

NEWS

from



CLINTON - ESSEX - FRANKLIN LIBRARY
PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK

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NOTE: We are pleased to present this month a review of Virginia G. Young's THE LIBRARY TRUSTEE: A PRACTICAL GUIDEBOOK. Mrs. Lincoln Barnett, a trustee of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library since 1954, has skillfully reviewed and analyzed this new library handbook and has pointed out its practical application for all trustees.

MY LIBRARY IS A DUKEDOM

by

Hildegarde Barnett

"A library trustee is an individual who has been chosen to participate in the administration of one of the oldest and most significant civilizing influences in the history of the human race.....The library trustee of today is part of a glorious on-going procession which started in the dim early history of civilization and will doubtless continue as long as civilization endures." *

These satisfying definitions should warm the heart of every trustee of every library in the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library system. In the September newsletter from the system there was a reprinted article justifying the "role of the library trustee." The book, The Library Trustee, from which the above quotations were taken, repeatedly emphasizes the fact that library trustees represent the American doctrine of the citizen's right to control public services for which he is taxed. The library trustee is the legal and historical link between his library and the community which it serves.

Be this as it may, the trustee of a small library, unaware of his "glorious" tradition, finds it difficult to assess his responsibility and to know how to use his own particular talents to guide the library which he has been asked to represent. In The Library Trustee he will find some practical advice. He will learn of his duties and responsibilities; why and how he should have been

* The Library Trustee: A Practical Guidebook by Virginia G. Young. Editor for the American Library Trustee Association of the American Library Association. New York: R. R. Bowker Company. 1964.

appointed, what his relations are to his community, how he, as a trustee, can use his own special know-how for the good of his library, how to conduct his meetings, how to draw up a policy for his library that will encompass the running of the library, the selection of a librarian, the managing and raising of funds for the library, the management of the library building, and its use for community projects, the board of book selection, with the courageous backing of the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement; the extent of special services to schools and other local interest groups, fines, gifts, and a multitude of other questions that normally face the library of today.

There is a chapter on the relationship of the board of trustees to the librarian, delineating the limits of each sphere of influence, but also pointing out what the trustee can do to help, and also guide, the librarian. The whole field of a trustee's financial responsibility, plus his legal responsibility, is well covered. And the trustee's necessary participation in the state and national trustees' organizations is skilfully outlined, accenting the history of these groups and their current influence and assistance to the local trustee of a small library. Numerous books are cited to guide the thinking of trustees as they plan the policy and working arrangements of their libraries. There are standards to follow, mostly drawn up by the American Library Association, with the full program and ideals to achieve, but hedged with smaller guides for the interim program of smaller libraries.

The possibility of using the organization of Friends of the Library is explored, giving the background of this group and the contributions it has made. The problem of public relations is discussed, with practical suggestions for any group, no matter how small, to make contact with local organizations, local political groups and governing bodies, to win support for the library. For the communities without a library, imaginative steps of action are provided to convince the powers that be, especially the local village or town authorities, that a library would definitely meet a need and enhance the intellectual climate of the community.

The advantages of belonging to a library system are enumerated at some length, with cogent arguments which most of our member libraries would be happy to endorse. But it might be well for trustees, as they meet on behalf of their local libraries, to review these arguments and to make sure that all the services offered by our own system have been carefully explored and are being used fully and judiciously. The system has been set up to help small libraries, to give full services even to the smallest community, to the isolated individual who desires special help, but it can only achieve this aim with the understanding cooperation of the member libraries. They must know of, ask of, and make use of, these facilities. The system is there to help them. Perhaps it is a major part of each trustee's job to make sure that this rich resource is being utilized to its maximum in favor of his own small library.

The Library Trustee is not a book to pick up of an evening for casual reading. It is a textbook of sorts, full of workaday suggestions for achieving the best for one's own local library. It starts on the spine of every trustee with pats on the back, authority for action, blueprints for a great future for

library service, but it also draws each trustee up short, asking him to evaluate his position, assess the standards laid down by the top minds in the library profession, and to try to lead his own library, as far as it is humanly and economically possible, toward the ideals that have always undergirded the principle that in a democracy most of the people, most of the time, if properly informed, will arrive at the proper decision. Thomas Jefferson said: "I have often thought that nothing would do more extensive good at small expense than the establishment of a small circulating library in every county..." And two centuries before Jefferson, Shakespeare wrote:

"My library
Was dukedom large enough."

NOTE: Extra copies of THE LIBRARY TRUSTEE are available and may be borrowed upon request by any trustee of the system.

ADULT BOOKS AND SERVICES

ANTHONY F. VECCHIO, ADULT SERVICES CONSULTANT

Saul Bellow's latest work, HERZOG, has been widely acclaimed by the critics as his best. The tribulations of the troubled protagonist are related in a novel of unconventional form. It offers rewards to those who are willing to give it serious attention.

On another level, LEAH, by Seymour Epstein, is an eminently readable novel about another troubled human being. Leah is an attractive person, well-liked and depended on by all. She is also single at 37. The story concerns a climactic two week period in her life.

Two well-written novels of childhood and the process of growing up with all it implies are Joanna Crawford's BIRCH INTERVAL, about a girl in the Amish country and Paul Horgan's THINGS AS THEY ARE, about a boy in a hypothetical town in New York. Another with the same theme is about an older girl of fifteen in the more exotic setting of India, THE ROPE BRIDGE, by Cecilie Leslie.

A tale of witchery in Westchester is UNDINE, by Phyllis Young. Eskimo witch doctors and murder are involved in THE LONG WHITE NIGHT, by Katharine Scherman. And finally for an assortment of strange and evil doings, there is the collection of short stories by Stanley Ellin, THE BLESSINGTON METHOD.

Dr. Donald D. Jackson, a practicing psychiatrist, attempts to dispell some of the commonly held misunderstandings about mental health in MYTHS OF MADNESS; NEW FACTS FOR OLD FALLACIES. An exposé of the derelictions of the drug industry and a report of the Kefauver investigation which led to some reform are to be found in Richard Harris' THE REAL VOICE.

One of the areas of the collection which suffers from a high rate of obsolescence is that of space and space exploration. It would be well to buy new titles and discard some of the old at regular intervals. Erik Bergaust's THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS IN SPACE will not have that long a shelf-life but it will bring things up-to-date a bit.

Robert Trumbull, a reporter with seventeen years of experience in the area, tries to shed some light on what he calls THE SCRUTABLE EAST, specifically Southeast Asia. One of the best brief introductions to Japanese history is out in a third edition, Edwin Reischauer's JAPAN, PAST AND PRESENT. Mr. Reischauer, formerly a professor of Japanese history, is currently our Ambassador to Japan. Journalist Luigi Barzini reports on THE ITALIANS with candor, wit, and intelligence.

Another of those publishing coincidences is the practically simultaneous appearance of two biographies of Lenin: Louis Fischer's THE LIFE OF LENIN, and Robert Payne's THE LIFE AND DEATH OF LENIN. They are both good; Fischer's the better documented and Payne's the more eloquent.

To end on a graceful note, there is Agnes DeMille's well-written and illustrated BOOK OF THE DANCE.

F B	Bellow, Saul	HERZOG Viking, 1964 \$5.00
F E	Epstein, Seymour	LEAH Little, 1964 \$4.95
F C	Crawford, Joanna	BIRCH INTERVAL Houghton, 1964 \$3.95
F H	Horgan, Paul	THINGS AS THEY ARE Farrar, 1964 \$4.50
F L	Leslie, Cecilie	THE ROPE BRIDGE Doubleday, 1964 \$3.95
F S	Scherman, Katharine	THE LONG WHITE NIGHT Little, 1964 \$4.95
F Y	Young, Phyllis	UNDINE Putnam, 1964 \$4.95
SC E	Ellin, Stanley	THE BLESSINGTON METHOD AND OTHER STRANGE TALES Random, 1964 \$2.95
338.4 H	Harris, Richard	THE REAL VOICE Macmillan, 1964 \$5.95
616.89 J	Jackson, Donald	MYTHS OF MADNESS: NEW FACTS FOR OLD FALLACIES Macmillan, 1964 \$4.50
629.4 B	Bergaust, Erik	THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS IN SPACE Macmillan 1964 \$5.95
793.309 D	De Mille, Agnes	THE BOOK OF THE DANCE Golden, 1964 \$14.95
914.5 B	Barzini, Luigi	THE ITALIANS Atheneum, 1964 \$6.95

952 R	Reischauer, Edwin	JAPAN, PAST AND PRESENT 3d ed, rev. Knopf, 1964 \$3.45
959 T	Trumbull, Robert	THE SCRUTABLE EAST McKay, 1964 \$5.00
B L5664f	Fischer, Louis	THE LIFE OF LENIN Harper, 1964 \$10.00
B L5664p	Payne, Robert	THE LIFE AND DEATH OF LENIN Simon, 1964 \$8.50

YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND SERVICES

MRS. BARBARA DOH, YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S CONSULTANT

We are delighted to find that some of our member libraries have pre-school story hours planned for this fall and winter - and to follow this theme, we are presenting not only some general hints that have been found useful in a story hour for preschoolers but also a plan for a story hour built around a specific theme.

It is usually wise to limit the number of children attending a story hour to not more than 15 or 20 pre-schoolers in the group; perhaps less than that depending on the size of the room and the experience of the story teller.

Seating is best arranged so that the children are in a semi-circle on the floor around the low chair on which the story teller sits. Be sure that all the children can see the pictures when you hold the book up for them.

Don't forget to introduce yourself - and to ask the name of each child.

Story hours should not run over 30 minutes in length; 20 minutes may be long enough. And don't forget that children may need to stand up and stretch between stories.

Story Hour Theme: SNOW

Display Materials:

A table covered with white paper, tablecloth or cotton batting. A piece of heavy cardboard covered with dark paper may prove an effective foil for three dimensional snowflakes cut out of paper doilies, or for a snowman made of honeycombed tissue paper or poster paper sprayed with synthetic snow. This cardboard propped up on the table adds emphasis to the theme, as could small paperweights of the type that 'snow' when inverted. You can improvise on this theme as imagination and materials allow.

Stories:

THE SNOWY DAY, by Ezra Jack Keats
WHITE SNOW, BRIGHT SNOW, by Alvin Tresselt

Poems:

From ALL TOGETHER, by Dorothy Aldis:
First Winter's Day, p. 52
On a Snowy Day, p. 161

From THE YEAR AROUND, by Alice Hazeltine
and Elva Smith:
Winter Circus, By Aileen Fischer,
p. 148

Additional:

SNOW IS FALLING, by Franklyn M. Branley.
This is a "fact" book for small children
about what snow is and what it does; the
story teller may want to use only parts
of it along with the illustrations.

HEADQUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

TRUSTEES MEETINGS

Members of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library Board of Trustees met on Thursday, October 15, at Headquarters. Present were: Mrs. Daniel T. Manning, Sr., AuSable Forks; Mr. Paul Vogan, Mooers; Mr. Edward G. Hoit, Malone; Mr. Wayne H. Byrne, Plattsburgh; Mrs. Lincoln Barnett, Westport; Mr. Claude H. Clark, Bloomingdale; Mr. Richard W. Lawrence, Jr., Elizabethtown; Mr. Frank L. Carpenter, Plattsburgh; Mrs. A. J. Hecht, Plattsburgh; Miss Margaret Richards, Brushton; Mr. William A. Harvey, Saranac Lake; Mr. John Stock, Tupper Lake; Mrs. Allan Everest, Plattsburgh; Mr. Berry, Director of the library system, and Mr. Allan Sevigny, Library Extension Division.

The next board meeting will be held at the Saranac Lake Free Library on Tuesday, November 17, at 5 o'clock.

NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Mr. Berry, Mr. Vecchio, Mrs. Waddell, Mrs. Doh, Mrs. Mitchell and Mr. Crager of the Headquarters professional staff attended the October meeting of the New York Library Association in New York City. Three trustees of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library also were present at this annual library conference. They were Mrs. Allan Everest, Plattsburgh; Miss Margaret Richards, Brushton; and Mr. Richard W. Lawrence, Jr., Elizabethtown.

Staff members were present at many different sessions during the week. Mr. Berry was particularly interested in the system meeting on Saturday, a meeting at which projects involving inter-system cooperation were discussed. Of special importance to this area was the project outlined by Miss Florence Harshe, Director of the Southern Adirondack Library System. She talked about the upcoming survey to be made of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library, the Southern Adirondack Library System, The Ramapo-Catskill Library System and the Finger Lakes Library System - a survey of the responsibilities of the central library for each system and the system library in handling reference service.

AUTHOR TO APPEAR ON TELEVISION PROGRAM

Mrs. Emily Neville, author of the Newbery award winning juvenile book, IT'S LIKE THIS, CAT, will appear with Mrs. Barbara Doh, System Children's Consultant, on W P T Z's program, ON THE LOCAL SCENE, on Thursday, November 19, at 1:40 in the afternoon. We are sure librarians and trustees, as well as the general public, will want to save this date to hear Mrs. Neville speak.

Mrs. Doh presented another in her regular television programs on W P T Z's ON THE LOCAL SCENE on Thursday, October 30. This time Mrs. Doh had with her a group of kindergarteners who dramatized familiar nursery rhymes.

OCTOBER LIBRARIANS' MEETING

The fall meeting of librarians in the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System was held October 5 in the auditorium of Plattsburgh Public Library. Mrs. Doh, Children's Consultant, demonstrated techniques for story hours. Planning the story session around the theme of "Bear Stories", Mrs. Doh told Marjory Flack's ASK MR. BEAR; read Lynd Ward's THE BIGGEST BEAR - and finished with one of A. A. Milne's poems about bears. Local children Jeff Sheats, Stuart Light, Cheryl Picard, Chip Summerell, Paige Bouyea, Alison Doh and Barbara Jenke clearly enjoyed the story hour and the ceremony of the story candle. Librarians present then discussed planning of story hours in their own libraries.

HEADQUARTERS STAFF VISITS MEMBER LIBRARIES

Mr. Berry visited the Hammond Library, Crown Point, and the Port Henry Library on October 26. He also called at the Essex Free Library on October 24.

Mrs. Doh and Mrs. Leggett called at the Mooers Free Library, Champlain Free Library and Dodge Memorial Library, Rouses Point, on October 15.

Mrs. Doh also attended a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Dodge Library, West Chazy, on Tuesday, October 20.

STAFF CHANGES

Miss Rosemarie Coryer of Cadyville has joined the Headquarters staff as typist.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

National Children's Book Week is November 1-7 this year. Posters and bookmarks have been distributed to all member libraries, along with materials on how to celebrate this week and suggested book lists.

FILM LISTS

An annotated list of thirty films is now in preparation and will be mailed to all member libraries very soon. These films are in the new group sent to Headquarters from the State Library and will be available for loan from November, 1964 until April, 1965.

MEMOS FROM MEMBER LIBRARIES

KEESEVILLE FREE LIBRARY

A gift of valuable historical material from the collection of the late Dr. John Evans has been given to this library by Mrs. John Evans. Early maps and survey plans of the Village of Keeseville, together with an 1853 picture of the northern part of Keeseville, are now being prepared for display and make an important addition to the library's collection of historical material.

The library has also scheduled a story hour for pre-schoolers every Wednesday morning from 10:00 to 10:30. Mrs. James McDonough and Mrs. James McCormick of Keeseville are in charge of this program.

MOOERS FREE LIBRARY

The annual membership drive for the Mooers Free Library Association is now in progress. A letter describing the uses and purposes of the library was distributed in October.

PLATTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Miss Emma Walter, Director, has announced a story hour for pre-schoolers to be held each Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 3, beginning with November 4. Five Plattsburgh women have offered their services and will take turns telling stories each week. They are Mrs. Donald Cluff, Mrs. Herman Doh, Miss Jacqueline Ladd, Mrs. Francis Van Nortwick, and Mrs. Frank Zigmund.

DODGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ROUSES POINT

Mrs. Tremblay, librarian, has planned a special Halloween display of books and posters for children.

Mrs. Robert Marra has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of this library, replacing Mrs. Harold Ashline who has moved to Plattsburgh.

SARANAC LAKE FREE LIBRARY

A benefit showing of movies taken by Joseph Harley of Saranac Lake featured last year's Winter Carnival and the boat races of the last summer, along with other films of Adirondack area interest.

Mr. Harley is a past president of the Amateur Cinema League and also a past president of the Metropolitan Motion Picture Club of New York. He has been a winner of the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award, the "Oscar" of amateur photographers, and a winner of four "ten best" awards as well as recipient of a first prize in the Cannes Festival.

The benefit was held in the Hotel Saranac on October 18 to raise funds for the Adirondack collection of the Saranac Lake Free Library.

R. Edwin Berry, Director

Mary G. Leggett, Editor