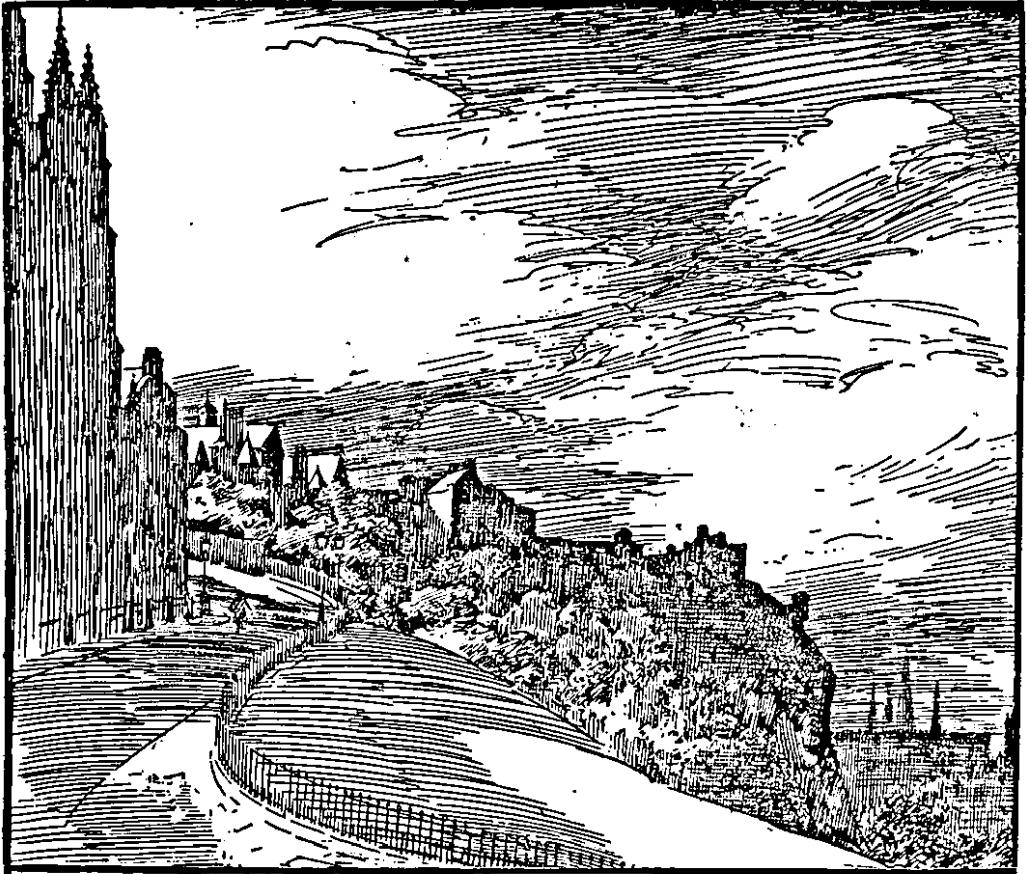


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HERTFORD AND LONDON



THE CASTLE ROCK EDINBURGH

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
CONFERENCE
OF THE
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

HELD AT

EDINBURGH
26th—30th September
1927

LONDON :

PUBLISHED FOR THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

TO BE OBTAINED FROM GRAFTON & CO., 51 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, W.C.1

MCMXXVIII

FOREWORD

THE FIFTIETH YEAR.

AT the Conference held in Edinburgh last September we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the Library Association.

I think it is admitted that the Conference was purposeful, that it achieved much good work, and that there was a general feeling of optimism among its members as regards the future ; but it has been suggested that the feature of the fiftieth anniversary was overlooked or crowded out.

It is true that the official programme gave but a scanty allowance for retrospective discussion of work attempted and done during those fifty years, but the carefully prepared paper of the Honorary Secretary (the late Mr. Pacy), and the gathering of so many representatives of Library work all over the world, including such veterans as Mr. Madan, Mr. Ballinger and Mr. Bowker, were living testimony to the work of the Association.

After all what is the old ideal of the fiftieth year—the Jubilee ?

“ Ye shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto the inhabitants thereof : it shall be a Jubilee unto you.”

We may not be able to adopt the whole of the ancient canon of regulation, involving, as it did, complete cessation of work during the year of Jubilee, but much can be done—in the development of a real national service, giving its benefits alike to the crowded centres of population, the little hamlet and the lonely cottage ; in the close co-operation and friendship of those associated in the care and distribution of books, whether in university, town or county ; in the cordial alliance of nations through the medium of united effort ; in developing the best in human nature by the strengthening of character and the opening of opportunity for study and research. In these respects I think that the Edinburgh Conference did make its mark—the Jubilee mark—in no small degree.

In commending this Report of the Conference to members and friends of the Association, I wish to say how highly I have appreciated the privilege of presiding over the Association in this memorable year, and I desire to thank one and all for the support and encouragement, which has made my work as President both easy and pleasant.

ELGIN.

August 19th, 1928.

PREFACE

THE Library Association's Jubilee Conference at Edinburgh will probably be regarded as inaugurating a new period in the Association's history, a period in which it was more broadly based and more representative, and could therefore display more energy and power as the organ of the whole profession.

This was the note which was struck by the President in his fine address ; and this surely was also the lesson taught by the presence of the distinguished foreign librarians. The messages from the King, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor and the President of the Board of Education raised the Association's dignity, deserved as they were, and helped at the beginning towards the success of the Conference.

The place itself counted for much. In 1774, when Scott was an infant, Johnson wrote, "Edinburgh, a city too well known to admit description"; and after all that has been written about it since there is no need to write more about the romantic city or its intellectual glories. It need only be said that no other scene could have compared with it; London is too vast and lacks unity, and the great industrial towns nearly all lack the historic dignity of Edinburgh, while the old English University towns have not so great a variety of libraries. The Association rightly varies its place of Conference from year to year, appearing now in University towns, where the academic type is almost in sole possession, and now in industrial towns or blameless watering-places where the academic is unknown, occasionally in spots which have little to show, and in which it can play a missionary part. But for an international gathering like this our island has no town so rich in varied libraries and in charm as the northern Athens.

Of the eight hundred and twenty who "gaed o'er the Border," over a hundred were from overseas, and included some of the most distinguished names in the profession. Besides the solid American phalanx, which included the present and the two immediate past presidents of the A.L.A., they represented most of the chief countries of Europe and the British Empire. Much disappointment was expressed that Dr. Dewey was unwell and unable to be of the party. He had' promised to give an address, characteristically forward-looking in scope ; and most of us had hoped to assure ourselves that he was a man and not a system.

For these the Carnegie Trust, to which (and especially to its Chairman, now our President, to the convener of its Library Committee, Mr. Thomas Gorrie, and to its secretary, Colonel Mitchell) the Association owes much at every point, organized a tour to precede the Conference, from London to Edinburgh. Mr. C. R. Sanderson, as representing the L.A. Council, assisted to guide the visitors, who were shown Oxford, Stratford-on-Avon, Birmingham, Manchester and York, thus seeing not only some beautiful places but a cleverly varied assortment of English libraries. This tour, which we gather to have been a great success, was in return for that given last year in America, and should be imitated at future international gatherings.

For the social success of the Conference we owe a great deal to Lord Elgin. Eloquent and inspiring in his addresses, businesslike and firm in the Chair, he was always abounding in contagious good humour. Never before, it is safe to say, has a President, in the middle of his speech at the Association's dinner, burst into song; but to hear the descendant of the Bruce give Burns's version of his ancestor's war song was a stirring experience, especially for Scottish members. We regretted the absence of Lady Elgin, kept away by a bereavement; her place was graciously taken by the President's sister, Lady Veronica Bruce. And let it be said here, while we are mentioning the ladies, that the presence of Mrs. Carnegie was deeply appreciated. The Lord Provost and city authorities, the Faculty of Advocates, the Society of Writers to the Signet, and the University, played their part hospitably. We were entertained in the Parliament Hall (to which, we believe, access was not easily obtained), where Scott and Stevenson walked, under the statue of Duncan Forbes of Culloden and the Flodden banner, in the elegant Signet Library under the same roof, in the fine University Library, where we were received by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alfred Ewing, and admired the celebrated collection of Drummond of Hawthornden's books, and in the City's Usher Hall; and twice we heard the skirling of the pipes, a sound which was probably new, except in literature, to most of our visitors from overseas.

Of course there were criticisms of some of the arrangements, and of the programme of papers. The first and perhaps the most obvious is that, contrary to the ordinary practice, there was no paper on, or visit to, the

City Library and its branches. This omission was the more noticeable in that the Edinburgh City Libraries have been reorganized and vastly strengthened under the present Librarian, and have recent developments to show ; but it was easily understood at the time by those present that Mr. Savage was too hard-worked with the management of the Conference, and also too visibly unwell, to undertake this extra duty. He might have delegated it, but perhaps he thought that insufficiently respectful to the Conference ; or he may have wished to give precedence to the famous learned libraries of the city. Mr. Savage's motives will not be misunderstood, but we could wish to have heard something of his work in Edinburgh.

A very curious criticism is that directed against the simultaneous sectional sessions. Without this system there can be no adequately representative selection of papers read, and if one would like to be at two which coincide, it is only another example of the eternal impossibility of being in two places at once which vexes public men. It is to be hoped that all future Conferences will be arranged on this plan, so as to give pabulum to as many types of librarian as possible.

The programme has also, we believe, been accused of being too academic, but it is difficult to see how this can be justly said of one which contained no paper by a University librarian, and no bibliographical paper at all ! It is to be hoped that the existence of ASLIB and its excellent conferences will not lead the L.A. to disinterest itself in the special problems of scientific libraries. Another omission, which might be put right another year, is that of Young People's and School Libraries. No one year's programme can be encyclopædic, but every big class of interest should be represented, if possible. We were glad to have the paper on the Small Library, for small libraries, after all, are the large majority, and their problems are very acute.

It has also been noted with disapproval that the Association spent no time in recounting its achievements in the past fifty years. We believe that its thoughts are much more set on the fifty years that are to come, and we do not in the least regret the omission, which in any case the Council is now setting itself to remedy by collecting material for a history of the Association.

For all the arrangements we wish to thank, personally and for the Association at large, not only those already mentioned, but Mr. Savage and Mr. Alfred Ogilvie, the Local Honorary Secretaries, Mr. John Minto,

the Local Hon. Treasurer, and their helper, Mr. Charles Minto, who must all have laboured enormously to produce so good a result.

Were we asked what did the Conference achieve we would find the answer in three points :—

(1) The Association gave definite approval to the Public Libraries Report, with its far-reaching proposals for a national service. The approval was of course general, and details were not discussed ; this will be done at the monthly meetings of the London and Home Counties Branch in the course of the present session. We are indebted to Sir Frederic Kenyon for introducing and expounding the conclusions of the Report with such skill.

(2) There was formed at last, after preliminary work at Prague and at Washington, a permanent organization, the International Library and Bibliographical Committee, under the first chairmanship of Dr. Collijn, of Stockholm, to arrange international conferences (or, more strictly, an international character for a selected national conference) every three or four years.

(3) And also we formed personal friendships with many leaders of the profession in other lands, who had only been distinguished names to us. This was perhaps even more valuable than the accounts of the American library system which were given as papers.

But above all, the membership was larger, more distinguished, and more representative than in previous years, which it is to be hoped is not merely a jubilee rocket ; and the Association appeared in the public eye as not unworthy of the scene and of its calling.

A. E.

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- I. *Frontispiece* : Edinburgh Castle, from the Mound, shewing the Assembly Hall of the Conference. From a drawing by George A. Fothergill.
- II. *Tailpiece* : The device of Andrew Myllar, Edinburgh's first printer. From the British Museum copy of the edition of the *Expositio Sequentiarum Sarum*, printed for him at Rouen, 1505. xxxii

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LIST OF THOSE PRESENT

PRESIDENT

The Rt. Hon. THE EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, with (in place of THE COUNTESS OF ELGIN, unavoidably absent) THE LADY VERONICA BRUCE.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS

AUSTRALIA.

Armstrong, E. la T., ex-Librarian, P.L. of Victoria. (Representing Public Library, Museums and National Gallery of Victoria.)

Leeson, Miss Ida, B.A., Principal Accessions Officer, New South Wales P.L.; and Miss Florence Birch. (Representing the P.L. of N.S.W.)

BELGIUM.

Kalken, Professor Dr. Frans van, Librarian, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 14 Rue des Sols, Brussels; and Mme Kalken. (Representing University of Brussels.)

CANADA.

Locke, Dr. George H., Toronto P.L., ex-President A.L.A. (Designated by the Canadian Government, the A.L.A. and Toronto P.L.)

CHINA.

Wood, Miss Mary E., founder of the Boone Library School, Central China University, Wuchang, China; and Miss Marian De C. Ward. Paris address: American Express Co., 11 Rue Scribe.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

Tobolka, Dr. Zdeněk Václav, Director of the Library of the Czecho-Slovak Parliament; and son.

DENMARK.

Drachmann, Dr. A. G., University Library, Copenhagen.

Thyregod, Oskar, Industriforeningens Bibliotek, Copenhagen; and Fra Thyregod. (Designated by the Danish Special Libraries Association and the Danish Library Association.)

FRANCE.

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Huchet, Mlle C., Librarian, l'Heure Joyeuse, 3 Rue Boutebrie, Paris. (Designated by the City of Paris.)

Lemaitre, Henri, Rédacteur en chef de la Revue des Bibliothèques; Bibliothécaire honoraire à la Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.

Lescure, Pierre de, Administrateur-délégué, Office Central de Librairie et de Bibliographie, Paris.

Parsons, Miss Mary, Resident Director, Paris School of Librarians.

Vos van Steenwijk, Dr. J. E. de, Head of the Section for Exact and Natural Sciences, International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, Paris.

Wilson, Miss Florence, Dotation Carnegie, 133 Boulevard St. Germain, Paris.

GERMANY.

Fritz, Professor Dr. Gottlieb, Director, Municipal Central Library, Berlin; President of the Association of German Librarians. (Designated by the Association.)

Glauning, Professor Dr., Director of the University Library, Leipzig. (Designated by the German Government.)

Krüß, Dr. Hugo, Director General, Prussian State Libraries (Designated by the German Government); and Frau Krüss.

Neukircher, Fräulein Susanne, Librarian, Städtische Volksbücherei, Frankfurt-on-the-Main.

Uhlendahl, Dr. Heinrich, Director, Deutsche Bücherei des Börsenvereins der Deutschen Buchhändler, Leipzig.

HOLLAND.

- Clercq, Fruken E. de, Chief Librarian, Openbare Leeszaal, Utrecht. (Designated by Centrale Vereeniging voor Openbare Leeszaalen en Bibliotheken.)
Hulshof, Dr. A., Librarian, University Library, Utrecht (Designated by the Netherlands Government and by the Royal Dutch Library Committee); and *Fruken Margaret Hulshof*.
Snouck Hurgronje, Fruken N., Librarian, Openbare Leeszaal, Dordrecht.

INDIA.

- Ghosh, N. N., B.Sc., Bansberia Public Library, Bengal. (Designated by Hooghly District Library Association.)

ITALY.

- De Gregori, Dr. Luigi, Director, Biblioteca Casanatense, Rome. (Designated by the Minister for Public Instruction, Italy.)
Fago, Dr. Vincenzo, Director of the International Exchange Service and National Secretary of the Italian Library Association. (Designated by the Minister for Public Instruction, Italy.)
Fago, Vittorio Sigfrido, Rome.
Hodgson, James G., Librarian, International Institute of Agriculture, Villa Umberto, Rome.

JAPAN.

- Hamada, Dr. Kosaku, Professor, Kyoto Imperial University.
Sawayagi, Dr. Masataro, President, Imperial Education Association.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

- Bartlett, Miss Alice.

NEW ZEALAND.

- Cunningham, A. D., Deputy Chief Librarian and Director of the Auckland Public Library and Art Gallery. (Designated by the Auckland City Council.)

NORWAY.

- Munthe, Dr. William, Librarian of the Royal University Library, Oslo. (Designated by the Royal Government of Norway, the Norwegian Libraries Association and the Royal University Library, Oslo.)

SWEDEN.

- Collijn, Dr. Isak, Librarian, Royal Library, Stockholm (Designated by the Swedish Government and the Royal Library.); and *Fru Collijn*.

SWITZERLAND.

- Escher, Dr. H., Director, Central Library, Zurich.

UNITED STATES.

- Ahern, Miss Mary Eileen, Editor of "Libraries," 216 W. Monroe Street, Chicago.
Allen, Miss Marina D., Grand Rapids P.L., Michigan.
Badcock, Mrs. Mabel A., General Assistant, Russell Sage Foundation Library, New York.
Barrow, Miss A. Mabel, Brownsville Branch, Brooklyn P.L.
Barrow, Miss Trotman C., Leonard Branch, Brooklyn P.L.
Belden, Dr. Charles F. D., Director, Boston P.L.; ex-President A.L.A. (Designated by the Boston P.L.)
Bertram, James, Secretary, Carnegie Corporation, New York.
Binkley, Miss Margaret, Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, Maryland.
Bostwick, Dr. Arthur E., Librarian and Secretary, St. Louis P.L., and Director, St. Louis Library School, St. Louis; ex-President A.L.A.
Bowker, R. R., Editor "Library Journal," Trustee Brooklyn P.L. (Designated by Brooklyn P.L.); and *Mrs. Bowker*.
Decker, Miss Cora M., Scranton P.L., Pa.
Dice, J. Howard, Librarian, University of Pittsburgh Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Dougherty, Miss Anna R., Free Library, Philadelphia; Pa.
Dunn, Miss M. Agatha, Montague Branch, Brooklyn P.L.
Earl, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool, President, Indiana Library and Historical Department, State House, Indianapolis, Ind. (Designated by the State of Indiana as representative of the Indiana Library and Historical Department.)

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 Eurich, E. F., Member of A.L.A.
 Faxon, Frederick W., 83 Francis Street, Boston, Mass.; *and Mrs. Faxon.*
 Ferguson, Milton J., Librarian, California State Library, Sacramento; *and Mrs. and Miss Ferguson.*
 Gates, Miss Christina, Assistant, Ferguson Library, Stamford, Conn.
 Goddard, William D., Librarian, Woburn P.L., Mass.
 Goldstein, Miss Fanny, West End Branch Library, Boston, Mass.
 Green, Miss Hilda W., Librarian, Bushwick Branch, Brooklyn P.L.; *and friend.*
 Haugh, Miss Mary Teresa, Children's Librarian, New York P.L.
 Hill, Dr. Frank P., Director, Brooklyn P.L., New York; ex-President A.L.A. (Designated to represent A.L.A., and Brooklyn P.L.)
 Holland, Miss Mary E., Assistant, City Library, Manchester, N.H.
 Hopkins, Miss Julia A., Supervisor of Staff Instruction, Brooklyn P.L.
 Hopper, Miss May, Librarian, Omaha Technical High School, Omaha, Nebraska.
 Horton, Miss Mabel T., Cataloguer, Brooklyn P.L.
 Hussey, E. B., Library Bureau, New York.
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 Jackson, Miss Isabel, Tomkins Square Branch Library, New York P.L.
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