

JAMAICA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN

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JAMAICA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN



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EDITORIAL

This issue of the Bulletin, following earlier editorial practice reproduces some of the principal addresses read at meetings of the Association during the year and five months which have passed since the last issue. It may therefore claim to provide us with some measure of the Association's activity.

We do hope however, that in the course of the next year we shall have to rely less on reporting what has already been said, and that some members will from now begin to give thought to writing original articles of a length and nature suitable for inclusion in the Bulletin. We say this with no reflection on our contributors to this issue, for we shall continue to publish those papers read, or lectures given during the year, whose interest and nature warrant it.

It is hoped that the next issue of the Bulletin will begin a new series and that it will include contributions from librarians and others in the West Indies outside of Jamaica.

Finally, we should like to take this opportunity of appealing to members to take a lively interest in the activities of the Association and to encourage others to do likewise. This interest will in turn be reflected in the contributions to the Bulletin and we may be able 'to go to press' more frequently than once a year.

K. E. I.

PUBLICATIONS AND TEACHERS' LIBRARY SERVICE

By T. A. McKay, B.Sc., Publications Officer,
Department of Education, Jamaica.

(A talk given at a Meeting of the Jamaica Library
Association on 23rd May, 1957)

I feel that it is a great honour to be asked to address this Annual Meeting of the Jamaica Library Association and I am very glad to have an opportunity to tell you about the work I am doing in Jamaica.

Some three or four years ago Mr. V. L. Griffiths of Oxford University was attached for a year to the University College of the West Indies in order to study some of the educational problems of the Caribbean area. One of the questions he was asked to consider was the provision of suitable books and teaching aids for elementary schools, that is for children of age groups 7-11 and 11-15. As a result of his recommendations the Government of Jamaica decided to set up a unit for the production of textbooks and teaching aids and asked Unesco to supply a specialist to assist in its establishment. I was very fortunate in being chosen by Unesco for the post and I arrived in Jamaica in the middle of November last.

For the first few months of my stay I went around seeing schools and trying to assess their requirements. On most of my journeys I was accompanied by Mr. S. E. Edmondson, Senior Education Officer, who will carry on the work after I have gone.

We found that the requirements are as follows:

- (1) Teaching aids i.e. visual aids, number apparatus, pamphlets on teaching methods etc.
- (2) Extra reading material to encourage reading for pleasure and reading for information.
- (3) Reading charts and graded reading cards for the lower Primary classes.

- (4) Work cards in arithmetic for the lower Primary classes.
- (5) A new series of arithmetic books.
- (6) Textbooks on other subjects e.g. Geography, Nature Study, Hygiene for Primary schools.
- (7) A new series of English reading and language books.

The next step was to find ways and means of meeting these needs. In the first place we established liaison with the various Educational Institutions in Jamaica, among them the University College of the West Indies Centre for the Study of Education, Teacher Training Colleges and officers of the Education Department both at Headquarters and in the field. The amount of help which these institutions and individual members of them have offered to us has been most stimulating.

In the schools the most pressing need was felt to be the provision of extra reading material and we had to set about finding authors to write stories and articles for the books. We found that many people were interested in writing, and that some had been waiting only for some kind of assurance that what they wrote had a chance of being published. The method we used for finding authors was by obtaining personal introductions, by speaking at Teachers' Federation and other meetings. As a result of some of these meetings, writing groups have been formed in Kingston, Spanish Town and Chapelton.

Already we have received over 60 manuscripts some of them containing only one short story but others containing a number of short stories and even poems.

There is also a number of pamphlets in course of preparation, pamphlets dealing with, for example, the teaching of reading in the lower classes, and on the techniques of teaching large classes, on reading games and on number games. In addition we have received material for a large number of reading cards, and we have collected from schools samples of visual aids which have been used successfully in the classroom.

In the work I have been given the assistance of an Advisory Committee consisting of headquarters officers of the Education Department, representatives from the University College of the West Indies, the Teacher Training Colleges and the schools. This Committee has appointed two sub-committees, one of which deals with the selection of manuscripts, and the other with the selection of visual aids for production by the Service.

With regard to the publication of books each manuscript will be issued in mimeographed form for pre-testing in certain selected schools. Each of these schools will be given 50 or so mimeographed copies and will be asked to report on teachers' and pupils' reactions. They will also be asked to suggest how the books can be improved before they are printed.

After revision has taken place the book will be put into production and may be produced in one of three ways:

1. it may be published by a commercial publisher at his own risk;
2. it may be published on commission i.e. produced by a commercial publisher and sold to the Department at an agreed price
- or
3. the work of production may be handed over to a printer with the Service acting as publisher.

Which way the work is done will depend on a number of factors and it will be necessary to treat each book as a separate entity.

The authors of the books will be paid a fee, which has not yet been fixed, indeed which cannot be definitely fixed for all authors and types of manuscripts. In consideration of this fee the author will as a rule hand over his copyright to the Service as representing the Government. The authors of subject textbooks as opposed to stories and articles for extra reading will have to be treated somewhat differently. They will presumably be specialists in their particular field and it may be that any textbooks they write will have a wider appeal than just Jamaica. In such cases we would refer them to commercial publishers and would assist them in the negotiations for the publication of their manuscripts. These authors would then receive royalties from the publishers.

While I am anxious to find authors for such textbooks, because a good textbook takes some time to write, I am also anxious to find authors for more ambitious stories for the Post-Primary school. I suggest that if we produced these longer stories, some of them might well be included among the books in the libraries of the Jamaica Library Service. I understand that it is sometimes difficult to choose suitable books for inclusion in the children's section of the libraries, and I very much hope that the Service will be able to help in this matter.

The Service has taken over the Education Department Library which was until recently housed at the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare. At present the library is being surveyed and the list of the books in it is being compiled. This list will be mimeographed and issued, together with a set of rules and forms of application for membership, to all educational institutions in Jamaica. Teachers and members of the staffs of Training Colleges will be able to borrow the books in person or post free.

There is in the premises at Windward Road a reading room where teachers may come and consult our reference books and also see the display of publishers' textbooks. I hope that this year we shall get £300 to buy new books for the library. Lists of accessions will be sent out periodically to supplement the previous list of books.

I have already mentioned the display of publishers' textbooks. These books will be available for teachers to come and consult when they are looking for any particular textbook. It is hoped that later some arrangements will be made to have reviews made of books which seem suitable for use in Jamaica, and summaries of the reviews will be pasted to the inside cover of the books so that teachers will be able easily to assess their possible value. I have told you very shortly what we are doing and are hoping to do in the Publications and Teachers' Library Service, and I hope that the Service which I represent and the Jamaica Library Service will be able to work very closely together for the benefit of the people of Jamaica.

DEVELOPMENTS IN JAMAICA LIBRARY SERVICE

By Cynthia Powell, A.L.A., Acting Deputy Director,
Jamaica Library Service.

(a) New Libraries.

The Library Service has continued its programme of providing suitable buildings to house its parish libraries, and in the past year two new library buildings were opened in Portland and St. Mary.

Both parishes were already providing library services but the libraries were situated in rented premises, unsuitable for library purposes and unable to accommodate the steady increase in both stock and readers.

The new buildings which were erected through the co-operation of the Jamaica Library Board and the parish library committees were specially designed to meet the needs of libraries in the tropics. Maximum shelf space has been provided through continuous wall shelving, with ventilation and light being obtained through windows placed above and below the shelves.

The Portland Parish Library was officially opened on July 12th, 1956, by His Excellency the Governor Sir Hugh Foot, before a large gathering of interested persons from Port Antonio, and well wishers from other parts of the island. Much of the old stock had been discarded and a well balanced stock was provided by headquarters. The increased facilities were noticeably reflected in the issues which increased from 15,240 in 1955-56 to 40,256 in 1956-57. More than half of these issues were made to the junior members of the library, whose section is one of the most attractive features of that library. Gaily coloured furniture has been provided for the tiny tots and a large notice board gives ample space for attractive displays.

With additional space the library has now embarked on various extension activities, including lectures, film shows, listening post groups and story hours for the youngsters.

With the Portland Library well established, we turned our attention to St. Mary and endeavoured to surpass our achievements in Portland. This building has a picturesque setting, located as it is in the Park at Port Maria. The adult and junior sections are separated only by the issue desk and the library can be speedily converted into one large room for lectures and other activities. A beautiful aquarium filled with brightly coloured fish has not yet ceased to hold the attention of the juniors.

This building was also opened by His Excellency the Governor, on April 17th 1957, and again we have had a considerable increase in issues. The total issues in 1955-56 were 18,233 while the issues for April and May 1957 have already totalled 13,406.

This library has planned a varied programme of activities and looks forward to a promising future.

The Jamaica Library Service now eagerly awaits the official opening of the Clarendon Parish Library in October 1957 and the combined Headquarters and Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library early in 1958.

(b) New Headquarters and Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library.

The Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library building has at long last become a reality. Every member of the Jamaica Library Service staff has dreamed of the day when the Corporate Area would have a library equal to the great and famous libraries of other cities, and we hope that such a library is even now being built.

It was not long after the opening of the Kingston and St. Andrew Library in July 1955, that it became evident that the reconverted dwelling house in which the library was situated, was totally inadequate. Membership was over 10,000 and at peak hours readers were treading on each other and the staff could hardly find their way around the library. The public library has been accepted in this metropolitan area and besides borrowing books, members are now expecting other services usually rendered by

public libraries elsewhere.

In the meantime, the headquarters of the Jamaica Library Service had also outgrown its already unsuitable premises and the inevitable day could be postponed no longer. With successful representations to the Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation and Central Government, funds were procured to erect a combined headquarters and central library for the Parish of Kingston and St. Andrew.

A site was donated by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation along the new "Tom Redcam Drive," and the design has been approved and the construction of the new building is well on the way. The contours of the land have been utilised in the design, resulting in one section of the building being two storeys. Provision has been made for:-

- (i) a children's library, with its own entrance and separate reading room capable of accommodating over 20,000 books,
- (ii) an adult lending library to display a stock of over 30,000 books and equipped with two reader's advisers desk,
- (iii) issue counters in the foyer,
- (iv) a quick reference department,
- (v) periodicals and reading rooms,
- (vi) offices, staff and workrooms.

Maps and photographic departments, a music department, a lecture hall, stacks and a larger reference library were originally planned, but could not be included in the present building because of inadequate funds. There is however room for expansion, and it is hoped to add these departments at a later date.

Adequate space has been provided in the headquarters section for all departments including the Schools Library Services, and garages for two mobile libraries.

This building is estimated to cost £60,000 and should be completed by March 1958. It does not include all that we had planned or hoped for, but it will provide the beginning of an improved public library service for the Corporate Area.

(c) Mobile Service for Schools.

Since 1952, the Jamaica Library Service on behalf of the Education Department has administered a Schools Library Service which has provided a small library in each of Jamaica's 714 primary schools. With an annual grant of £6,500 it has not been possible to deposit more than 60 books in each school and in order to make the maximum use of the book-stock the collection is changed every six months.

The lack of books, however, is not the only problem which faces the Schools Library Service. Under the present system there is no direct contact between the schools' librarian and the teachers, and although instructions have been sent by circular letters to the teachers, evidence suggests that closer supervision is necessary; some teachers have declined to accept the responsibility of allowing the children to take the books home and since there are no organised library periods during school hours, in some cases insufficient use has been made of the books; the schools' librarian does not have sufficient firsthand knowledge of the needs of each school and it is mere chance whether her selection includes the books most suitable for a particular school at a particular period.

The solution to most of these problems seems to lie in the provision of a mobile library service for schools, which would afford the teachers the opportunity of selecting their own books and provide the necessary contact between librarian and teachers. As a result, a strong appeal was made to Government for an increased grant to provide more books for each school and to initiate a mobile library service. A substantial increase was made in April 1957 and a mobile unit was immediately ordered from the United States of America. It is proposed to operate this unit in the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew and St. Thomas, an area comprising 126 primary schools.

The book mobile has been selected with particular reference to the rough and narrow roads of rural Jamaica and special attention is being paid to the ventilation system. The unit will be shelved with a

balanced collection of 1,600 books suitable for the varying age groups. At least 150 books will be supplied to each school.

A trained librarian will travel with the unit advising teachers on their selection and supervising the management of the school library. It is hoped that she will also give talks to the children which will encourage them in the proper use and care of books. Each school will be visited once in three months and the books will be changed on each visit.

It is proposed to begin this service in September and we anticipate island coverage in the not too distant future.

THE PERSONALITY OF LIBRARIANSHIP

By Ursula Raymond, A.L.A.,
Deputy Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica.

(A talk given at a Meeting of the Jamaica Library
Association on June 4th 1957)

The Education Committee of the Jamaica Library Association suggested that as I had just come from England, I should address you members and give you in some way the benefit of my experience over there. I think that facts about library organisation, and the history and collections of some of the more famous libraries there, may be found in textbooks, and I think they have been covered interestingly too, in some of the professional talks you had last year by Mr. Ingram and Miss Gunter.

At the Leeds Library School which I attended, we had endless discussions on the status of the profession, and the effectiveness of librarianship in different fields of university, special and public library activity, and I found that this theme was under active discussion at the various association meetings and week-end conferences which I attended. I started thinking then, and have been since, especially in the past fortnight, whether our librarianship in Jamaica and in the rest of the West Indies, had ever created enough of an impression to cause this controversy, or, whether, among its practitioners, it was the source for such serious and continuous concern as I experienced in England, or whether our librarianship had ever defined and pursued any goal to act as a sort of yardstick of our failure or success.

It was that which made me think of addressing you, and provoking some discussion later on, I hope, on the subject of the personality of librarianship. When I suggested the title of this afternoon's talk, some persons who were present looked very doubtful indeed. I don't know if what I have to say will settle those doubts, but I do

hope that I will stimulate some thought on the subject. Well, I believe that there is such a thing as the personality of librarianship - and I will support those two terms by definition to make them clearer. One dictionary which I looked up defined "personality" as "that which constitutes individuality," and a friend whom I asked defined it as "the qualities which make you you;" I think both of those are quite fair descriptions. As for "librarianship" my concept and definition of it is one which is supported by no dictionary I am afraid, and it is "the practical task of making books effective."

It is because of these terms that I believe librarianship has a personality of its own which singles it out from others in this business of books, singles it out from the booksellers, and the publishers and the printers and others in the book world. We do have library services in the West Indies - so by their very nature they have had some sort of personality - whether negative or extrovert and active, and I shall discuss this personality, its nature, its aims, its operation and its expression.

Until the creation of the University College and its library, I think that librarianship in the West Indies largely meant public libraries, and the only sort of different and scholarly library existing was the West India Reference Library which enjoyed an international reputation, thanks to the late Frank Cundall, who by his publications, overseas contacts, and devotion to things Jamaican and West Indian, had built up for himself and the library a reputation for bibliography, history and scholarship. The public librarianship at that time was not really public, and was untrained, undefined and apathetic, if not entirely insignificant. It has its usefulness in that we can now judge it and learn from it what librarianship ought not to be. In the last fifteen or twenty years there has been a remarkable change in the concept of librarianship - and this has come about with the development of public library services with the help of the British Council, the establishment of an Eastern Caribbean Library Training

School, the setting up of the Caribbean Commission and its special library and bibliographic services, the growth of special libraries like that of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, and the creation of the University College and its library, each of these services meaning special function, special methods, special collections and special types of personnel. It is a very different pattern to the one of some years back - it now has diversity at least as a characteristic, and those of you who are new entrants to the profession cannot really accuse it of monotony or say there is any limit to the opportunities you have for the different types of service you may give. In addition to these, information services have been developed by local and foreign governments in the territories, for example, the Government Information Services, the United States Information Service, the Public Relations Departments - all concerned, too, with making books - printed literature - effective. So that although this personality may differ somewhat from one type of library to another, I suggest there is a constant factor - this making of books effective which gives an overall pattern to the whole profession and to the persons within it.

The personality of our librarianship then, is one that registers both growth and diversity, and later I shall discuss other qualities it can add to its nature.

It is easy to live from day to day, like jogging along in a train, and forget where we're heading for and seeing our destination in a somewhat blurred manner. We cannot treat our librarianship in this manner, but must occasionally pause to recall and re-examine our aims, relate our methods and activities to those aims - in the words of P. M. Sherlock, to "find out what is desirable and then do what is practical in the light of what is desirable."

And what is desirable at present? Our libraries, and our training, like so much else have been patterned largely on English and some American models. How far do those suit our needs, and what is needed here? I think that the pattern of librarianship in the West Indies

must be one created with an awareness of the social and national issues with which the provision of library services is so deeply involved. It would be a mistake, I think for us to ignore, underrate, or fail to examine periodically the needs of the area and the nature of the society we serve, and what is more, I trust we will often have the vision to anticipate those needs, so that when they are eventually expressed by people other than ourselves, we will not be found wanting.

In America and England librarianship developed a personality that was affected by the history of the place; in America it had as one of its early aims the training of its thousands of immigrants for democracy, and a deliberate policy of adult education towards that end. In Britain it tended towards a cultural and educational role that concentrated largely on individual self-development, and personal interests and intellectual hobbies, and the latter saw the establishment of large special private libraries. The function and success of public libraries especially, in the United States and in Britain have created controversy and strong feelings on the matter. In America the early duplication of effort in some university fields has resulted happily in remarkable cooperation among libraries, and in England the growth of special and technical libraries, by firms and private organizations, was a challenge to the flexibility of the previously existing libraries and personnel.

How does the personality of our librarianship at present reflect as its qualities, awareness, flexibility and a cooperative spirit? As to awareness of need, and therefore our purpose, I think we have in the West Indies some of the aims of both English and American libraries, and we have their experience to benefit from in the avoidance of mistakes. I believe we have such a clear role in this emergent, and vastly illiterate area, that we dare not in conscience ignore that role. But it is a Jack-and-the-beanstalk area too, in that every year sees rapid expansion in the administrative, industrial, economic, educational and cultural fields, and because of this, of this mushrooming, it is an area of great social mobility that is going to tax our ability to anticipate and be flexible.

It may be an exaggeration - but I cannot see how they are to prosper without us librarians, and sometimes I am dismayed because there are not enough of us. Information is necessary for progress, and in services like ours which acquire, disseminate and make books effective, their progress is ours, and there can be no real advance for either of us, until all these new schemes and developments are supported by adequate library services. In many cases, it is a gratuitous service, since we, as trained librarians, realize the importance of books and must give service even if it is not requested. It is we who are to campaign for literacy for the illiterate, it is we who must set ourselves the task of promoting literacy where it exists, by working strenuously for the improvement and expansion of our established services. We must convince government that libraries are an essential social service. We must further inspire the educated by our collections of historical material, and in the liberal and fine arts field, inspire pride and tradition and a sense of history, for our artists or for our graduates; and it is we who must support material expansion, by anticipating the needs of our growing industrial and administrative concerns, and provide documentation and service in all these diverse fields of knowledge. This rapid expansion is going to increase the research-potential of persons in all fields; we must develop our bibliographic services far more to meet them, and we as librarians must write more, print more and talk more, and establish for ourselves a reputation for wide interest and scholarship and competence.

I hope then that our librarianship develops a personality that is remarkable for its awareness of purpose - one more disinterested than the politician's - one more pervasive in its influence throughout the entire community whose history and ours incidentally, we can help to change for the better.

There were about thirty young librarians at the library school in Leeds, and many of them, during the last three months, as well as some lecturers and staff I met elsewhere, came to ask me if they could work

in the West Indies, because they all felt that except in some rare special fields, librarianship in England had little inspiration to offer them. It was quite a shock to me, especially as they had not all come from the much-maligned public libraries, but four were from university, three from special, two from private, and some from county libraries. I was dismayed by their attitude, and their having to work in England after all, only because they could do no better. Four of them have since gone to work in libraries in New Zealand. I mention this fact, because we are still at the stage here, and I address myself now particularly to the newer members, where in the library services you can find a job that is worthwhile and into which you can put all your energy and enthusiasm. We need personalities that can answer to this challenge and work with courage to realize vision. If we set our needs as our standards, then we cannot be a merely bookish, highbrow body, but one that is both active and dedicated and can produce achievement of quality.

So you who come into library service come into a field that enjoys this inspiration and sense of service. But I think that this business of personality operates both ways. It exists within the profession itself and we members share its glory as it were, but we must lend it something of our own personalities - our individuality, our principles, our vision, and our methods - we must lend it all these. And how do we make this interaction worthwhile, and how is this personality expressed? Let us as far as possible, within our own selves, and in the recruitment of personnel, develop as people with a wide range of interest in fields outside librarianship. We will benefit by being people with well-balanced interests, and among the public whom we will meet in these extra-library activities, will come the feeling of librarians as being human, lively and interesting, people who not only know something about themselves and books, but of music or gardening, or painting or bird-watching. We deal with books and people, and ours is really a sort of public relations job, and if we are well-liked by the public, the whole profession benefits. Sometimes I think that

the onus of this public relations aspect rests with the staff whom the public meets at counters and reception desks. Most often it is the newer and younger members who have this responsibility. You have there one of the chances of expressing this personality I have been talking about, and I urge you to realize it and to develop cheerful, pleasant, and intelligent manners and appearance. If you are convinced of our aim and inherit our ideal of professional service, then express that confidence of status in your manner, without conceit or superiority, but with a just appreciation of your worth, remembering that our success as librarians depends on the cooperation of those others who read our books.

Among ourselves, what sort of personality are we developing? A selfish or a generous one? Are we existing in a professional vacuum with an occasional nod to slightly familiar faces we meet at gatherings like this one? Or could we not have more contact between our public, special, government and university libraries. We have so much in common, yet I feel we need to develop more social awareness among ourselves. Do we interest ourselves here in Jamaica with librarians and their activity in all the parts of the Caribbean? Let us think how our Library Association can feature news of our colleagues elsewhere, and send them news of ourselves. Let us not make isolationism a part of our personality. And professionally, let us not consider ourselves as rivals and encourage jealous attitudes, since we all have library service as our aim - whatever our methods. We make our demands to the various committees and bodies for the expansion of our services but a greater feeling of unity will surely result in more vigorous action if our concerted efforts are behind our proposals.

These are the intangibles of our personality - what of the practical side? What methods do we use to achieve this individuality that we do not inherit automatically? Well, we do that by setting ourselves professional standards by which we may recognize and accept each other, and be ourselves respected and recognized by others outside of our field. Our field is the making of books effective - we must study

how to do so, and train ourselves by the discipline of examinations and of study, by discussion and reading, and so be better able to understand and perform the functions of librarianship. We learn discipline, and set standards, and this knowledge is a sort of economy that teaches us how to abstract things and apply them effectively. Our interest in people or books is backed up by discipline that sees books as tools and gives purpose to our natural liking of them. So we add intelligence, training and a sense of standards to our personality. It is excellent for our profession that it has not confined itself to study and practical work in the West Indies alone, but that our librarians have been persons of experience in England, Canada and the United States as well. Our limitations have made us include in our professional body, librarians from outside the territory, and so far I think we have done so out of need alone, but if we remember the inspiration, the experience, the ideals and standards they have brought us, I hope we will always have the confidence to recognize and encourage their contribution.

As I see the personality of our librarianship it is so far not fully developed. I see it as being potentially diverse, aware, flexible, cooperative, disinterested, as being non-isolationist, robust yet disciplined. Let us all work so that the next generation of librarians will inherit a tradition with these qualities. I hope our achievements will have earned for them things like established salary scales, and professional mobility and interchange of staff which will come with more strongly established services. At present, though we are not exactly in the pioneer stage, we are not quite away from it, and we can boast of the compensations that come to pioneers - the excitement of challenge and the liveliness of a movement that has not dulled itself into mere ritual. Let us aim at some of the qualities I mentioned above, so that the personality of librarianship in the West Indies will be both dedicated and practical, broadly based and internationally flavoured to merge with our own qualities and create a personality as vigorous and distinctive as the rest of our emergent culture.

TRINIDADIAN SOJOURN

By Norma Forbes, Library Assistant,
Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.

The first view of Piarco was not an impressive one, and quite a let-down after the glamour of the Venezuelan airport. The room allocated to incoming passengers was full of people who looked none too happy. Finally we were through the customs and Miss Creteau was waiting for us. After a brief welcome we were on our way to the long awaited Port-of-Spain. The drive seemed endless although we were driving in one of Trinidad's famous American taxis, but at last we reached Port-of-Spain and home in Belmont.

After a sleepy week-end we arrived at Whitehall, situated to the west of the then parched Savannah, early on Monday morning. Everything about Whitehall - its beautiful ceilings, long mirrors, wide staircase, and four storeys - all proclaim it as a former house of a wealthy family, but it has been fairly successfully transformed into two libraries. The first and second floors house the Central Library, and the third the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library, library school, and a private office. The Central Library supplies reading material to persons living outside Port-of-Spain, while the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library, besides conducting the library school, ministers to the library needs of the smaller islands.

Our tutors were Miss Claire Creteau, deputy director of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library, who taught classification and cataloguing, Miss Irma Pilgrim of the Central Library who taught library administration, and Miss Nancy Went of the Caribbean Commission who took the classes in bibliography and assistance to readers. At first we were the only full time students at the school but members of the Central Library Staff came up to classes daily. Later, students from the Public Library, Central Library, and Carnegie Free Library in San

Fernando joined us for whole time study. Our days were not wholly spent on books and learning; many interesting discussions helped to make the hours fly by.

The course lasted three months, a class lasted an hour, and we had three classes each day. Besides classes we visited other departments of the Central Library where the main features of interest were the discontinuance of accessioning, and the Newark charging system with its attendant numerical register of readers in loose leaf form. We had lively discussions on the pros and cons of these methods and it was generally agreed that they were not wholly satisfactory. Plans are being made to change over to the Brown charging system. At the air-conditioned United States Information Service situated near to Whitehall we saw really modern furniture including deep, soft, sofas in use, the Caribbean Commission displayed its Universal Decimal Classification, and its pamphlet-storage methods, while the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture Library gave us a real insight into the running of a special library. The novel feature of the Public Library was its periodical rack, arranged in long, narrow numbered slots. An alphabetical index complete with number of slot made it possible to find a periodical in a very short time. We also visited commercial and government departments such as the Government Printery and the Department of Statistics where we saw punched cards being used for statistics. At the British Council we saw films and heard recordings on various aspects of librarianship.

Perhaps the trip on the bookvan was the most interesting of all these activities, for this went beyond the realm of library work and gave us an insight into the Trinidadian countryside and people. The van has obviously served its time, but until another takes its place it is standing like a valiant soldier. Everything seemed to be well organized and the borrowers, including a large number of children were friendly, punctual, and orderly. At one stop there was an exceptionally large number of readers and it was here that short-

comings showed themselves. The slow Newark charging system left the librarians with little time to spare for the readers, and the space provided for the housing of discharged books before they were shelved was really inadequate.

Trinidad can safely be called the capital of the Southern Caribbean, everywhere we went we met people from the other islands, and as a large number of Trinidadians have travelled widely we had no trouble in gaining a clear picture. The main impression of Trinidad is that it must be the most "different" of all British West Indian islands: what with Mohammedanism being the third religion and Hinduism the fourth, its great mineral wealth, numerous inexpensive taxis, steel band wars, carnival, calypsoes ... On the whole the trip was most enlightening, not only for what we learnt about libraries and librarianship but also for the wider insight into Trinidadian - or rather British West Indian life that it gave us.

JAMAICA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NOTES

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Library Association was held at the Junior Centre, Institute of Jamaica, East Street on the 31st January 1957 at 4.30p.m. It was very well attended especially by the newer members of the various library staffs.

The Institute of Jamaica was again host to the Association and the West India Reference Library arranged two interesting exhibitions - one of early hand-coloured maps of the West Indies, the other of West Indian prints. The whole was dominated by a mount of a huge book opened to show a map of the West Indies with the libraries in each of the islands, and appropriately enough for the year of the Federal Conference, the theme Cooperation in Education for Federation. Tea was served, after which the business of the meeting was taken.

Mr. Ingram the retiring President welcomed everyone and reviewed the steps made by the Association in the past year, especially in the field of training, where recommendations had been made both to Mr. Hockey of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library and to the Library Association. Mr. Ingram also mentioned the part a West Indian Library Association could play in the new Federation.

The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year:

President:	The Hon. E. R. Richardson
1st Vice-President:	Mrs. L. R. Robinson, A.L.A.
2nd Vice-President:	Miss M. Brebner, F.L.A.
3rd Vice-President:	Mr. W. Gocking, B.A., F.L.A.
Hon. Secretary:	Miss D. Douglas, A.L.A.
Hon. Treasurer:	Miss U. Raymond, A.L.A.

Other members elected to serve on the Committee were Mr. C. B. Lewis, O.B.E., Mr. K. E. Ingram, B.A., F.L.A., Mr. P. Jones, Miss C. Powell, A.L.A., Miss M. Josephs, B.A., A.L.A.

Mr. Richardson then delivered his presidential address in which he referred to the division of opportunity for higher education and the part that the libraries of Jamaica could play in breaking down those barriers, since access to books in libraries was about the only opportunity the poorer man had of getting a higher education.

It was a very stimulating address that certainly added to a successful and interesting meeting.

Professional Meetings

Three professional meetings were held, and more planned, since the last issue of the Bulletin, and the good attendance as well as the interest and discussion provoked at each session is certainly encouraging.

(1) On Wednesday 26th September 1956 at 7.30 p.m. at the Kingston and St. Andrew Library, Caledonia Ave., Cross Roads, Miss Joyce Lawson (now Mrs. L. R. Robinson) the then Deputy Director of the Jamaica Library Service, gave a talk on Danish libraries.

(2) The first professional meeting for 1957 was held on Thursday 9th May at 7.00 p.m. at the Cross Roads Library. Three films were shown through the courtesy of the United States Information Service:-

- (a) Keys to literacy
- (b) Common heritage
- (c) Bibliodynamics

The show was compered by Miss Cynthia Powell, of the Jamaica Library Service.

(3) On Tuesday 4th June at 5.00 p.m. at the Junior Centre, Halfway Tree, Miss Ursula Raymond of the West India Reference Library, Institute of Jamaica, gave a talk on the "Personality of librarianship." This is published elsewhere in the Bulletin.

Regular Meetings

(1) A Regular Meeting was held at St. Ann's Bay on Thursday 17th

May 1956, at 5.00 p.m. There were representatives from the St. Ann Parish Library Committee, the Institute of Jamaica, the Jamaica Library Service, the University College Library and others.

Lt.-Col. Moulton-Barrett welcomed everyone and then extended an invitation for a return visit. The guest speaker was Dr. Richmond Barthe, famous sculptor and painter who gave an address on negro art in the United States of America and related it to the Jamaican situation. Dr. Barthe told of how American negro art became prominent only two or three generations ago, and he deplored the fact that as happened in America, artistic talent in Jamaica was being exploited before it had a chance to mature, which resulted in the artists producing second-rate work which was not in the best interest of the future of Jamaican art.

Mr. Gocking moved the vote of thanks to the hosts, the St. Ann Parish Library Committee, who had entertained the meeting to tea at the Windsor Hotel, and had arranged visits to the site of the old Spanish Castle and the Catholic Shrine at Seville.

(2) A Regular Meeting was held at the St. Catherine Parish Library on the 17th October 1956, at 5.00 p.m. Represented were the University College of the West Indies Library, the Jamaica Library Service, the St. James, Manchester, Portland and St. Catherine Parish Libraries, the Institute of Jamaica and Sangster's Bookroom as well as the Extra-Mural Dept. of the University College of the West Indies.

Rev. Fr. Ashe, S.J., welcomed the group on behalf of the St. Catherine Parish Library Committee and the President Mr. Ingram, took the chair and introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Ted Scythes, B.A., Consultant of the U.C.W.I. Extra-Mural Dept. on Radio Education.

Mr. Scythes spoke on Communication, outlining the field which covered books, other printed matter, and films. He spoke of the plans for the expansion of the Extra-Mural Department's programme of radio education, and

also the special surveys they were undertaking to determine the needs of the people, hoping in time to build up a 'repository of ideas' in film.

A studio was being established and they planned to work in close co-operation with existing bodies such as the Jamaica Social Welfare Commission and the Jamaica Library Service.

Miss J. Lawson moved the vote of thanks to Mr. Scythes for his interesting talk on a matter of deep interest to all librarians and their associates. Miss Brebner thanked the hosts for their gracious hospitality and for arranging the interesting visit paid to the Dinthill Practical Training Centre at Linstead, and for the enjoyable tea which had been served at the Parish Library afterwards.

(3) The first Regular Meeting of the Association for 1957 was held at Port Antonio on Thursday 23rd May by invitation of the Portland Parish Library Committee. It was also the first meeting held in the new library which was built last year, and members had the opportunity of seeing yet another modern public library and its attractive layout. There were members from the staffs of the Jamaica Library Service, the Institute of Jamaica, the Manchester, Clarendon, St. Catherine and Portland Parish Libraries, and Sangster's Bookroom.

The Rev. Fergus Lewis welcomed the gathering on behalf of the Portland Parish Library Committee, and Mrs. Robinson formally introduced the guest speaker Mr. T. A. McKay, Publications Officer of the Education Department. He gave a brief outline of the organisation of his Department and its attempt to relate textbooks used in elementary schools to a tropical environment and the Jamaican scene. His talk appears elsewhere in the *Bulletin*.

A short question period followed, after which Miss Gunter, Librarian of the Dept. of Agriculture Library moved a vote of thanks to Mr. McKay and to the hosts, the Portland Parish Library Committee, for a most pleasant afternoon which had included sightseeing at the famous Blue Hole, the Folly Great House and lighthouse as well as tea at the Bonnie View Hotel.

NEWS FROM THE JAMAICA LIBRARY SERVICE

New Appointments at Headquarters - Jamaica Library Service:

- (a) Accountant:
Mr. M. R. Floro
- (b) Junior Assistants:
Misses L. Roberts, G. Clarke, L. Pottinger, N. Orr,
A. Miller and M. Collins.
- (c) Book Attendants:
O. Linton, R. Lawrence.

New Appointments in Parish Libraries:

- (a) Mrs. Beryl Hale, Librarian, Westmoreland Parish Library.
- (b) Mrs. Janet Henriques, Librarian, St. Mary Parish Library.
- (c) Mrs. Laura Murray, Librarian, Clarendon Parish Library.
- (d) Mrs. Elsa Porte, Librarian, St. Elizabeth Parish Library.

Promotions:

- April, 1957:-
- (a) Mrs. L. R. Robinson, A.L.A., appointed Director.
 - (b) Miss C. Powell, A.L.A., appointed Acting Deputy Director.
 - (c) Miss Daphne Douglas, A.L.A., appointed Acting Chief Assistant.

Scholarships:

- (a) Miss C. Powell awarded a one year internship at Toronto Public Library.
- (b) Scholarships to England were awarded to the Misses Daphne Douglas and Hyacinth Gregory, tenable for one year each.
Miss Douglas will attend Library School, Leeds and Miss Gregory will attend Library School, Loughborough.

- (c) Scholarships to the Eastern Caribbean Library School, Trinidad, were awarded to the following: in December 1956 to the Misses H. Rodney and E. Lawrence and in June 1957 to the Misses M. Picart, N. Forbes, L. A. Munro and Mr. L. Solan.

Welcome Home:

Miss Leila Thomas, Librarian, Manchester Parish Library.
Miss Norma Segre, Librarian, Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library.
Mrs. Amy Robertson, Librarian, St. James Parish Library.
These librarians had been awarded Jamaica Library Service scholarships to Britain and have now completed their course and have returned to their respective libraries.

Marriages:

Miss Olive Crighton to Mr. H. Gayle in July 1956.
Miss Joyce Lawson to Mr. Leslie Robinson in January 1957.
Miss Ouida Williams to Mr. Douglas Benjamin in June 1957.

Births:

Mrs. Winsome Grant - a daughter.

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA

It was with very great pleasure that we learned in January of this year that Her Majesty the Queen had conferred the honour of Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire on Mr. C. Bernard Lewis, the Director of the Institute. To mark the occasion, a cocktail party was held jointly by the Board of Governors and the Staff of the Institute, and was attended by His Excellency the Governor and Lady Foot and the Chief Minister.

We were very glad to welcome back from England last October Miss Ursula Raymond, Assistant Librarian in the West India Reference Library. Miss Raymond spent a year at Leeds School of Librarianship and successfully passed three parts of the Final Examination, which is indeed a very fine achievement. She was recently promoted to fill the newly created post of Deputy Librarian.

A number of staff changes have taken place since the last issue of the Bulletin. Miss Inez McGilchrist retired in August 1956, Miss Muriel Rose resigned to take up an appointment with the Jamaica Tourist Board, and Miss Rosalie Barrett was married recently and is now on her way to England. In the past year the Misses Judith Richards, Mary Powell and Patricia Dunn have joined the staff.

The Librarian, Miss M. A. Brebner, attended as an observer the Conference on the International Exchange of Publications sponsored by UNESCO in Havana, Cuba, last October. The meeting made recommendations to UNESCO concerning the adoption of a new Inter-American agreement for exchange of publications and the establishment of National Exchange Centres. There were several very enjoyable social gatherings including one which was held at a club called "Willy's" where Mr. Gocking for one felt completely at home!

Miss Raymond undertook the preparation of "A List of Books on West Indian Federation" and the initial distribution of copies took place on the 22nd January 1957, to coincide with the opening of the Conference of the Standing Federation Committee at the University College of the West Indies. Up to the present time, approximately 300 copies of the bibliography have been distributed.

Visitors to the Library included the distinguished bibliographer, Theodore Béstermann, from Geneva; Miss Vilda Cacéres, British Council Librarian at Lima, Peru; Mrs. Julia Bischoff who is a journalist on the staff of the Miami News; Lieutenant Commander Mendel Peterson of the Smithsonian Institution and Mr. Edwin Link who are interested in underwater exploration at Port Royal.

Extract from home-work of First Professional Examination student who was asked to write on desirable qualities in a children's librarian:- "A children's librarian should first of all be a human being." A protest against automation?

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LIBRARY

Since the last issue of the Bulletin considerable progress has been made on the extension to the College Library. Indeed it is all but complete now, and may well be occupied and functioning by the time this issue of the Bulletin is published. As previously noted, the extension will provide space for shelving up to 200,000 volumes: the capacity of the existing Library is only about 50,000 volumes. Though most of the extension is to be used for shelving books, it also provides for a small increase of accommodation for readers: altogether there should be seating for over 200 readers.

The extension to the Library comes not a moment too soon for the growing book-stock which has long since invaded space designed for reading in the existing Library. In fact the increasing book-stock has now outrun the entire shelving accommodation of the present Library.

But the increase of book-stock is not only a matter of quantity. There have been consolidations and extensions of every class of book and periodical represented in the Library. There has been a particular strengthening of the Library's resources in the fields of Bibliography, the Classics, English, and History. Specially significant additions to the first class include, for example, the Catalogue Général des livres imprimés de la Bibliothèque Nationale and Kayser's Vollständiges Bücher-Lexikon. The new British Museum author catalogue is also being awaited. In the last class the Library resources for historical research have been strengthened by the addition of a considerable portion of the American microprinted edition of the House of Commons Sessional Papers.

The small staff has been very mobile in the period under review:-

Miss M. Josephs, Senior Assistant Librarian, took advantage

of the summer vacation of 1956 to pay a brief visit to the United States, and to see university libraries there with a view to comparing notes on methods of dealing with periodicals.

Miss E. Henriques, Assistant Librarian, went off on the normal College study leave of 3 months from July to September 1956. In this brief period she managed to visit a substantial number of countries on either side of the Atlantic.

Miss E. Woo Ming, Assistant Librarian, created a precedent for the Library by securing the first scholarship ever given to a member of its staff. This was one of six Carnegie fellowships offered through the Inter-University Council for Higher Education Overseas in Great Britain for the academic year 1957/58. These fellowships are open to all junior academic staff in all the young University Colleges throughout the non-self-governing territories of the British Commonwealth and Empire. Miss Woo Ming is at present on leave in the United Kingdom and will soon proceed to Columbia University, New York, to read for its Master's degree in Library Science. She will be away until October 1958.

Miss L. Roberts, the able assistant of our Senior Assistant Librarian in the periodicals department, decided to transfer her allegiance to the Jamaica Library Service where she is now happily settled. Her experience and devotion will surely be an asset to the Jamaica Library Service.

Miss N. Woo Ming, Junior Assistant Librarian, and a graduate of our own University College, left us quite suddenly in June 1957 after more than two years devoted service in our order department. Our loss is no doubt the gain of Dr. D. Picou, another graduate of the University College to whom she got married. Mrs. Picou intends

to continue her former studies in librarianship in America whither she has accompanied her husband. We extend our best wishes to them both.

Miss Barbara Christie, the only other member of our Order Department, left us almost simultaneously with Miss N. Woo Ming (now of course Mrs. Picou). She had the offer of an adventurous and exciting job in Kingston and in order to overcome the temptation, yielded to it. Her intelligence and devotion will no doubt assure her success in her new venture.

The Librarian attended the UNESCO Conference of Experts on the Exchange of Publications in Havana in October 1956 as the delegate of the British West Indies.

NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE LIBRARY

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands are in process of remodelling their Library. New shelving has been installed and the interior repainted. It is hoped that there will be some money later on to continue the job of painting on the outside. The rooms have been rearranged so that there are now a catalogue room containing all catalogues, indexes and bibliographies; a periodicals room, a pamphlet room, a book room and another room containing Ministry publications.

The staff situation is also showing improvement, in that for the first time in many years the entire staff are permanent appointments.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATION RESULTS

June 1956 - June 1957.

First Professional Examination

Miss Eugenie Campbell	Institute of Jamaica.
Miss V. A. Creary	Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library.
Miss Rosalind Davis	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss C. Harris	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss V. Heron	Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library.
Miss L. A. Munro	Librarian, Portland Parish Library.
Miss Myrtle Picart	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss Judith Richards	Institute of Jamaica.
Mrs. Gloria Salmon	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss J. Wallen	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss Ouida Williams	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss Dorothy Young	Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library.

Registration Examination

The following have completed registration and have been elected to the Register of Chartered Librarians:-

Miss Hazel Gray	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss Hyacinth Gregory	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss Cynthia Powell	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Mrs. Amy Robertson	Librarian, St. James Parish Library.
Miss Norma Segre	Librarian, Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library.
Miss Leila Thomas	Librarian, Manchester Parish Library.

The following have been successful in part of the
Registration examination:-

Miss Eugenie Campbell	Group C	Institute of Jamaica.
Mrs. D. Cupidon	Group D	Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library.
Miss N. Forbes	Group C(6)	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Mrs. Winsome Grant	Group A	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss L. Roberts	Group B	University College of the West Indies.
Mr. L. Solan	Group C(6)	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss D. Young	Group D	Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library.

Final Examination

Miss H. Gray	Parts I & II	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss H. Gregory	Part III	Jamaica Library Service Headquarters.
Miss U. Raymond	Parts II, III & IV	Institute of Jamaica.
Miss N. Segre	Parts I & IV	Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library.
Miss L. Thomas	Part II	Manchester Parish Library.
Mrs. A. Robertson	Part I	St. James Parish Library.