



Gratia A. Countryman and Family Papers.

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Libraries

Libraries are as old as civilization. And until very recently they have been collected by scholars for scholars.

They were the conservators of culture. We still have the great scholarly libraries in every country. Here we have the Boston Athenaeum, Peabody Museum, the Newberry of Chicago, the Huntington Library and many other richly endowed libraries open to scholars. Besides our Library of Congress, perhaps the largest national library in the world.

Then Universities have always had large and valuable libraries, like Louvain, the Bodleian at Oxford &c. Our own Universities have splendid working libraries which are kept up to the minute on the latest discoveries, inventions, political and social problems, medical science and all the humanities past and present. Students must be able to consult books, and the University Libraries will be the great storehouses of knowledge in our coming task of rehabilitation and an indispensable part of our coming educational program.

2) Then there are finely chosen Collections of books in the great industries. These libraries in industrial plants are for the research department, which almost every industry must have. These specialized libraries are among the very best collections on the special subject. Chemical laboratories, Food manufacturers, Duponts Rubber Companies, American Bridge Co and other Engineering firms and many others find their special libraries of the highly important to the industry.

All these types of libraries ~~might~~ ^{come under} ~~our~~ ^{consideration} subject, for they play a great part in our progress. But we recognize from all these great collections how important to education and how absolutely essential to knowledge they are when made available to students. New knowledge contributed by each generation gets quicker into books and libraries preserve them. When we think Education we must think libraries, with those dynamic tools - books.

Today we can consider only the Public Library, which contributes so indispensably to general education, which serves not only scholars, but the children and most of all the Common Reader. for informal education, is the libraries great job. We ~~now~~ ^{sometimes} call it adult education,

3 You must excuse my enthusiasm if I say that I think it is the greatest institution for general education in our educational structure, because books are dynamic teachers, and open up channels and inspiration for self education to the whole community.

Few people outside of the library staff can realize how many and how different people seek information at the library, day after day and how vast and various is the knowledge disseminated daily in the various depts of a large library system. Having in mind the enormous possibilities for lifting the intellectual level of the community, librarians have the constant aim of making the library accessible to all the people - of reaching out to all the people extensively and intensively with library service.

What is a library?

The position of the library in the educational world and recognition of its essential job was voiced by Alvin Johnson who called it "The Peoples University," and by Dr Learned of the Carnegie Corp. who describes it as a Community Intelligence Service which should disseminate knowledge as conveniently to the people as the local Post office or the Corner grocery through a competent and trained personnel. Is it that something to look forward to?

4) I would like to quote my own
definition Read

Read also Miss Wallace

These represent the ideas in the mind of
librarians and the purpose behind all plans.

Before we look forward to Library ^{in kind} Post
war problems, which are no different from
our problems after the last war, I would
like to go back and trace quickly some
of the developments ~~in~~ Public Library Service.
Franklin is said to have established the
first circulating library as he did the
elementary school and the library idea
~~tho it spread over the East rather quickly~~
had the same precarious existence as the
school, altho not the same active opposition.
It spread gradually through the towns of the
East and took root in some large cities.
Some really great men devoted themselves
to its growth. But not until 1876 was
the ^{modern} public library movement crystallized, when
a group of librarians met at Milwaukee <sup>where Thomas
William</sup>
in 1876, and organized the Amer. Libr Assoc.
This group were ardent believers in the public
library and the possibility of extending it more
widely, and in the training of its administrators.
Thereafter they held conferences annually for
discussion, sharing of ideas and methods and
the inspiration which comes from such meetings

5. Mr Melvil Dewey brought out his decimal classification of books, and Mr Poole, as a cooperation undertaking Poole's index to periodicals, other bibliographical aids for librarians began to appear as cooperation undertakings. Mr Dewey established the first library school in Columbia in 1887, and published a small code of cataloging rules, the first standardised rules (all I had ^{when I began} as a librarian).

Mr Herbert Putnam came ^{to the} ~~here~~ ^{as a librarian} ~~to the~~ Athenaeum in 1884, and immediately set to work on legislation for a free public library. The act passed in 1885, and work began ^{in a} building at once. In 1890 we were a going concern. Mr Putnam was a very far seeing man and believed in extension of library privileges. The idea of branch libraries was growing in the East, and he established three branches in the next two years before he left - The 90's was a decade of library extension, not only did branch libraries develop, but the State was made a unit of extension to towns and rural areas. New York in 1893 established a State Library Commission to encourage town and village libraries and loan books to them - a form of State aid. It was a very big step of extension work. The unit of the State

6: But spread very quickly to other States,
Mr began work on it at once as did
Wisconsin librarians, keeping each other
to spread the idea through our States by
speaking and writing. Wisconsin passed
the law and opened her Travelling library plan
in 1887. I haunted the Legislature in
1885, 1887 and in 1899 our State Commission
with travelling library appropriation was passed.

It was the great library development of
the 90's, ^{all over the country} an epochal stride, for in 1904
I had a paper at the A.S.A. Conference
which was published as a guide, on the
different State Commissions and what they were
doing. These Library Commissions are still
the active State agencies for encouraging
and guiding ^{local} library development.

The 80's and 90's were also the period
of the great growth of women's clubs.
They needed books, they couldn't function
without them. They threw the weight of their
influence into the work for local libraries
and travelling libraries. The whole
movement for branches
local libraries, and ~~State Commissions~~ ^{travelling libraries} for
rural sections and schools owes much
to women's clubs.

At the turn of the Century, Mr
Carnegie enters the picture. His

7) Generous funds to build library branch buildings in cities, and ^{greater} town libraries all over the country, accelerated library growth. We have 4 Carnegie branch buildings, and Minnesota has many. Every little town wanted a Carnegie building and many got them. In all, Mr Carnegie or later the Carnegie Corporation gave 52 million for library building, until the last war stopped building operations just as it has this time. And the Carnegie building ^{program} was never resumed. But the Corporation however has given to the A.L.A. for various purposes over 3 1/2 million in trust funds. (I had the pleasure of going to the Corps Board to thank them.) Mr Carnegie was certainly a good friend.

In the meantime through these decades the Library was reaching out to serve many groups: Classroom libraries and stations in the schools, Americanization work for foreign born, we did this intensively, Collections in fire engine houses, street car barns, factories, telephone exchanges, business houses &c. It was a real attempt, still in active operation, to become a very real community intelligence service and place books where everybody could get them, for democracy demands an intelligent citizenry. Not a few highly educated leaders.

8) The next decade saw the beginning of the County Library Movement, which appeared to ~~librarians and public officials~~ ^{also} spread rapidly all over the country, California leading with at present nearly every County organized with quite complete library service. ~~Here~~ This system uses the County as the ~~unit~~ ^{unit} for taxation and book distribution, either through a Central County ~~administration~~ ^{library} or through contract with a large library ^{in the county}.

We began here in 1912, with a small appropriation from the County Commissioners enough to make a demonstration.

In 1915, the County voted a mill tax and made a contract with the Mpls Library. We became a County library, loaning our books freely to any one in the County, besides using County taxes to develop a group of village libraries. We developed one of the most complete systems in the country, and we now finance with tax money 23 branches, 11 stations ^{usually} in local stores ~~usually~~, and equip 80 schools with changing collections. The County buys and a trained librarian visits all points about once a month, and calls upon 250 or more homes. (Mr Gale gave us a little bank building at St Bonifacio, and Richard and his wife and Father Jager helped us to open up. For awhile County trucks used to

9) appear at National Conferences, for demonstrations, but are needed no longer the Movement is too well ~~known~~ ^{established}.

Almost every state has a few County libraries. North Carolina with State aid granted to its State Library Commission has established County libraries or regional libraries in 80 of its 100 ~~libraries~~ ^{Counties in past 3 years}. East Tennessee in the T.V.A. district, has a Regional system — a combination library of several Counties. The South is more backward with library service, but Minnesota has been somewhat slow.

Many people have studied our American Co Library, but there are only 31 of our 87 Counties that have any kind of County service, 4 were established this fall and we will probably progress ~~now~~ more rapidly. But we might face our State's poor service. 3 Counties have no library service of any kind 8 Counties with no public libraries at all (except State Subscription libraries) and 24 Counties that have but one library each in the whole County. And most of these are rural Counties. Of our population of 2,700,000, more than 1,000,000 have no public library service. This looks as if Minnesota must get busy. ~~try~~

In the whole country however there has been great growth in County libraries

10) And I believe that the County library is the natural answer to rural library service and will continue to shape the national library structure. It may have to have state aid into a co-ordinated state system to equalize service for rich and poor areas.

Quote from myself.

And speaking of personal training, there has been great growth, from the first ^{library school} ~~one~~ in Columbia, other colleges and universities have established a Dept of Library Science on the college level until schools are adequate, if only we can recruit enough fine young people with a social as well as scholarly outlook. Books in a large library are not easily get-at-able without aid from an intelligent librarian. This is particularly true, and a fine staff is necessary for the next move that took place.

We were confronted by many problems after the last war, the Hospital Library Service was born then, but chiefly the movement for Adult Education began in the 20's + 30's, continuing to the present. We had many service men to keep and direct. And had always done adult education. But now Councils of Adult Education

11) were formed all over the Country.
Mr Moses Cartwright, headed and still
heads the National Council of Adult Educ.,
Lyman Bryson carried on a demonstration
in the Des Moines schools for a year.
We had a year here financed by the
Office of Education, adult classes in the
schools, ~~evening~~ and libraries, lectures in
the evening. The Amer. Lib. Assn.
appointed a Board of Adult Education
which still functions, and published a
very good series of reading courses called
"Reading for a purpose". Many libraries
large and small, set up a new service
called the Readers Advisory Service to
help individuals with planned reading.
Every other department in the library also
helped individuals to read consecutively on
some subject.

It was a great movement to make
older people feel that they were never
too old to learn, and they were no
longer humiliated to ask for Arithmetics
and other Elementary Subjects. The library
responded with enthusiasm and still does.
Our Museum formed many study classes, clubs
in Astronomy, geology, botany, birds, insects, &c.
You can obtain our Museum Notes with the
Schedule of classes, every week if you wish.
Mr Lewis has just issued a bulletin
in June

17) on Adult Education, and I notice many articles in recent A.S.A. bulletins urging preparation of resources and personnel for the coming wave of interest in Adult Education on the part of Service men and the general Community.

Quote

I have been trying to trace down the years the new movements which librarians with enthusiasm and missionary zeal have been developing and which make the present modern library what it is ^{modern library} ~~twining~~ branch libraries, travelling libraries, County libraries, work with children, hospital service adult education, the present State planning Committees, and social work and Americanization trying to reach out in every direction with books for everybody — for the education of the masses. And fighting every inch of the way for a budget to carry on. We are still a luxury in the minds of tax bodies, and we will always plan more, probably, than we can do just now at the home front the thing that we care for most is planning and thinking of the men who are coming home. Are we ready for the task. The Army and Navy feel that books and organized service was necessary to the Armed Service men. They purchased

1.3) 15 million cloth bound books besides
1 million contributed by the people. and
sent overseas, every year 30 million paper
bound, specially printed books. They employ
600 professional librarians. The American
Library in Paris has again been opened and
poetier librarians are receiving a course of
training. A survey showed that reading
among the men ranked higher than
athletics as a pastime. This is a reading
Army which is returning to use our
libraries (their libraries, I should say)
Now is the country equipped to serve him
Some libraries are admirably equipped and
are taking stock of their resources and
planning intensive work with high grade
personnel. But there is a discouraging
note Quote Miss Merrill.

Federal Aid to equalize service.
An immediate activity is concerned
with the Surplus Property Administration.
It will have under its control, hundreds
of thousands of books now in Army libraries
with the equipment that goes with them
These will be disposed of when demobilization
gets under way. The Army seems to be
agreeable to putting these books to public use
So the A.L.A. proposes to be there

The Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau Federation at a meeting in Chicago, December 10-11, attended by Miss Merrill, included in its resolutions "We urge renewed interest in extending library privileges to all rural people", and emphasis on rural libraries in a resolution on surplus property. Several library leaflets were included in the envelopes given to delegates.

Standards and Planning for Public Libraries. This leaflet met so warm

14) It is now campaigning for funds for
a special office in Washington prepared
to be on hand to take all preliminary
steps with Congress or the Surplus Property
A. or whom can give title to the books.
These books must be distributed according
to need through State Library Agencies
with the cooperation of school agencies, farm
bureaus, granges &c. Perhaps we can begin
to serve the other $\frac{2}{3}$ of the U.S.

Librarians believe in the equal right
to library service to every one, regardless
of where they live, and they believe that with
state and federal aid, it can be done,

End with McLeish

Paper sent to
Peripatitia