sentence test at 12.6. Now this pupil has an Easter average of over 95%! On checking since with her (it came out) class teacher, our vice-principal, I am told that she does very well at anything she can study ahead of time. Of course, too, her IQ is over 135.

Did I inform the individual pupils at what level they had shown themselves? Not precisely. Let me digress for a moment. According to Fetherstone in his "Slow Learner", the reading age of the pupil should, to be satisfactory, approximate, within six months, the mental age. In such a case there is no need for worry.

As far as my interpretations of the results go for the 280 I tested I can see no relation between the mental age and the reading age. (I did not bother completing the ungraded pupils, once I had heard two or three.) The majority of the 280 tested showed below their mental age. The pupils of really low IQ who were taking the regular grade seven were, in some instances, reading well above their mental age.

I felt that a grade seven pupil in January should read at least at the Schonell norm of 12.5 as that is the fifth month of his twelfth year. Those below that level -- or at least below 12 years, I informed them they were below, and asked them to show me from time to time their choice of library book, for a quick check on my part as to title, story and vocabulary. For this was the only purpose of my testing, to help the pupil become more interested in reading. After Easter, too, if their written reports to me on the books or stories they had read had not measured up to what I thought they should have, I re-arranged the seating at the library tables so that poor readers would be together and thus would not tend to interrupt or bother those who enjoy their reading. In this way, too, I have been more easily able to check on the weaker ones, and help them choose suitable books. I think I can safely say that these few changes have achieved an improvement.

Since Easter, too, I have had the pupils write the story of the book they have just read -- quickly, and from memory, right in front of me, on half foolscap, with no notes in front of them. This was each second week or second appearance in the library. Thus they had a full two weeks to read the book, if they so chose. I can safely say these accounts have proven more interesting than those they apparently struggled over earlier in the term, and turned in in their note books.

Although I have not done anything specific with the Schonell results, such as tabulate how many are half a year, a whole year, two years, or more than two years behind the norm, or ahead of it, I can see that those behind are five or six times as numerous as those ahead.

I have thought of retesting some of the pupils in June, but feel that the four and a half or five months' time might not show anything. Still, it's on my mind, for these pupils move on next term.

May I say a word generally? Not everyone, but those beginning to read do want mysteries, Enid Blyton especially, although I tell them every book is a mystery -- in its outcome; but I have little worry over this, for didn't I begin with Tom Swift, Horatio Alger, Jack Hathaway, and the Hentys?

I have recommended to my principal that next year the top classes in the grade be given two library periods instead of one, for they do seem to benefit most. To other teacher-librarians I suggest that they too will feel more content if they use such a test as the above to find the reading level of their pupils.

HAVE YOU SEEN?

- Recruiting Poster available for career nights, speakers, etc. This poster was used successfully by the Recruitment Committee of the Manitoba Library Association at the St. James YMCA annual Career Night last month. See Miss Coddington or other committee members.
 - "Blueprints for Better Reading; school programs for promoting skill and interest in reading", by Florence Cleary. Published by the H.W. Wilson Company, 950 University Avenue, New York. 216 pages, \$3.00.
 - "Fountains, not Reservoirs: The Public Library", a 15-page booklet published by the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago 11, Illinois. 25 cents.
 - "How About Your Public Library?", an 8-page folder on service standards. 25 copies, \$1.50 from the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago 11, Illinois.
 - "Let's Go to the Library", by Naomi Buchheimer. An attractive picture-story book, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York. \$1.95.
 - "Your Career as a Librarian", an 18-page illustrated pamphlet, published by Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois. Free.
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Then there was the library patron who wanted "a 'Western' with a difference". The desk assistant suggested "Code of the West; or, Me and My Catarrh", by Lady Zane Grey. When they found that the library's only copy was out the reader settled for "that doctor story which takes place in Oregon, you know - 'Not as a Ranger'!"

BURSARIES

April 18, 1958.

Miss Margaret Mackenzie,
Secretary,
Manitoba Library Association,
Winnipeg 9, Man.

Dear Miss Mackenzie:

A short time ago I received a letter from Miss Isabel Cummings, Chairman, Bursary and Scholarship Committee, Canadian Library Association. Miss Cummings wanted to know what assistance the Province gives to students in the Library field. I am enclosing herewith a copy of my reply. I thought perhaps you might care to publish this information in your Bulletin.

Yours very truly,

"W.C. Miller"

Minister i/c Provincial Library.

April 14, 1958.

Miss Isabel Cummings,
Chairman,
Bursary and Scholarship Committee,
Canadian Library Association,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Miss Cummings:

In answer to your recent letter, I wish to state that there are two bursaries available for persons wishing to obtain the Degree of Bachelor of Library Science from an accredited Library School. The bursaries will be awarded on the recommendation of the Minister and are open to Manitoba residents who hold a B.A. or equivalent degree. The money will be a loan and the applicant must engage in library work in the Province of Manitoba. The loan will be cancelled at the rate of \$500.00 for each year employed in library service in a public or provincial library. If the loan is not remitted for this type of service, suitable arrangements will be made for its repayment.

One bursary of \$1,000.00 is for a resident of Greater Winnipeg.
One bursary of \$1,000.00 is for a resident of Rural Manitoba.

Application forms are available from The Registrar, Department of Education, Room 140, Legislative Building, Winnipeg 1, Manitoba.

Applications will be received until July 15th, 1958, and should be sent to the Registrar at the above address.

Yours truly,

"W.C. Miller"

Minister i/c Provincial Library.