

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

1946-48

1948

(In three volumes)

VOLUME II.

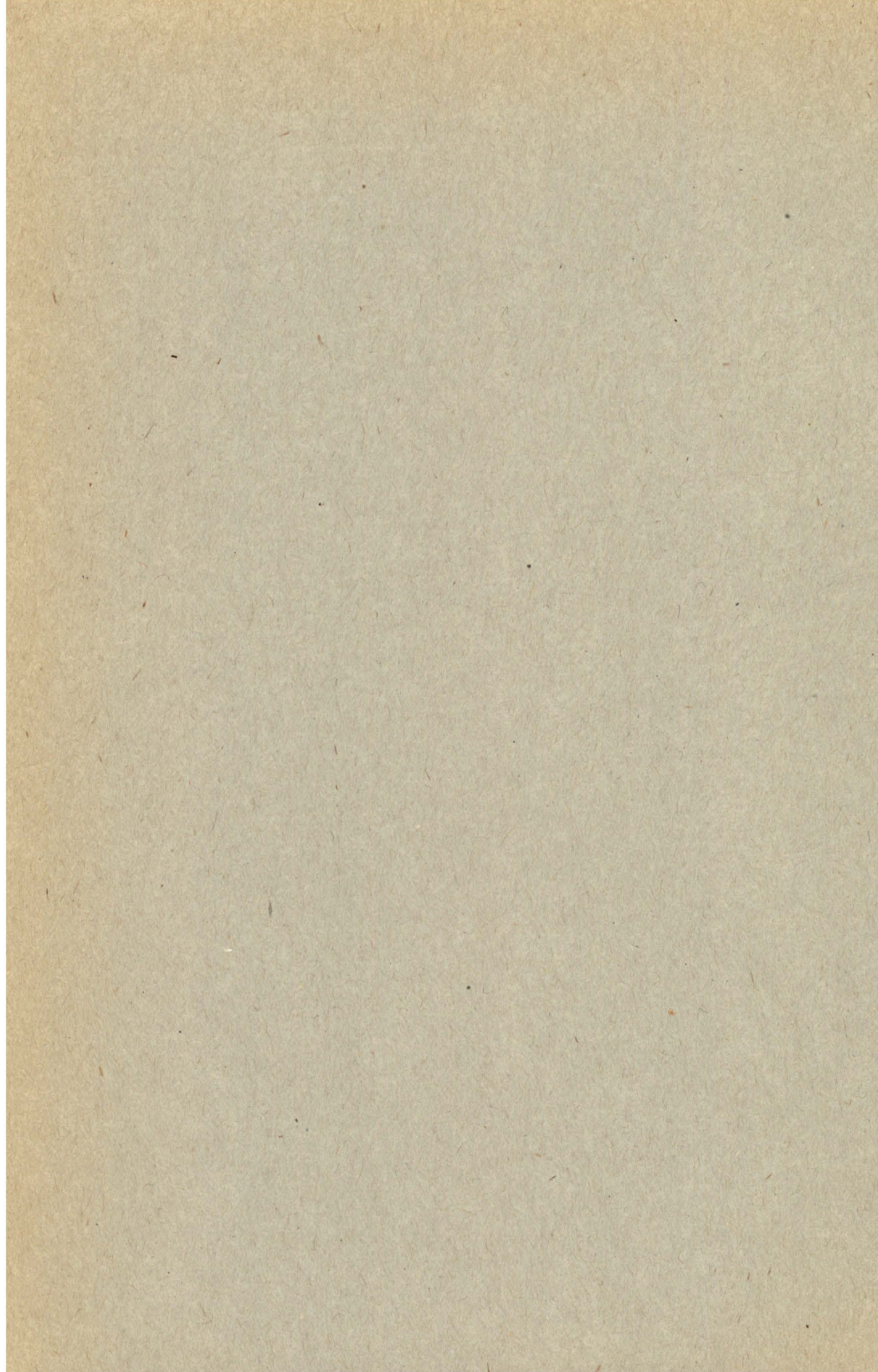
FORTY-NINTH REPORT

Maine State Library



July 1, 1946
to
June 30, 1948

Augusta, Maine
1948



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*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the
State of Maine:*

In accordance with chapter 38, section 12, of the Revised Statutes, I herewith submit the report of the Maine State Library covering the period July 1, 1946, to June 30, 1948.

MARION B. STUBBS

Librarian

LIBRARIAN AND STAFF

June 30, 1948

Marion B. Stubbs, *Librarian*, appointed June 4, 1947
Cicely M. Hinton, *Deputy Librarian*
Jennie M. Cochrane, *Cataloguer*
Marian Shaw, *Extension Librarian*
Margaret A. Whalen, *Research Librarian*
Virginia Hill, *Field Advisory Librarian*
Edith L. Hary, *Law and Legislative Reference Librarian*
Ruth W. Wood, *Sales and Distribution Librarian*
Hilda M. Jacob, *Library Secretary*
Clara T. Bean, *Library Assistant*
Hazel C. Millett, *Library Assistant*
Alice Gilpatrick, *Library Assistant*
Marian Brown, *Library Assistant*
Parker J. Smith, *Library Assistant*
Priscilla A. Foster, *Apprentice*

Previous Staff Members

Theresa C. Stuart, *Librarian*, Retired May 1, 1947
Marion Cobb Fuller, *Research Librarian*, Retired Jan. 3, 1947
Beatrice L. Stuart, *Library Assistant*, Resigned
Mary F. Whalen, *Library Assistant*, Resigned
Norman E. Fossett, *Library Assistant*, Resigned
L. Elizabeth Pierce, *Temporary Assistant*
David L. Frye, *Temporary Assistant*
Linwood Morrell, *Temporary Assistant*



REPORT

July 1, 1946—June 30, 1948

The report of this biennium covers one year of my predecessor's term of office and one year of mine. The change from one administration to another was made with little disturbance to the staff or public, as I had been Deputy Librarian for fourteen years and continued, so far as practicable, the policies of previous years.

The crowded conditions in the State Library have been brought to the attention of the legislature and the public again and again, during the last twenty-five years. Although politicians, patrons, and public and private citizens have agreed that "something should be done," the only result has been that a third of our annex stackroom has been taken for use by other departments.

It is true that at various times the legislature has enacted laws or resolves providing for the constructing of a wing or a new building for the use of the Library and other departments, but no work has been done under any of these acts.

The Maine State Building Commission, created by Chapter 76 of the Private and Special Laws of 1941, has approved plans for a State office building to be erected at the rear of the State House. Certain members of the Commission have assured the State Librarian that, after the office building is completed and after various offices now in the State House have been transferred to it, additional space on the same floor, but not attached, will be given to the Library.

While such a result will not be as dignified and integrated as a State Library should be, it, nevertheless, will provide more convenient space for the public and the staff, and enable us to get all the Library's possessions under one roof. At present they are in three different buildings and many are practically inaccessible.

The following pages carry details of our work and show that much can be accomplished even under very difficult working conditions.

Circulation Statistics never adequately reflect the work done by a public library, and they are exceptionally unrevealing in reporting State Library service. Because most of our loans are made in response to written requests, we must make a more careful selection than is necessary when the patron makes his call in person. After selection, the material to be lent is carefully wrapped and mailed. Also mailed at the same time is a form letter, containing date due for return, list of books sent and any other pertinent information. Book card records are kept in the usual manner, and an additional "town" card record is made for each shipment. The fact that people take the time to write for books and still more time to wrap and remail them to us (no small task in homes distant from a post office), indicates a keen desire for reading. The total number of books circulated was as follows:

	<u>1946-47</u>	<u>1947-48</u>	<u>Total</u>
General library loans	29,733	32,458	62,191
Traveling libraries	59,941	72,109	132,050
			<hr/> 194,241

These figures show an increase over the previous biennium in general library loans of 8,561.

During the years 1946-47 loans were made from the general library to patrons in 418 localities; in the year 1947-48 to 438 localities. Of the 691 post offices in the state, 501 were reached by this service.

Shipping During this biennial period 11,844 packages were shipped by mail or express, and an equal number were received; 18,937 letters were sent from the general library and 3,831 from the extension division. Approximately 3,000 postal cards were also mailed.

Advertising In years gone by, the State Library has had exhibits at conventions and meetings of state organizations, but such projects were necessarily suspended during the war years. In October of 1947 space was secured at the State Teachers' Convention in Lewiston. Two members of the staff

were present and were constantly busy answering questions. They returned with more than 150 requests for books, traveling libraries and reference service. The Librarian spoke to the division of school librarians at this same convention, and exhibited books useful to the profession.

In September, 1947, an exhibit of professional books was made at the annual meeting of the Maine Library Association. A part of our colored prints collection was shown at the same time.

Photographs from the Maynard Workshop, in Massachusetts, were displayed in the Library and adjoining corridors at the time of the annual meeting of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs, January 21-24, 1948.

In December, 1946, small notices advertising the State Library service were inserted in weekly newspapers, as follows: Kittery Press, Fort Fairfield Review, Aroostook Republican, Machias Valley News Observer, Presque Isle Star Herald, Advertiser-Democrat (Norway), Sanford Tribune and Advocate, Bethel Citizen, Calais Advertiser, The York Weekly, Houlton Pioneer Times and Eastport Sentinel. In December, 1947, and January, 1948, there were four feature articles about State Library service in the Kennebec Journal and Portland Sunday Telegram. These were not initiated by the Library, but were the result of interviews with reporters given at their request.

In 1947, lists of books recommended for reading from pre-school to ninth grades were compiled by the Extension Section and mimeographed, and a supplement was issued early in 1948. These lists have proved very helpful to teachers, parents and librarians.

For many years the Library has had printed leaflets describing its service. These have been revised and reprinted and have been distributed at state-wide meetings and on other occasions when we felt this advertising would be productive.

A special leaflet was issued in February, 1947. It contained representations of the State's emblems, with short descriptions, and a few additional historical paragraphs. The preparation of this leaflet entailed quite a little research, but it has proved so useful that we hope to issue similar ones in the future.

Binding From July 1, 1946, to June 30, 1948, the following material was bound: 483 books, 154 volumes of town reports, 179 magazine volumes, and 52 newspaper volumes.

Town Reports A renewed effort has been made to obtain as many as possible of the missing Maine city, town and plantation reports. Letters were sent to the clerk of each municipality asking him to furnish the needed reports, if available; and if they were not available in the town offices he was asked to suggest some person in the town who might have some of them. On the whole, the results have been very favorable. Many of the town officers furnished the reports; several older residents of towns were willing to part with reports they had kept through the years; and certified copies were made of a few reports when the Library was unable to obtain the originals. A few of the towns whose reports were completed to date through these efforts are: Baldwin, Linneus, New Portland, Pembroke and Wesley. As soon as the Library obtains enough consecutive annual reports of a town, these are bound together for permanent files. The reports are invaluable for the records they contain, and they are used constantly in research work. The Library is greatly indebted to the persons who are helping to complete this collection.

Documents The State Library received the following documents and distributed them to the public officers and libraries entitled to receive them:

State department reports	4,563
State department miscellaneous publications	7,545
Maine court reports, vol. 141	728
Legislative bills and documents, and other legislative publications	38,984
Laws of Maine, 1947	2,397
Maine Province and court records, vol. 3	75
Old Bristol and Nobleboro vital records	250
Length and breadth of Maine	100
University of Maine publications	435
	<hr/>
	55,077

A checklist of all state publications received by the Library is issued each quarter in mimeographed form. The list is mailed to all libraries and heads of state departments in Maine, to state libraries, and to such other institutions and individuals as wish to receive it. The reports, bulletins and other publications of the state departments are the best sources of current and historical information about the state's work, and the Library checklist is a means of advertising them throughout the country.

Gifts The items received by gift are too many to list separately, but special mention should be made of the following:

History of the town of Montville, written by the school children of Montville, and presented by them.

Deed (written on fish skin) of land to Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians by Commonwealth of Massachusetts, September 29, 1794. Given by Noel Davis Godfrey through Oscar H. Brown, Indian Agent.

Slides, prints, plates and negatives, and a delinescope showing Maine woods and logging operations in the period from 1910 to 1927. Bequest of the late Edward B. Draper of Canton, Massachusetts.

Maine Authors The exhibit collection of autographed books written by Maine authors has been increased by a hundred books. The value and usefulness of these books become more apparent each year.

Law and Legislative Reference Much of the material used in reference work on legislative questions is found in law books, so the combining of the two sections under one head works very satisfactorily. An important project started a few years ago was brought to completion in 1947 — the filling in of all missing volumes of the National Reporter System. We now have the entire system, and are continuing subscriptions to its various parts.

We have continued the American Digest by the purchase of the Fifth Decennial, only a portion of which has yet been published. Many new books have been added to the legal texts and the usual exchange with other states has kept the session laws to date. Several states have had new codes or revisions of their statutes compiled and published by private firms. The result has been that we have been obliged to purchase copies for our library instead of receiving them free, as in former times.

The legislative reference files and shelves have been in constant revision, as much of its material is of necessity ephemeral. The expense of securing items for this section is small, but a great deal of time must be spent in acquiring and making it available. The use made of it fully justifies its existence.

The librarian in charge of this section spent two days in Boston in January, 1948, visiting law libraries and studying the workings of the Legislative Reference section of the Massachusetts State Library.

Reference and Research The time spent in dealing with questions which come to the State Library varies from a minute to several hours. Patrons come in person, telephone, or write. We have helped authors to verify backgrounds for their stories, clubs to plan programs, teachers to gather material for unit work, historians to find source materials, students to decide upon their careers, and hundreds to brighten or improve their lives through recreational and informational reading.

Through inter-loan arrangements with other libraries, we have borrowed technical books and magazines for state department and division heads. There is hardly a minute of any day when some state employee is not using the State Library for reference and research.

As a background for work in this section we have not only the catalogue of our books, but also many indexes to material of all kinds. In addition we maintain two large vertical files, one general and one confined to Maine.

We also make typewritten bibliographies on many different subjects, and continually add to and correct them. Several copies are made at one time and are lent as needed.

A selected list of recent books is prepared and mimeographed every two months. It is mailed to all libraries in the State, and to such individuals and institutions as wish to be placed on the mailing list.

Microfilm Because the last available shelf space for bound newspapers had been used and binding costs had soared, the matter of microfilm was investigated. Through the courtesy of the Bangor Public Library and Guy P. Gannett, Publisher, who owned the negatives, we were able to purchase microfilm positives of the Bangor Daily News, Maine Labor News, Portland Press Herald, Portland Sunday Telegram and Kennebec Journal from January 1, 1948, to June 30, 1948, and to order future ones.

A Recordak reading machine was also purchased, capable of taking either 35 mm. or 16 mm. film.

A saving of ninety-eight per cent in space fully warrants this change of procedure in the preservation of newspapers. The expense of buying film is about the same as binding has been in past years.

From the Photoduplication Service of the Library of Congress we purchased 16 mm. microfilm of the Maine Senate and House Journals previous to the issuance of printed copies. It is possible now to consult in the Library any legislative journal from 1820 to date. The photographing of the original journals was done in the Library August 22-23, 1947, by a representative from the Library of Congress. At the same time other original items such as the Journal of the Constitutional Convention, and the first State Treasurer's cash book, were also photographed. If at any time, therefore, some of the state's original records should be destroyed, it would be possible to purchase microfilm copies of them.

Meetings The Library was represented in 1947 at the Maine Library Association's annual meeting in Portland in September, a meeting of the Association Council in Waterville, December 13, and two meetings of the Larger Libraries of Maine in Waterville in April and November. In 1948, we attended meetings of the Massachusetts Library Association at Simmons College in Boston, January 29; the New England College Librarians in Waterville, April 2; the Association Council in Waterville, April 9; the Larger Libraries of Maine in Orono, April 28; the Maine Historical Society in Portland, June 9; the American Library Association at Atlantic City, June 13-19; and the American Association of Law Libraries at New York, June 20-24.

International Mind Alcove Since November, 1934, we have been a depository for books given by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to encourage a wider knowledge of international relations. Twelve books were sent each year with the understanding that they would be in turn lent to citizens of the State, especially to those in small communities. Another provision was that they should be shelved apart from our general collection and plainly marked "International Mind Alcove." The service was discontinued by the Endowment in 1948. The same type of books will be purchased, of course, because the greatest service libraries can give, in these times, is to acquaint the general reader with what people in other lands are thinking, how they are living and how they are governed.

Apprentice Course One person only has taken the apprentice course this biennium—Priscilla A. Foster of Rockport. She will complete her one-year course July twenty-eighth. There are three graduates of the course on the regular staff at the present time.

Traveling Libraries The circulation of the sets containing books for adults has decreased, but there is a very definite increase in the collections for children. During the summer months, when the schools are closed, many juvenile traveling libraries are borrowed by public libraries to augment their resources, so that children may have access to plenty of good reading material during the vacation season.

Traveling libraries were lent as follows:

	General	Juvenile	Children	H. S.	Nature	Special	Total
1944-45	195	296	114	34	21	7	667
1945-46	158	268	128	32	16	23	627
1946-47	132	295	133	33	17	18	628
1947-48	114	339	157	27	16	8	661

Books in these libraries were circulated as follows:

	Adult fiction	Adult non-fiction	Juvenile	Total
1944-46	40,800	15,360	80,600	136,760
1946-48	30,000	14,000	88,050	132,050

Illustrated Juvenile Collection Each year a few additional titles are added to this collection, which was revised in 1944. It now numbers 267. The heaviest demand is during Book Week, as the books are lent for exhibit purposes only. One hundred and fifty have been borrowed during this biennium.

Colored Print Collection In January, 1945, a collection of color prints of masterpieces of painting was assembled and prepared for circulation in sets of twenty-five each to public libraries for exhibition purposes. Since that date about a hundred sets have been circulated throughout the State. The borrower pays the express charges.

Aid to Public Libraries Advice in problems of administration and technique has been given to librarians and trustees by visits and by correspondence. Miss Shaw has visited the libraries of Appleton, Camden, Cape Elizabeth, Cape

Porpoise, East Sumner, Fort Fairfield, Gray, Lisbon Falls, Livermore, Machias, Monson, New Gloucester, Newfield, North Haven, North Lovell, Northeast Harbor, Old Town, Paris Hill, Shirley and West Paris.

Miss Hill has visited libraries in Bethel, Andover, Waldoboro, Wiscasset, South China, Casco, North Livermore and Naples.

Librarians of public, school, camp and institutional libraries have called at the State Library for advice and have asked for help by mail. No record has been kept of this service, but it has been considerable.

A correspondence course for untrained librarians will be started in the summer of 1948. It will be similar to the one given for many years by Miss Theresa C. Stuart before World War II.

Five new municipalities have been added to the list of those appropriating money for free public libraries, so that there are now 197 State-aided libraries. Total payments in the last four years have been:

1944	1945	1946	1947
\$8,978.30	\$9,434.39	\$9,702.85	\$10,102.69

Contributions (in books) have been made to newly established libraries, as follows: Sherman Public Library (\$50.00), Shirley Free Public Library (\$100.00), Casco Library (\$12.50).

Round Tables One-day meetings of librarians and trustees have been held in various parts of the State, as follows:

July 17, 1946	Caribou	12 present
Mar. 13, 1947	Skowhegan	16 "
May 20, 1947	Kennebunk	11 "
May 22, 1947	Southwest Harbor	25 "
June 25, 1947	Gorham	23 "
July 16, 1947	Houlton	12 "
May 20, 1948	Madison	19 "
June 9, 1948	Bucksport	23 "

Each meeting has been conducted by a member of our staff. Special guests at the 1948 meetings were Miss Alice M. Wetherell of Bangor Public Library, and Miss Lysla I. Abbott of Portland Public Library, who discussed children's literature and gave demonstrations of storytelling.

Survey In the fall of 1946, a survey of the resources and services of the public libraries in Maine was begun. Early in 1947 the results were published in a fifteen-page booklet.

The publication has been most useful to us and to the other libraries in the State. Many copies have been requested by libraries and institutions outside the State. The Extension Librarian did all the work of gathering the information and putting it in proper form for the printer.

Discards As usual, books no longer needed for traveling library purposes have been distributed to state institutions. Other agencies to which these books were sent are housing projects at Hyde Park and Lambert Park in Bath, Redbank Village and Sagamore Village in Portland, and Fairview Acres in Presque Isle; and newly organized or re-organized public libraries in Columbia Falls, Amherst and East Sumner. Following the 1947 forest fires, sixty-five juvenile books were sent to the public library in the village of Newfield, to help fill in the losses suffered both by the library and the school. The total number of discarded books distributed in this manner between July 1, 1944, and June 30, 1948, was 5,932.

Books withdrawn from the general library were normally too old or worn to be used again. The exceptions were sent to small public libraries.

Sales of Laws As was stated in the report of the Librarian for 1944-46, the work of selling the revised statutes and session laws was not an activity which we wanted, but it is one which would not be too difficult to carry on if there were more room in suitable quarters near or in the Library. After the State has paid for the preparation, printing and binding of these books, it seems ridiculous to expose them to danger of mildew and theft. The Library cannot be held responsible for their safe-keeping under present conditions of storage. Postal rates on this type of mail will be doubled January 1, 1949, so the cost of this work will be increased.

ACCESSIONS

July 1, 1946-June 30, 1948

By purchase	Bound Vols.	Unbound	Total
1946-47	1164	188	1352
1947-48	1209	239	1448
Total for both years			—2800
By exchange			
1946-47	160	1160	1320
1947-48	181	946	1127
Total for both years			—2447
By gift			
1946-47	102	255	357
1947-48	88	178	266
Total for both years			— 623
From U. S. Govt.			
1946-47	174	1241	1415
1947-48	143	778	921
Total for both years			—2336
Total for general library	3221	4985	8206
By purchase for traveling libraries			
1946-47	1700		1700
1947-48	1750		1750
Total for both years			—3450
Grand total			11,656
Withdrawals, general library			847
traveling libraries			6000

EXPENDITURES, 1946-47

Salaries	\$29,847.95
Books:	
General	\$6,237.21
Traveling libraries	2,706.49
	} 8,943.70
Periodical and newspaper subscriptions	1,127.74
Binding books and periodicals	1,695.38
Postage	1,103.35
Express and freight	663.81
Office supplies	1,371.20
Telephone and telegraph	315.60
Repairs	42.50
Printing	318.66
Travel	376.52
Furniture and typewriters	271.91
Insurance	1,311.31
Rent (Vickery & Hill building)	600.00
State aid to free public libraries	9,702.85
Ancient Vital Records	395.00
Maine Court Reports	2,569.75
Civilian Defense History	100.00
Miscellaneous	6,145.49
	<hr/>
Total	\$60,904.35

EXPENDITURES, 1947-48

Salaries	\$29,054.68
Books:	
General	\$9,367.99
Traveling libraries	3,591.64
	} 12,959.63
Periodical and newspaper subscriptions	1,155.37
Binding books and periodicals	1,120.94
Postage	1,326.38
Express and freight	726.45
Office supplies	1,313.69
Telephone and telegraph	283.20
Repairs	251.25
Printing	13.99
Travel	698.67
Furniture and typewriters	1,105.18
State aid to free public libraries	10,102.69
Ancient Vital Records	1,605.00
Miscellaneous	132.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$61,849.12

Personnel Theresa C. Stuart, State Librarian, retired from the State's service May 1, 1947. She first came to the Library in August, 1917, to take charge of all extension activities. During her first year in that position 392 traveling libraries were lent, and in her final year as extension head, there were 791.

Her personal interest in the librarians of local libraries throughout the State encouraged them to make themselves and their libraries more efficient and useful to their communities. She prepared, and carried on for many years, correspondence courses for librarians and their assistants; schools of instruction were held under her direction each year and constant advice and counseling were given by correspondence. No other person in library work was better known in Maine. She became Assistant State Librarian in 1927 and Librarian in January, 1941. Since Miss Stuart's retirement her assistance and counsel have been of inestimable service to us all.

Mrs. Marion Cobb Fuller was retired for physical disability on January 16, 1947. She had been Research Librarian since 1922. During her service she acquired a knowledge of Maine and its literature that few can equal. Our inability to make use of her information and interest has been a distinct loss to the Library.

Request will be made to the Budget Committee for money to make possible the employment of a classifier who would act as an assistant cataloguer. The cataloguer is carrying a load too heavy for one person and one that would be impossible if the present incumbent had not had many years of experience in it.

For the first time since the beginning of World War II every position, for which money has been appropriated, has been filled.

On the staff at the present time are seven college graduates. Nine members have formal library training, varying from a summer course to graduate library school, and they have backgrounds of experience in public, college and county library work.

The securing of such well-qualified people has not been accomplished with ease as the salaries are too small to compete with similar positions in other libraries. The ten-days vacation is also a great deterrent. I know of no library in the country which has less than a three-weeks vacation, and it is usual to have a month. It is sometimes several months before a vacancy can be

filled, and then it is because the State of Maine itself or the work of the State Library is the attraction.

There is a delightful community of spirit among the members of the staff. Pride in the Library and its service, and hope for its increased usefulness in the future, bring a "joy of the working" to even the most routine task. The State is fortunate to have such personnel.

More Extension Service A free public library in every community of the State was the goal at the turn of the century. Until such an ideal had been achieved, extension service by state libraries and commissions was considered a temporary, but necessary, expedient. Through the years, however, it has become evident that a great many communities can never afford to establish public libraries because of the small population. Many others very feebly support libraries already established. There are 154 towns and plantations in the State with less than one hundred people, and there are 424 with less than a thousand, so that, today, there are 175,000 people in Maine who have no local library, and 100,000 more who have very inadequate ones. Ninety-nine of our public libraries are open less than ten hours a week, some only one hour. The Maine State Library at the present time can try to meet this need only by mail. The State should have a regional or area service, with deposits of books at the center of each. From these centers, library service could be given to individuals, schools and communities by bookmobiles, or similar devices, and encouragement and advice would be available for small or weak libraries. A great many states now operate a regional library system. Outstanding are our neighboring states of New Hampshire and Vermont, which have far fewer residents than Maine.

The modern world is a challenging one. We must know more and use our knowledge in more technical and political ways than did our fathers. Education through reading should be easily available to all ages, for an informed people is the core of the democratic idea.