

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

(in three volumes)

VOLUME II

STATE OF MAINE

Forty-seventh Report

OF THE

Maine State Library

FOR THE PERIOD

July 1, 1942 to June 30, 1944

—

SUBMITTED BY THE LIBRARIAN

TO THE

NINETY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

1945



AUGUSTA, MAINE



*To the Legislature of the State of Maine:*

As Librarian of the Maine State Library I submit my report covering the period from July 1, 1942 through June 30, 1944. State Library reports in preceding years have carried detailed description of work in specific fields of our service. Such statements, with the exception of that of the extension work, are omitted from this report so that emphasis may be placed on undertakings and changes affecting the Library as a whole.

Probably the changes of most interest to the citizens of Maine who enjoy the privileges of our Library are two of lending routine: first, discontinuance of the postage refund on outgoing packages of books, no longer necessitating the return of petty sums to the Library; second, release of limitations on loans of genealogical items for the duration of the war, thus permitting patrons to borrow three books of this class at one time, instead of one.

Lawyers and legislators frequenting the Library find more table space available to them—still insufficient but not totally inadequate. This has been made possible through a plan for taking care of more material in our Book Annex. Other features of this plan, started seven years ago, were well within sight of completion when a real blow to the programme came through unavoidable loss of space, thereby effacing many hours of labor by the staff and extra assistants. Further effective work in the Annex must be deferred until the War has come to an end.

A change in the law relating to the reports of departments of the State permits the reduction from three hundred to one hundred and seventy-five of the reports to be deposited with the State Library for distribution and exchange. Section 18, chapter 333, Public Laws, 1943 indicates the manner of distribution of these reports. The law still requires that ten copies of each leaflet or pamphlet publication of each department be deposited with the State Library.

Our book buying policy has been indicated by the current demands for scientific and technical materials induced by training courses in the services and industries. The Legislature was generous in providing extra funds for such purchases. Our post war work is already in progress through our recognition of the necessity for building a stock of vocational and rehabilitation items, also general reading to meet the needs of those returning to a different mode of life, and particularly in our preparedness to take care of the intellectual requirements of the interim of adjustment. Condi-

tions have led us to defer purchases which would normally have been made to maintain the background of a library such as this; therefore it has seemed wise to establish a *deferred list*, assuring eventual purchase of foundation items.

The law library continues up-to-date. If any law collection is kept active it must bend to seemingly extreme prices, apparently necessitated by a limited selling field. Our funds have been strained but we have kept our sets unbroken and refused to lower our standards.

Increased interest in government has brought additional problems to our Library. The trend of ideas in our times has taxed and enlivened the intelligence of the Staff members, who must necessarily prepare themselves to meet new topics, daily, and handle them with expedition. Standard works of political, social and economic thought as well as current information on the countries of the world are available, supplemented by publications relative to war conditions.

We lack exhibition space for certain choice items and have too often been obliged to refuse rare gifts because of inadequate facilities. One of our most important and highly prized items was the original manuscript of ARUNDEL, which the author removed for the above reason. As long as it remained here, however, it was kept in the safe and made available to many writers and students who found it a source of real inspiration. We hope that the time is not far distant when our State can provide for the care and display of valuable possessions which rightly belong in a State Library. My preceding report carried a description of our set of original drawings of the State Capitol, by Charles Bulfinch, Architect, 1892. Through the clear-sightedness and generosity of the Governor and Council, these plans, heretofore impossible to consult because of their fragile condition, have been perfectly mounted and bound in such form that architects and students may study them. Among our so-called collections are the following: Maine Imprints, Maine Authors, World War I posters, Northeastern Boundary manuscripts, and occasional rare items not related to Maine, such as a Kelmscot Press copy of *Hand and Soul*, by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, printed for Way and Williams, Chicago, 1895.

By law the State Librarian is required to make in the biennial report suggestions for the improvement of the Library. It requires no law to induce me to present as a postwar activity the necessity for a Library Visitor. This is merely a ceremony of setting forth previous attempts, as originally presented by Dr. Henry E. Dunnack in the thirty-ninth report and as urged by

Mr. Oliver L. Hall in the forty-fourth report. I reluctantly call this long standing need "postwar planning", but since it is the kind of library expansion advocated throughout the United States under the heading *postwar*, it may be well to adopt that name, especially if it may receive more immediate attention. Maine will certainly be standing remote in the intellectual world if its library service cannot receive this consideration. There is no other equal field for the *continuance of education* and if our librarians are to have the time and spirit to give to building that continuing source of knowledge for our citizens it is plain that the service of the State Library must extend to librarians of our small public libraries, who will welcome help in problems of cataloguing, discarding, and assimilating materials in order to clear the way to the more important matter of assisting patrons. An understanding, experienced worker going into a town for a day or two can give courage to a librarian and conserve her vitality for those who look to the library for helpful, unhurried assistance and the kind of advice which will enable the residents of our small communities, including those returning from the services, to read, study and systematize their knowledge so that they may take up the torch with a comprehension of tomorrow's needs.

Beyond the reach of the town library, groups may be formed to use the State Traveling Library Collections and from this beginning establish public libraries. A Library Visitor can extend the use of these Traveling Library Collections, making urban book privileges available to rural communities.

No change in our library law is necessary to establish this work and I am including in my budget an amount sufficient to establish and carry it on in a proper manner. I have not interviewed any librarians or any organizations, nor have I tried to "harness" power of any kind behind my petition. The Legislature has been generous and reasonable in granting previous requests and I hope that they may have the confidence to grant this, which will bring to our citizens the opportunity through books to judge wisely in the postwar world.

**Library Extension.** With the exception of the few changes necessitated by the war and noted elsewhere in this report, the service rendered by this bureau has been continued on the same basis as in the past.

*Traveling Libraries.* It is gratifying to note that the war has not seriously curtailed the use made of the traveling libraries. From letters of appreciation for this service received from users of both the adult and juvenile libraries, it is evident that the need for such service is as imperative in time of war as in more peace-

ful days. Reading interests change with the times and as these newer interests are ascertained, books in line with current thought are selected for traveling library use. Just as in all libraries, postwar interests will be considered. The future would seem to present many opportunities for increasing the use of traveling libraries. That our men and women in the service are developing a deeper appreciation of the better type of literature has been proven by reports from various agencies, which are providing them with books while in the service. When they return home to village and farm that appreciation may well be encouraged by making good books available to them and where adequate public library service is lacking, traveling libraries should provide this essential service. The record of traveling libraries distributed during the biennium follows:

	General	Juvenile	Children	High School	Nature	Special	Total
1942-43	220	269	75	28	15	10	617
1943-44	200	222	82	32	19	14	569
							1,186
					TOTAL		1,186

Following is the record of circulation of traveling library books for the same period:

Adult fiction	34,020
Adult non-fiction	14,080
Juvenile	78,898
	126,998
Total	

*Farm Bureau Project.* In July, 1943, a change was made in the method of distributing traveling libraries to Farm Bureau groups. These groups are now treated as any other groups or individuals using the traveling libraries. Instead of routing the libraries through the various county agents, individuals or neighborhood groups now apply directly to the Bureau of Library Extension for traveling libraries, which are lent for the usual six months period instead of for three months as under the former project plan. Through the courtesy of Miss Nason and the county home demonstration agents, the present method of distributing the libraries was properly publicized.

*Illustrated Juvenile Collection.* During the past year, this collection has been revised and decreased in size in an attempt to form a moderate-sized basic collection of the best editions of standard juveniles. With the exception of the Newbery and Caldecott award books, all of which are included, the number of modern titles now in this collection is limited.



Each year during Book Week, ten books from the collection may be borrowed and used for exhibition purposes only. The borrower pays the return postage on the books.

*Discards.* As in the past, books no longer needed for traveling library purposes have been distributed to state institutions. During the past year, several other agencies have also been served in this way. Requests were received from various war housing projects for books, since these housing areas are without public library facilities. This need has been supplied in part by giving them both adult and juvenile books discarded from the traveling libraries. The projects so served include the following: Portland Housing Area, Lambert Park and Hyde Park at Bath, and Admiralty Village at Kittery.

Over a period of years, a collection of standard non-fiction titles in good condition formerly used in traveling libraries had accumulated. In the spring of 1943, a list of these books was mimeographed and distributed to a limited number of small libraries to be checked for titles which they might find useful. As a result, 1,012 books in this collection were sent to some seventeen libraries within the state.

The total number of volumes distributed to all agencies between July 1, 1942 and June 30, 1944 was 5,649.

*Organization Work.* This work consists of advising librarians and trustees of public libraries on the problems of administration and technique. It is accomplished both by means of correspondence and by personal visits. Numerous requests for information and help on various problems have been answered by letter and in several cases books dealing with the problems at hand have been lent to those persons desiring them. Visits have been made to the public libraries of the following towns: Bar Harbor, Cape Elizabeth, New Gloucester, Norway, Richmond, Skowhegan, South Paris, Topsham, Wiscasset and Yarmouth.

*Round Tables.* Due to war conditions, it became necessary to simplify the method of conducting the Round Tables as much as possible. Instead of arranging a formal program, a very informal discussion plan has been instituted. When the announcement of a meeting is sent out, each librarian is requested to submit a topic which she would like to have discussed at the forthcoming meeting. From the topics received a few days before each meeting, an order of the day is made up. Each meeting is conducted by a member of the State Library staff. This plan has proved workable and seems to have been satisfactory to all concerned. Librarians and trustees have graciously and helpfully shared in the

discussions, which have proved very worth while. It is agreed that these small group meetings are a valuable source of help and inspiration during these difficult days.

The following Round Tables have been held: May 27, 1943 at Pittsfield, conducted by Miss Stuart, assisted by Mrs. Stubbs and Miss Shaw, with eighteen present; May 10, 1944 at Norway, conducted by Miss Shaw, with twenty-one present; May 18, 1944 at Belfast, conducted by Mrs. Stubbs, with fourteen present; May 24, 1944 at Yarmouth, conducted by Miss Stuart, with nineteen present.

*Talking Book Machines.* In July, 1943, the project of providing talking book machine service to the blind, formerly carried on by this bureau, was transferred to the Department of Health and Welfare.

*Stipend Payments.* A stipend is paid annually to all cities and towns which appropriate money from taxation funds for the support of a free public library, distributed as follows:

To towns appropriating \$475 or less, 10%  
 To towns appropriating \$476 to \$1900, 7%  
 To towns appropriating \$1901 to \$5000, 4%  
 No municipality shall receive annually more than \$200.

The following total payments have been made in the last two years:

1942	1943
\$8,596.22	\$8,782.73

The towns of Fort Kent, Madawaska, Standish, and Turner have been added to the list of those appropriating funds for library purposes, thus increasing the total number of stipend libraries to 190.

*Gifts and Bequests to Maine Public Libraries, 1942-1944.* With pride, the munificent Stodder Fund of the Bangor Public Library is here mentioned. The larger part of this bequest of \$1,020,791.82 made by George Tyler Stodder and James Chesterman Stodder was received in 1942 and 1943. The board of editors of *Who's Who in America* has posthumously awarded a citation to the donors for outstanding memorial gifts to an American library.

Smaller, but no less important, gifts and bequests to other libraries of the state include the following: Auburn, \$1,037 from Mrs. Willis A. Trafton; Bucksport, \$5,000 from the estate of the late Mrs. Augusta S. Gardner; Castine, \$15,000 from the will of

Mrs. Caroline Dresser Witherle, designated as the John W. Dresser fund in memory of her father and also \$2,000 from Mrs. Eben Page; Cumberland Center, \$500 from the will of Edward B. Osgood; Kingfield, \$200 from Messrs. Paul and Frank Kohner and a \$5,000 endowment fund from Herbert S. Wing and the late Alila B. Wing; Lewiston, \$1,000 and a collection of 780 volumes from the will of the late Ralph W. Potter; Old Orchard Beach, \$2,000 as a trust fund from the will of the late Mrs. Goss; Old Town, \$500 from the will of Mrs. Grace E. Harding; Orr's Island, \$1,000 from the estate of Miss Helen Whitman; Skowhegan, a gift of several thousand dollars for a children's room from Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hinman in memory of their daughter, the late Jane Hinman; Wayne, \$11,000 from the will of Miss Sarah Joy Merrill; Winterport, \$15,000 from the will of Mrs. Aimee Blaisdell.

*New Libraries, 1942-1944.* Libraries have been established at Mount Vernon, Pride's Corner in Westbrook, and at Sherman Mills. In Falmouth, a library association has been organized and funds are being collected to be used for a public library building, which will be a memorial to Falmouth men and women serving in the present war as well as to those who have served in past wars.

MARION SHAW, *Director,*  
Library Extension

### *Financial Statement*

	1942-43		1943-44	
	<b>Salaries</b>			
Appropriation		\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
Expenditures	\$18,957.85		\$19,896.17	
Transfer to Departmental Operations			14.07	
Unexpended balance	1,042.15		89.76	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
	<b>Departmental Operations</b>			
Appropriation		\$19,300.00		\$20,025.00
Credit by refunds		73.89		85.42
Transfer from Contingent Fund				590.00
Transfer from Salaries				14.07
Transfer from Maine Reports		2,420.00		90.00
Expenditures	\$19,814.61		\$20,804.49	
Unexpended balance	1,979.28			
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	\$21,793.89	\$21,793.89	\$20,804.49	\$20,804.49

	Maine Reports		
Appropriation		\$2,420.00	\$2,808.00
Expenditures			\$2,643.00
Postage			75.00
Transfer to Departmental Operations	\$2,420.00		90.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$2,420.00	\$2,420.00	\$2,808.00
			\$2,808.00

*Accessions.*

Biennial period, July 1, 1942—June 30, 1944

	Books, bound	Pamphlets and books, unbound	TOTAL
By purchase	2,028	255	2,283
By exchange	434	2,100	2,534
By gift	229	402	631
From U. S. Government	405	2,163	2,568
<i>Withdrawals.</i>			
Discarded		2,288	
Lost by borrower		13	
Missing		20	
		<hr/>	
TOTAL		2,321	

*Circulation.* During the year 1942-1943 individual book loans were made to patrons in 408 localities; in the year 1943-1944 to 392 localities, eighty-four of this number being new places. The total number of localities served during the biennial period is 492. Individual loans of books during the two year period amounted to 39,140. Interlibrary loans were made to twenty-one libraries outside of the state during this period.

*Documents Received.*

State department reports	9,525
State department miscellaneous publications	6,705
Maine reports, 138	750
Maine reports, 139	751
Legislative bills and documents	22,975
Laws of Maine, 1943	1,401
Vital records of Georgetown, v. 3	250
Vital records of Bowdoin, v. 1	250
Greater Portland's provisions for health, education, safety, welfare	125
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TOTAL	42,732

To my staff I express deep appreciation for the cheerfulness with which they have faced these trying times. I am aware that all too frequently they have deprived themselves of social activities

that they might meet the stress of the office with vitality and poise each day. Such a staff is indeed a treasure to which I pay personal tribute. Staff changes have continued with amazing frequency. The Assistant State Librarian is "on military leave" and the Law & Legislative Reference Librarian has carried both positions, with the title of Acting Assistant State Librarian. A temporary position, created to ease this complicated situation, has been filled four times in a period of ten months; each time we have been able to secure former staff members, a particularly necessary feature in a special library of this kind where familiarity with the location of materials is as much a requirement as the knowledge of how to use them. The Extension Librarian who had been here seven years left in January, 1943 and we were able to secure an experienced successor because of her desire to come to Maine where she owns a home. Following is the staff roll for the biennium, with dates of entry into service:

Theresa C. Stuart	State Librarian <i>(Personnel and Apprentices)</i>	August	1917
Elizabeth Gardner	Assistant State Librarian (formerly 1938 - 1939) (on military leave)	July	1941
Marion Brainerd Stubbs	Acting Assistant State Librarian and Law and Legislative Reference Librarian (formerly 1915 - 1927) <i>(General Reference)</i>	May	1941
F. Elizabeth Libbey	Library Extension Director (resigned January, 1943)	September	1930
Marian Shaw	Library Extension Director	January	1943
Jennie Cochrane	Cataloguer and Classifier	September	1906
Marion Cobb Fuller	Research Librarian	September	1922
Hilda McLeod Jacob	Secretary and Bookkeeper <i>(Maine Author Collection)</i>	December	1933
Marian Brown	Clipping and Indexing Assistant	May	1927
Margaret A. Whalen	Documents Assistant <i>(Binding)</i>	November	1941
Edith L. Hary	Circulation Librarian (resigned October, 1943)	June	1942
Mary F. Whalen	Circulation Librarian	October	1943
Sisko I. Lehto	Library Extension Clerk (resigned July, 1943)	April	1942
Alice Gilpatrick	Library Extension Clerk (resigned May, 1944)	November	1943
John B. Kingsbury	Shipping Clerk (on military leave)	September	1929

JOSEPHINE HARDING	Reference Assistant (temporary wartime) (formerly 1939 - 1942) (resigned November, 1943)	July	1943
SISKO I. LEHTO	Temporary wartime clerk (resigned May, 1944)	November	1943
HAZEL C. MILLETT	Temporary wartime clerk (formerly 1916, 1920 and 1921) (resigned July 1, 1944)	May	1944
WILLIAM A. NEWDICK	Shipping Clerk (temporary substitute) (resigned September, 1942)	June	1942
ROBERT T. CHADBOURNE	Shipping Clerk (temporary substitute) (resigned December, 1943)	September	1942
JAMES H. ROLFE	Shipping Clerk (temporary substitute)	December	1943