

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1980

MAINE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

1944-1946

(in three volumes)

VOLUME II

STATE OF MAINE

Forty-eighth Report

of the

MAINE STATE LIBRARY

for the period

July 1, 1944 to June 30, 1946

SUBMITTED BY THE LIBRARIAN

to the

NINETY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

1 9 4 7



Augusta, Maine

To the Legislature of the State of Maine:

The forty-eighth report of the Maine State Library conveys to the Legislature appreciation for the financial provision which was adequate to carry on the work through the biennium, notwithstanding exorbitant price increases.

This report of activities from July 1, 1944, to June 30, 1946, shows no new constructive enterprise. All effort has been centered to maintain our regular fields of operation. No programme of expansion was planned for this period, but an attempt was made to complete a project advocated by former Librarians. Even this was impossible, because space provided for this purpose was taken away from us to be used by the Highway Department and by the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries. A sales office, recently fitted with lights, painted and made very acceptable to us by the Superintendent of Buildings, had to be moved to a basement. Since this location did not prove suitable for office work all such equipment was returned to our main office, leaving us with this new division, entrusted to us by a recent Legislature, split in half—a sales business in two parts of the city.

Owing to loss of space we had to cancel a gift of three thousand dollars worth of books which we had accepted, and we further had to refuse an offer to become an Official Depository for 50,000 maps for the United States Map Service. Such losses mount to the point of misfortune.

In view of such loss of space it may be interesting to note headlines and comments in newspapers of another day: **“State Library Building Assured, as Governor Gardiner signs \$500,000 Resolve. . . Means end of crowded conditions and more room for other departments. . .”** Kennebec Journal, April 4, 1929. This Resolve still stands, with the State Library thirteenth on a designated list of order to be followed in construction. Evidently the number thirteen was fearsome.

Again: **“Club women stress need of erection of State Library Building.”** Kennebec Journal, January 26, 1929. A long and important editorial in the Portland Sunday Telegram, February 17, 1929, ends, **“For this great State Institution to have to put up with the makeshift accommodations as at present, is nothing short of shameful.”**

“The proposal for a new State Library was endorsed by the lecturers of the Maine State Grange at their meeting in Waterville last week.” Portland Evening News, February 8, 1929.

“The present efficiency of the Library is vitally impaired by over crowding and by the storage of more than half the books not easily accessible.” Bangor Commercial, February 8, 1929.

An able editorial from the pen of “A. G. S.” in the Lewiston Journal of October 13, 1928: “. . . **there yet exists in Maine a group of students, lawyers, historians, genealogists, school-children, writers, etc., who esteem the Maine State Library as the greatest single asset of the State. They want also to be recognized amid the dispensations of a friendly commonwealth. . . . We favor an inclusion of an appropriation for library extension, or construction by the next Legislature. . .**” and it happened, — a Resolve carrying financial provision, which even a wide interest and cultural support failed to validate.

With the lessening of current publication we have emphasized acquisition of scarce items, following in the tradition of the excellent foundation made by our former Librarians. Recent purchases include such items as Musical Instruments, by Hipkins and Gibb; Decorative Ironwork, by Foulkes; Aristocrats of the Garden, Wilson; Examples of Lost Colonial Architecture, Kimball; Old Silver of American Churches, Jones. These keep us in touch, at least, with the standard set earlier by purchases of such works as Hough’s *Silva of North America*, the Prince Society Collections, The Documentary History of American Industrial Society, The Champlain Society Publications, and Walters’ Collection of Oriental Ceramic Art, to mention only a few.

A plan started by former State Librarian Oliver L. Hall, to complete our holdings of the National Geographic Magazine, has received continued attention. With the photostating, through the kindness of the Boston Public Library, of two elusive issues our file is complete and so far as we have been able to determine there is no other library in Maine which possesses an entire set of this periodical. We have also completed our set of Poetry; a magazine of verse.

By law each town in Maine is required to deposit a copy of its annual report with the State Library, but issues for early years are sadly lacking. This Library is the only source for many of these reports and through the kindness of other departments, through eagerness to cooperate on the part of town officials, librarians, and individuals who invade attics, we are indeed proud of our collection. When a consecutive number of issues is sufficient in size they are bound with bright colored buckram, machine sewed and may be easily consulted at the State Library. They are never lent outside the building, except by order of Court. Some of the early reports are handwritten originals. A volume of reports of the Town of Burnham for the years 1874-1941 was given to us in memory of George E. Berry, by his son and daughter. In these days of memorials this is a form worthy of note.

SALES AND DISTRIBUTION

The ninety-second Legislature honored the Maine State Library with the responsibility for sales of all Laws and Statutes, issued by the State. The State Librarian feels that this is not an activity compatible with the free extension service of library facilities for which the Library was established; however, after formal protest to the Legislative Research Committee, finding the opinion was that the activity should remain with the Library, steps were taken to set up an office to carry on a wholesale bookstore business, combining with this the distribution of Laws, Department Reports and occasional Legislative purchases, which has always been within the province of this Library. The Legislature was generous in providing funds for this project. It was a new venture in an unknown field and the coming biennium request will show a far less financial need in this function, based on actual knowledge from records kept during this past two years.

NOTES

Our apprenticeship course has suffered sadly and for the first time in twenty-five years we have had no student in training. The fact that we were able to continue through the past few years with a minimum of woe is due to the loyalty of several former apprentices and staff members who came back at inconvenience to themselves to help us, and to the stability of the

regular staff. Five out of fourteen of our members are on the staff by reason of their graduation from this course.

By leaving the position of Documents Librarian vacant we have achieved an Advisory Librarian thus accomplishing a hope of years. The work of this position is complementary to that of the Extension Librarian, with particular emphasis on organization of children's work in our public libraries. With the Extension and Advisory Librarians available for assistance to the small libraries, supplemented by aid from the State Librarian and Assistant State Librarian, we feel equipped, at last, to take care of any reasonable number of calls which may come to us.

An effort was made during the war years to provide small group meetings so that the spirit of conference among library workers might not be lost. These one-day gatherings have proved stimulating and Librarians have been most gracious in their willingness to entertain on short notice. We selected points away from crowded centers yet having advantageous travel facilities, and these meetings were attended with enthusiasm.

Another side of the picture shows 143 of 351 towns receiving individual loan service from us in this biennium, having no libraries at all. This means that the State Library must take care of their needs—a pretty important point to consider in the budget for books.

We continue to keep our vocational and technical books up-to-date. Returned veterans find assistance in starting small businesses, in farming, in continuing their adult education. Teachers find their professional literature and children in remote rural sections are provided with the best of children's books in delightfully illustrated editions. Legislators and lawyers know that there is an excellent collection of legal material available to them and general readers are aware that books having at least ten years of value to warrant them are purchased currently.

ACCESSIONS

Biennial period, July 1, 1944-June 30, 1946

	Books, bound	Pamphlets, and unbound books	Total
By purchase			
1944-1945	787	119	906
1945-1946	842	148	990
	1629	267	1896
By exchange			
1944-1945	191	983	1174
1945-1946	179	1019	1198
	370	2002	2372
By gift			
1944-1945	143	174	317
1945-1946	118	160	278
	261	334	595
From U. S. Govt.			
1944-1945	154	1213	1367
1945-1946	143	839	982
	297	2052	2349
Total accessions			7212

WITHDRAWALS

Discarded			
1944-1945	776		
1945-1946	532		
	1308		
Lost by borrower			
1944-1945	11		
1945-1946	8		
	19		
Missing			
1944-1945	18		
1945-1946	14		
	32		
Total withdrawn			1359

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	1944-45		1945-46
Salaries			
Appropriation	\$20,284.00		\$26,219.00
Transfer from Contingent Fund			900.00
Transfer from Departmental Operations	18.44		
Expenditures	\$20,302.44		\$24,575.91
Unexpended balance			2,543.09
	<u>\$20,302.44</u>	<u>\$20,302.44</u>	<u>\$27,119.00</u>
			<u>\$27,119.00</u>

Departmental Operations			
Appropriation	\$19,741.00		\$27,543.00
Credit from Insurance			534.50
Transfer from Contingent Fund	1,650.00		
Expenditures	\$21,055.97		\$25,868.46
Transfer to Salaries	18.44		
Unexpended balance	316.59		2,209.04
	<u>\$21,391.00</u>	<u>\$21,391.00</u>	<u>\$28,077.50</u>
			<u>\$28,077.50</u>

Maine Reports			
Appropriation	\$2,808.00		\$2,808.00
Expenditures	\$2,647.50		\$2,656.50
Postage	75.00		75.00
Unexpended balance	85.50		76.50
	<u>\$2,808.00</u>	<u>\$2,808.00</u>	<u>\$2,808.00</u>
			<u>\$2,808.00</u>

PERSONNEL

THERESA C. STUART	State Librarian	Aug. 1917
(Personnel and Apprentices)		
MARION BRAINERD STUBBS	Assistant State Librarian (formerly 1915-1927)	May 1941
(General Reference)		
MARGARET A. WHALEN	Librarian (Law and Legislative Reference) (formerly Documents Assistant)	Nov. 1941
MARIAN SHAW	Librarian (Extension)	Jan. 1943
VIRGINIA HILL	Librarian (Field Advisory)	Jan. 1946
(Binding)		
JENNIE M. COCHRANE	Librarian (Cataloguer)	Sept. 1906
MARION COBB FULLER	Librarian (Research)	Sept. 1922
HILDA McLEOD JACOB	Library Secretary	Dec. 1933
(Maine Author Collection)		
MARIAN BROWN	Library Assistant	May 1927
MARY F. WHALEN	Circulation Librarian (resigned July, 1945)	Oct. 1943
BEATRICE L. STUART	Library Assistant (Circulation)	July 1945
ALICE GILPATRICK	Library Assistant (Extension) (formerly 1943-1944) (resigned June, 1946)	Sept. 1944
CLARA T. BEAN	Library Assistant (Reference) (formerly 1925-1927 and 1929)	Nov. 1944
PHYLLIS T. FISH	Temporary wartime clerk (resigned March, 1945)	Jan. 1945
JOHN B. KINGSBURY	Library Assistant (Shipping) (on military leave)	Sept. 1929
JAMES H. ROLFE	Library Assistant (Shipping) (temporary substitute) (left service July, 1945)	Dec. 1943
LEWIS S. BENNER	Library Assistant (Shipping) (temporary substitute) (resigned November, 1945)	July 1945
MICHAEL G. BRENNAN	Library Assistant (Shipping) (temporary substitute) (resigned December, 1945)	Nov. 1945
NORMAN E. FOSSETT	Library Assistant (Shipping) (temporary substitute)	Dec. 1945
DAVID L. FRYE	Library Assistant (temporary)	Nov. 1945
EDITH L. HARY	Reference Assistant (formerly 1942-1943) (resigned October, 1944)	July 1944
EDITH L. HARY	Sales Supervisor (resigned October, 1945)	July 1945

Titles used in this list are those as allocated and approved by the Personnel Board after consultation between the Department Head and the Classification Supervisor.

Respectfully submitted,

THERESA C. STUART,
State Librarian