



WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

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NATIONAL RELATIONS

PAUL HOWARD ACCEPTS INTERIOR POSITION

Paul Howard, Director of the A.L.A. Washington Office, is now on terminal leave, having accepted the newly created post of Librarian, U. S. Department of Interior. He will begin his new duties on August 1, 1949.

The best wishes of the A.L.A. staff and members go with Mr. Howard. All who watched him work and realized his achievements against formidable odds will know what losing him means to the American Library Association.

In recommending a Washington Office appropriation of \$7,000 from the 1949/50 A.L.A. general budget to replace the \$21,000 available annually heretofore from the Library Development Fund, the Budget Committee was fully aware of the inevitability and magnitude of this loss and acted with deep regret. It also took every step within its power to insure the continuance of at least the most urgent projects on which Mr. Howard had been engaged. Redoubled effort to this end is the tribute which the A.L.A. staff and members can pay Mr. Howard for his years of valued service.

We extend to Paul Howard our thanks and wish him luck in his new position.
-- J.M.C.

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INTERIM DIRECTION OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICE

For the next two months, until permanent arrangements can be made for carrying on the national and international relations work of A.L.A., the Washington Office will be directly under the supervision of the A.L.A. Executive Secretary.

Mr. Cory is in Washington briefly this week for conferences with congressmen on the Library Demonstration Bill. He will spend as much time in Washington during August and September as is necessary to keep A.L.A.'s legislative interests actively before the Congress. In addition, Miss Helen Ridgway, A.L.A.'s Chief Public Library Specialist, has cut her vacation short to be in Washington for the next two weeks to work on the Library Demonstration Bill.

In the meantime, the A.L.A. Executive Board, Federal Relations Committee, and International Relations Board are studying fiscal proposals for the continued operation of the Washington Office on a part-time basis with continuing supplementary help from A.L.A. Headquarters in Chicago.

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ALA WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

As announced on July 15, 1949 (Vol. 1, No. 10) the ALA WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER cannot be continued on the present basis after January 1, 1950, and no new subscriptions are being accepted. This decision is based on the need to concentrate the limited resources of the proposed A.L.A. Washington Representative on the Library Demonstration Bill with a resultant reduction in scope of A.L.A. news from Washington.

The NEWSLETTER will probably continue to appear as occasion warrants, but will be distributed free to a limited mailing list. National and international relations news coverage of the A.L.A. BULLETIN will be somewhat expanded to provide maximum distribution of news on these topics to all A.L.A. members.

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LIBRARY DEMONSTRATION BILL

The three Senate sponsors of S. 130 (Senators Hill, Aiken, and Douglas) and the two House sponsors of H.R. 874 and H.R. 1411 (Representatives Madden and Patman respectively) have been advised of A.L.A.'s continued interest in early enactment of those bills. They have promised their cooperation in the Association's efforts to secure a vote on the Senate bill and a committee hearing on the House bills before Congress adjourns for this session.

Because of the pressure of major legislation no assurances of success can be made, but there will be no relaxation of A.L.A.'s efforts in this important field. (For additional information see page 3.)

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LABOR EXTENSION SERVICE BILL

Hearings on H.R. 1380, the Labor Extension Service Bill, are being held this week before a subcommittee of the Education and Labor Committee (Rep. Kelley of Penna., presiding).

This bill provides funds to educational institutions for encouragement of workers' education programs. Libraries interested in extension of workers' education may be eligible to receive funds.

A resolution in favor of this measure was adopted by the A.L.A. Council at the 1949 Midwinter Conference. Paul Howard has submitted a statement for the Association to be included in the record of hearings on S. 1380.

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STATE LIBRARY NEWS

Mr. Paxton P. Price, formerly librarian of Northwest State Teachers College, Maryville, Missouri, has been named State Librarian of Missouri, effective August 1.

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Mr. Walter S. Botsford, Director, Bureau of Government, University of Wisconsin Extension Division, has just been named Secretary of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission. Mr. Botsford will replace Mr. Clarence B. Lester, who retires September 1 after 26 years of distinguished service as Secretary.

Miss Clara B. Johnson resigned on June 1 as Executive Secretary of the Nebraska State Public Library Commission.

A roundup of State library legislation and other library extension news will appear in the September issue of the A.L.A. BULLETIN.

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DEMONSTRATION STANDARDS AND PLANNING

There is enclosed an outline of public library demonstration standards and planning. The material will form the basis for discussion of standards and planning at the A.L.A. Regional Conferences. Comments and suggestions on the outlines will be incorporated into a final printed leaflet.

An outline on training for library demonstration personnel will be included in a future issue of the ALA WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER.

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ADDITIONAL NEWS ON LIBRARY DEMONSTRATION BILL

Congressman Lesinski (D. Mich.) Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor predicts the adjournment of Congress by August 12 and states definitely that no hearing can be held on the Library Demonstration Bill until next January at the earliest.

We were advised that because of lack of time for debate the desired Senate vote on S. 130 can be accomplished at this session only from the consent calendar, which is unlikely.-- J.M.C. July 27, 1949.

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I N T E R N A T I O N A L R E L A T I O N S

PROPOSED BILLS WOULD PROVIDE CONTRIBUTION TO CARE BOOK PROJECT

Legislation to provide a contribution to the CARE Book Program, developed to replace scientific, technical, and professional books lost during the war years in Europe and Asia, has been proposed by Senator John J. Sparkman (D.Ala.) and Representative Walter H. Judd (D. Minn.)

The contribution would be in an amount equal to a fund created during the war out of wages earned by conscientious objectors working on farms and in hospitals. Under the Selective Service System employers to whom conscientious objectors were assigned for work were required to pay regular wages, but the payments were kept in a special deposit in the Treasury until the end of hostilities.

On March 7, 1947, the amounts in the fund, totaling \$1,245,018, were covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts. In connection with previous legislative efforts to appropriate the fund for relief purposes, the Treasury Department has indicated that it had no objection.

The National Service Board for Religious Objectors, after examination of the CARE Book Program, requested the use of this fund for replacement of war-destroyed books as provided in the proposed legislation, S. 1998 and H.R. 5186.

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FOREIGN LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The second in our series of reports from foreign librarians who have recently concluded visits to United States libraries is that of Miss Kathleen McCaul, National Library Service, Wellington, New Zealand. Miss McCaul's visit was financed by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Excerpts from her report:

"I arrived in San Francisco on January 25, 1948, and spent two weeks travelling east to Cleveland, visiting libraries and universities in Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

"The three aspects of library work in which I was most interested were: (1) What courses were offered by library schools in school library administration and work with young people; (2) what service was given to young people in public libraries, and how it was organized; and (3) what method of organization and administration was adopted in high school libraries.

"The four months from February 9 to June 5 were spent in Cleveland, where in addition to attending certain courses at the School of Library Science, Western Reserve University, I was given every opportunity of engaging in practical work, visiting libraries of varying types and talking with librarians and administrators.

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"The value of these four months in Cleveland was considerably enhanced by the helpful suggestions and active interest of the staff of the Library School and the Cleveland Public Library.

"The ten days of spring vacation were spent in visits to Detroit, Ann Arbor Indianapolis and Bloomington. At the Detroit Public Library I investigated particularly what was done in the way of service to teenagers and Miss Dorothea Dawson, Supervisor of School Libraries in the Board of Education organised visits to two elementary schools and one high school library.

"The reason for including Indiana on my itinerary was primarily that this State with the number of rural and consolidated schools and its predominantly agricultural interests and rural population seemed to offer the nearest parallel to our situation in New Zealand. As a contrast to the large city schools that I had already seen I wanted to see service given on a smaller scale, where budgets, staff, and accommodation might not be so well provided for. And the service instituted recently by the State Department of Education, Libraries Division, seemed to approximate more closely what the National Library Service might evolve in New Zealand.

"With Miss Burrin, Supervisor of School Libraries in the State Department of Education in Indianapolis I visited a number of schools selected according to the number of the student body, in which the secondary departments ranged from one hundred to six hundred approximately. To get some kind of representative picture it was decided to see the good and the bad -- those with full-time librarians, some with teacher-librarians, some with generous allocation of time to the library, some with little or none provided. The problems of librarians in these schools might well be similar to those which New Zealand school librarians would have to face and the consolidated school with a teacher-librarian giving service to Grades 1-12 resembled very closely our district high schools with classes covering a similar range of ages and attainment.

"The latter part of the Indiana trip coincided with the second annual Conference of the Indiana School Librarians Association held at the State University, Bloomington. I greatly appreciated the invitation extended to me to attend this as the guest of the Association and found it a most stimulating experience. It was particularly valuable to learn and to hear discussed the individual problems and other aspects of library work. It is this kind of meeting on not too large a scale that I felt to be the most helpful and stimulating for people concerned with the practical problems of every day routine as well as for those planning at an administrative level."

The New Zealand librarian also attended the Preconference Institute on Work with Children and Young People at the A.L.A. Conference in Atlantic City. She says the Institute "provided an excellent programme illustrating all the varying aspects of work in this field. For a visitor it was an unusual opportunity of getting some kind of comprehensive picture of service on a national scale, for specialists and authorities from widely separated areas presented brief pictures of developments and activity in their own particular spheres. The ensuing discussion of immediate problems and suggestions for future development or lines of policy which would indicate that extension of service is not an easy matter nor one in which progress is quickly achieved."

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Following the Atlantic City Conference, Miss McCaul visited libraries in Washington, D. C. and New York, and attended a two weeks' workshop in Albany which had been organized by librarians interested in work with young people and attended by librarians from New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

In concluding her report, Miss McCaul states: "...the experiences most valuable to me were the practice work combined with the study and participation in a conference and workshop where meeting with fellow librarians was more than a mere passing acquaintance."

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REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR CHILE

More than 50,000 books, journals, reprints and pamphlets have been collected through the National Committee for Chile (Vol. 1, No. 5) to replace the University of Chile Medical School Library which was destroyed by fire last December.

The move to collect books for the Medical School Library was begun six months ago, the State Department leading the effort. To date contributions have been received from 127 donors in every part of the United States, among them medical libraries, associations, publishers of medical books and journals, and individual physicians.

The largest single gift is the basic collection of 30,000 volumes given by the New York Academy of Medicine Library. These volumes were sent to Santiago on the A/A "Santa Margarita" on June 10, 1949. Claude Bowers, United States Ambassador to Chile, will preside at presentation ceremonies.

About 1,000 textbooks have been received, most of them from discontinued Veterans Administration units. The Library of Congress is sending cards for these titles.

The State Department will also contribute 750 volumes of medical textbooks.

The National Office of Vital Statistics has given over 500 current pamphlet

To assist in collecting books for the library, the Medical Library Association sent out a want list of journals to its 350 members. A number of replies have already been received.

Persons wishing to give books or other materials for rebuilding the University of Chile Medical School Library are asked to contact Mrs. Elizabeth Aboline, Executive Secretary, National Committee for Chile, Room 324, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D. C.

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