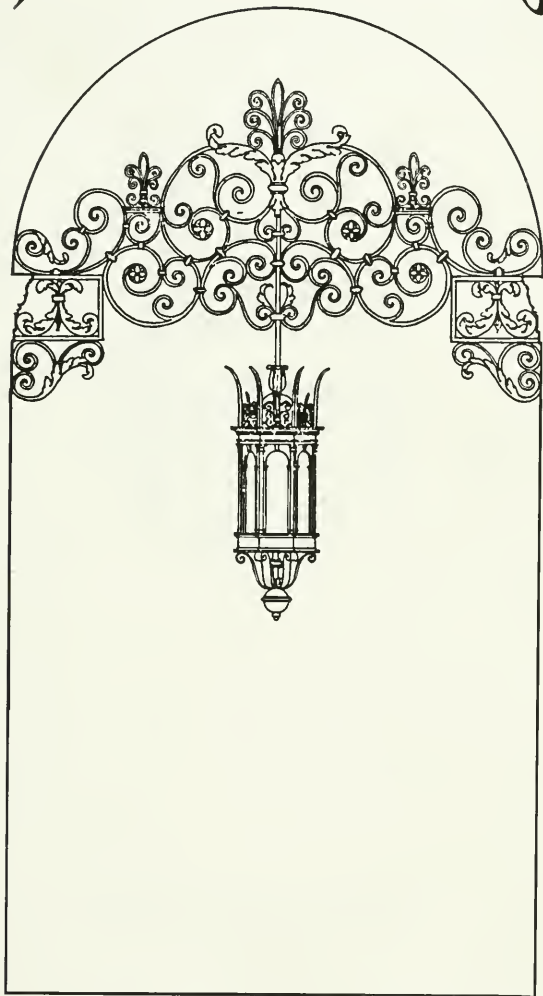


The Boston Public Library



Annual Report 1984-1985

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ending June 30, 1985



Document 15—1984-1985

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As I approached my second year as acting director, the positive momentum for change and growth accelerated. In a pattern of assessing where we were and where we are heading, which we started in FY84, department heads and branch librarians thoughtfully spelled out their goals and—in some cases—the perceived obstacles to achievement.

For example, Codman Square Branch anticipated increased attendance at programs, staffing by full-time children's and young adults librarians, and an increase in circulation. Among the obstacles: a high level of illiteracy and residents who do not read or speak English. The goal of Hyde Park Branch was painted with a broad brush stroke: "to extend and improve library service to all of Hyde Park." Jamaica Plain/Connolly Branches looked forward to becoming "more involved with the community." The Acquisitions Department looked forward to examining vendor performance and foreign blanket orders, improving the automated acquisitions system, and acquiring and processing blanket orders more efficiently. The Fine Arts Department delineated a wish list for FY85 that outdistanced even the skills and dedication within that department—from collection development to inter-departmental sharing of resources, to solution of a cramped space problem, to a uniform library policy on photoduplication of materials. Codman Square Branch expressed its positive view most vividly: "May all our banners continue to wave: circulation, readers services, programs, community outreach."

And so it went: each unit planning on performance by objective even as I subscribed to management by objective. As acting director, I assembled a long list of goals. My main targets were continued staff development, more community outreach in branches, immediate response to the entering public in the General Library by expansion of the information desk, a continued move toward modern automation, an increase in circulation, and maximizing efficiency within budget constraints.

Literacy

The Library's intensified concentration on literacy in FY85 responded to two major goals: outreach and increased circulation. Surely there is no more significant effort for libraries than expanding the number of readers by finding nonreaders and awakening them to the skills and glories of the written word.

As the result of a grant proposal funded by the Library Services and Construction Act in the amount of \$58,500, we were able to move ahead in literacy activities. The grant encompassed programs and print and audiovisual materials geared to functionally illiterate adults. The funding covered January through September 1985. By the time we commenced the funded period, staff of the General Library and eight branches had attended a training workshop, nearly fifty reading centers had been apprised of our program, and half of the materials had been ordered. Catherine Clancy, Special Projects Librarian in General Library Services, has been charged with overseeing all this activity.

The project work has moved slowly but effectively. Understaffed reading centers are unable to bring students to library sites as often as librarians would like to see them. On the positive side, three additional branches have joined the program. The Adult New Readers sites in the Library now include the central library, Brighton, Charlestown, Codman Square, Dudley, East Boston, Fields Corner, Jamaica Plain, Grove Hall, Parker Hill, South Boston, and South End Branches.

As FY85 comes to an end, all materials have been ordered, library programs and orientations scheduled, and plans made to create low-reading-level bibliographic aids of our own since such existent materials are sparse.

In reporting on their efforts, branches expressed mixed results. Codman Square commented that "much community visiting is necessary to generate interest." East Boston: "The Adult Literacy Project is moving slowly." Fields Corner noted that "response has been strong and positive."

The report adds that at Fields Corner work is being done with *Mujeres Unidas En Accion*, holding monthly programs with films and discussions. At Brighton Branch, in addition to activities with ESL and ABE classes, joint cooperation is moving forward with Boston University's Collaborations for Literacy Project. The branch has served as a site for Boston University tutors and new readers who view the Reading Rainbow tapes and books. New readers register for library cards and receive a tour. Parker Hill Branch sees a potential for serving new readers and has already built up a fine collection of books.

Worthy of inclusion here as a more detailed description of the Library's program design and success in literacy programs is a letter

sent to Dr. David Rosen from an instructor in an ESL/ABE course. Rosen is a member of the Library's grant steering committee.

In mid-May Sheila McCormack, a librarian at the Sedgwick Branch [Jamaica Plain Branch] made two visits to our program to introduce herself and to present some of the Adult New Reading Books available. This visit was very important before our students visited the library as our students needed to feel that they were going to a friendly place where they already knew someone.

Collaboration/Outreach

Like our literacy program, communication and collaboration emerged again and again in FY85 as vitally important in our outreach efforts to bring readers—and non-readers—into libraries. Each library unit cannot stand unilaterally within a neighborhood and wait to be discovered and used. Effective library service mandates working with community agencies, colleges and universities, and specialists to spread the word about library resources and events.

Charlestown Branch turned to the National Park Service for its presentation, "The Life of a Colonial Soldier." Codman Square joined with the YMCA for a professional puppet production. Several branches worked with School Volunteers of Boston in that group's Reading Aloud Program. Dudley Branch offered an exhibit, "Famine in Africa" in cooperation with the United Nations Association of Greater Boston. Dudley also developed a "Natural Food Festival" with the Suffolk County Extension Service and called upon a police detective from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority for a program about safety aboard the MBTA. Fields Corner Branch turned to the Family Services Association for a six-week workshop on child rearing.

Our efforts in collaborative programming were not completely successful this year, but in their shortcomings they suggested areas of improvement for future efforts. Such a series was the National Issues Forum, co-sponsored with the Domestic Policy Association. Each participating branch chose one of three issues on jobs and joblessness, environmental concerns, or soaring costs of health care. Under a discussion leader from the community, groups met in branches in

small forums culminating in panel forums at the central library and finally at the J.F.K. Presidential Library later in the spring.

In their end-of-year evaluations of the project, some branches were thoughtful and less than sanguine. Parker Hill found that the "program lacked the vigor to carry it through to another season." East Boston noted that "it was not a success." Hyde Park said that "the community lacked interest." In contrast, West End Branch noted that their series was well attended. Special Projects Librarian Catherine Clancy, who coordinated the project for the Library, concluded that despite low participation, "the participants were articulate, informed, politically active people." On the plus side, several branches included presentations by local politicians who gained first-hand knowledge of one more role of their library.

Except for the Domestic Policy programs, there were hundreds of others that demonstrated the effectiveness of outreach and cooperation. And an essential by-product is the collection building essential to buttress the subject focus of each program with current books, pamphlets, and films.

Extension Services

A major effort to reach the unreached is carried out by the Library's Extension Services. The service takes two forms: reachout by a vehicle designated a Homesmobile, and by book deposits.

In FY85 the Homesmobile scheduled 75 stops during each four-to-six week period to some 600 readers in nursing homes and small housing projects for the elderly. Circulation of materials, half in large-type, has been approximately 3,000 monthly. This popular service commenced in 1971. The book deposit service reaches 24 locations on a three-month rotational schedule.

Ethnicity

The Library has always demonstrated awareness of the ethnic plurality of Bostonians. Historically, the Boston Public Library was a pioneer among urban libraries in sponsoring citizenship/language classes for the early flow of immigrants to the city.

Already noted in this report is our present attention to ESL/ABE students in terms of reading and writing. Equal attention is

accorded the cultural backgrounds of Bostonians. To cite a few examples: The Audio-Visual Department sponsored a Mexican film series in cooperation with the Consulate of Mexico. Roslindale Branch celebrated Japanese Children's Day by making *koinobori* carps. Parker Hill gave special attention to its neighborhood. The following quote explores the content of ethnic awareness in that branch:

Another group of adults who are not library users are the parents of the hundreds of Hispanic children who borrow books from the library regularly. "Celebracion Navidenas," a family Christmas party with a traditional Puerto Rican theme, was planned in an effort to reach those adults through their children. "Las Tainas," performing folkloric dances of Puerto Rico, and the festive singing of "Parandas" were the highlights. A similar celebration is being planned for Hispanic Heritage Week next fall.

Extensive programming in central and the branches was built around Black History Month in February. Such consciousness-raising focus on ethnicity in Boston formed the total component of Children's Books International 10, "Boston: An International Neighborhood." The program for adults—librarians, teachers, parents—highlighted ethnic children's literature resources in greater Boston, illustration and ethnicity, international films, and humor.

Branch libraries developed their Children's Books International activities around national heritages. For example, North End Branch included several elements in its program: an Italian folktale, girls in costume dancing the tarantella, and a singer of Italian songs with accordion accompaniment.

Other ethnic programs for children in branches included Spanish-centered films; Cambodian films, temple dances, and art displays; and a Haitian story hour, all at Brighton Branch.

Learning Library Programs

The many-faceted college-style offerings of the Boston Public Library as a National Endowment for the Humanities Learning Library continued successfully in FY85. The following courses were offered:

"The Archeology of the Boston Area." Gregory Laden, Harvard University (Brighton).

“Jazz.” Ron Della Chiesa, WGBH (Brighton).

“City Architecture.” Michael and Susan Southworth (Charlestown).

“Songs of Innocence and Experience in Modern American Fiction.” Shaun O’Connell, University of Massachusetts/Boston (Codman Square).

“The Many Roxburys.” Andrew Buni, Boston College (Dudley).

“Boston’s African-American History: The Struggle in Freedom’s Birthplace.” Author Robert C. Hayden (Dudley).

“Constancy and Change in Boston.” Roger Prouty, University of Massachusetts/Boston (West End).

“Mission Hill/Parker Hill: Neighborhood History Through Architecture.” Ed Zimmer (Parker Hill).

“Impressionism: Strokes of Light.” Aileen Callahan, Boston and Regis Colleges (Roslindale).

Reports on the impact of the NEH series were sanguine. Codman Square Branch concluded: “All in all this lecture series is one of the best things to have happened to the BPL and its branch system in a long time. The quality of the lectures, the obvious profundity and expertise of the lecturers have greatly enhanced our image as a medium for continuing education, information, and recreation á la lyceum movement of the 19th century.” And Roslindale noted: “Because of the high quality of the speaker, the audience grew from program to program, starting at 20 and expanding to 50 by the end of the series.” Typical comments from the audience were “I’ve never seen anyone so knowledgeable before” and “This is like a free course.”

In annual lectureships, Rosemarie E. Sansone of the Mayor’s Office of Business and Cultural Development addressed the annual

Mary U. Nichols program at North End Branch. Robert Toland spoke on "South Boston Remembered" at South Boston Branch's 6th annual Marjorie Gibbons Memorial Lecture.

Service to Children and Young Adults

The lively tempo of service to young people in FY85 has already been cited under outreach and ethnic activities. Children's librarians this year continued to emphasize visits to and from schools, group activities, and programming. As a sample, Charlestown Branch offered everything from a Christmas Singalong to programs on juggling and model train collecting. With very few Young Adult specialists on the staff, the Library endeavored to reach as many high school students as staffing permitted.

At Brighton Branch three "Career Awareness" programs were offered. A talk on young adult books was presented by Mrs. McDonald to a professional teachers' conference at Boston Latin School. The librarian at Codman Square reported that the young adult librarian was "engaged in a school visiting offensive that left students and teachers reeling—right to the Library."

Higher Education Center

Established in August and formally opened in October 1984, the Center is a collaborative project of 25 Boston area colleges in cooperation with the Boston Public schools and the Massachusetts Education Assistance Corporation. The Library provides space; and financial support comes from the sponsoring colleges, the U.S. Department of Education, the Bay State Skills Corporation, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, and the Massachusetts Higher Education Assistance Corporation.

The Center provides a wide range of services on a walk-in basis, by appointment, or through workshops. People throughout the commonwealth can phone in questions about education through a toll-free hotline, (C.A.L.L.), acronym for the Career and Learning Line. Still another service, ACCESS (Action Center for Educational Services and Scholarships) works in cooperation with high school guidance

counselors to spread the word on financial aid opportunities and to offer scholarship assistance.

In FY85 nearly 1,600 people visited the center; staff responded to 1,800 phone calls; and 800 high school students and adults participated in workshops. ACCESS served 465 high school students.

Social Sciences Department

As Coordinator of Social Sciences Edwin G. Sanford expressed it, "The year might be described as a year of transition...from a book-oriented department in all of the social sciences to a marked increase in business reference and an increased use of various microforms."

Filing of the U.S. Topographical Maps by Curator Martin Waters has progressed with unresolved questions related to the most practical, useful system: by document number or by state and map quadrangle within each state. At present the department is experimenting on the better system, also checking with other library map curators.

Departmental projects and special events included a program and exhibit honoring President Harry S. Truman and an exhibit on "The Presidency" related to the presidential election, the challenges, events, and issues. Tours and talks were offered to the South Shore Genealogical Group, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and to staff of the Higher Education Information Carter.

Work continued in FY85 on the department's long-term project, "Bibliography of Boston, 1930 to the Present." According to Sanford, "To the best of our knowledge there is nothing currently available on the scale of this bibliography."

The trend continues to acquire major works in micro-formats, among them: the Local History and Genealogy Collection published by the Xerox Corporation, Dun's Business Identification Service, Disclosure Collection of annual reports and companies on the New York and American Stock Exchanges, and college catalogs.

Reference questions this year reached 12,159 in-person queries and 422 responses to reference letters. Telephone inquiries reached a dramatic rise to 20,648 calls. Fifty-three percent of reference queries relate to genealogy, coats-of-arms, and biography.

Government Documents

Microforms marked the most extensive growth in the department collections this year, both privately and government-produced microforms. As an example of the scope of the microforms, the following were acquired: *FBI Files*, *Irish Censuses*, and *Annual Reports of the World's Central Banks*.

Two gifts of documents from the Massachusetts State Library enhanced our collections: microfilms of U. S. Department of State *Consular Reports* from 1790 through 1906 and 400 shelves of foreign government publications from the early 1800s through the 1940s.

The department continued its record of publication. In addition to the recently released "Law Materials at the Boston Public Library," a reprint of the 1982 pamphlet describing government documents was published. Three items are in preparation: revision of "Government Publications in Microform at the Boston Public Library"; "Finding List to the City of Boston Numbered Documents (1910-1969)"; and a pamphlet on Library business resources.

Government Documents this year assumed responsibility for serving the Geologic Survey deposit maps. At this time all geologic map backlogs are filed by state, and work is now in progress to file by quadrangle name within each state.

In addition to attendance at task force meetings and seminars, staff conducted two tours: a reference class from Simmons College and Harvard Law School librarians.

Interlibrary Loan/Catalog Information

The second year of circulating Research Library books to regional libraries and branches proceeded with few problems and many grateful acknowledgments.

At long last a terminal giving access to the online catalog was installed at Catalog Information. A short time later a Faxon Linx terminal was installed. Both arrivals have considerably expedited service. The Faxon system is described by staff as "very useful for untangling knotty serials problems. The availability of key word searching has helped to solve many mysteries."

While lending activity has remained fairly constant, photocopy requests have increased by 400, requiring nearly a full-time staff member's attention. Such work includes verification and location of

obscure serials, correcting citations, photocopying, billing, and mailing. The work load has increased since the contract with Readex was not renewed.

While turnaround time for filling loan requests has somewhat decreased, there remains—according to the department head — “a great deal of room for improvement” in speeding up department and General Library ordering and elimination of backlogs in processing and cataloging.

Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts

Much time was occupied with the crucial daily nitty-gritty of cataloging and preservation. The micro-computer expedited systems of cataloging and accessing holdings and producing print-outs. A backlog of manuscripts has been accessioned, and the micro-computer will be used for inventory lists and indexes to the collections.

After decades, the Prince collection of manuscripts has been, in the words of the keeper of rare books, “meticulously cataloged, as the collection deserves.” The Conservation Center, much depleted in staffing, has proceeded slowly in its goals. A video on conservation is in its final stages of preparation. Visitors from China, Australia, England, and Japan came this year to examine the methods of the center.

Again this year the use of rare books and manuscripts was acknowledged in publications emanating from scholars around the world. To name a few:

Captain Charles Stuart: A Biography by Anthony J. Parker, University of Western Australia.

Witchcraft and the Nature of Man by Mark Greenbard, University of Minnesota.

Sharing Tradition: Five Black Artists in 19th-Century America by the National Museum of Caribbean Art.

The British Army in America by Stephen R. Conway, University College of London.

Ezra Heywood: 19th-Century Performer by Martin Blatt, University of Illinois Press.

Not surprisingly, researchers came from afar to do their probing, much of which resulted in publications. Scholars registered from Canada, France, Italy, India, Bermuda, Israel, and Honolulu.

Several unique items were loaned for exhibitions—to the Boston University Art Gallery: the first American star map for its exhibit “Celestial Images”; to the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library: *Useful Knowledge and Publick Good: Dr. Franklin Considered* for an exhibit on Benjamin Franklin; to the Museum of National Heritage: several important works on Lincoln; to the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute: a 16th-century work by Daniel Barbaro, *La Prattica Prospettiva*; and to the Bell Gallery of Brown University: Luca Paccioli’s *Divina Proportione* (Venice 1509).

Acquisitions continued to expand and enhance the collections of the department. Notable additions included

Luna, Miguel de. *La verdadera hystoria del Rey Don Rodrigo* (Granada, 1542).

Erasmus. *Moriae encomium* (Basel, 1540).

Statham, Nicholas. [Abridgment of cases] (Rouen, Guillaume Le Talleur for Richard Pynson, 1490).
Incunabulum.

Chytraeus, Nathan. *Variorum in Europa itinerum deliciae*. 1594.

In addition to books, acquisitions extended to rare pamphlets, letters, and manuscripts.

Music Department

Positive, forward motion marked FY85 in the Music Department. Staffing reached a number adequate for coverage of hours of service. Cataloging of a backlog commenced.

Many needs are still not appropriately addressed, particularly conservation and preservation work, a tie-in with Sound Archives, and

more institutional priorities for such an important holding as the Allen A. Brown Music Collection. In the words of Ruth M. Bleecker, curator, "Music lovers and scholars from universities in the area, opera goers and students, music critics and composers still spend many hours pouring over our scores and musicological materials, complaining all the while about the difficulties of using the catalogs and the lack of contemporary music. With the excellent staff we have now, we could do so much more toward fulfilling Allen Brown's dream if we could get more support." It remains evident from quotes such as this, that our efforts in reaching goals go on and on.

Sound Archives

In FY85 planning continued for the day when the department will be functioning as a research center. Consideration centered on such priorities as relocation to the Johnson Building, budgeting for continued acquisition, cataloging, preservation, and coordination with the Audio-Visual Department.

The Sound Archives Department was in receipt of several gifts important to its archival focus including 270 sound recordings, gift of Caroline Bochman, and 20 recordings by Quebecois artists from the Quebec Government Office in New England.

Alice M. Jordan Collection

Much was accomplished in this "non-public" department in responding to reference questions, aiding researchers by appointment, and in cataloging. In fact, the cataloging of the juvenile foreign language material that commenced at the end of 1983 is nearing completion of the Roman alphabet languages. Work on organization and creation of a finding aid for the archives of the New England Round Table of Children's Librarians has also been completed.

In addition to the displays cited under Exhibitions, some 90 editions of Mother Goose books were loaned to a major exhibit of that children's classic in the Thompson Gallery of Massachusetts College of Art.

Gifts vital to the collection continued to be added to the Jordan Collection. Items not added to the department—usually duplicates—were shared with several institutions including Boston

Children's Floating Hospital, the International Youth Library in Munich, and to Trinidad in response to requests from the joint Trinidad and Natick (MA) Kiwanis Clubs.

A background brochure on the Jordan Collection was published this year and promises to increase awareness of the existence of this resource.

Microtext/Newspaper Department

These two departments, unconnected and non-contiguous, continued to be intensive in services and acquisitions. Microtext circulated 67,500 microforms as the result of a new policy instituted in FY85 which permitted some loan of microforms. In addition, 6,328 orders were placed for 27,872 photocopies. The department sent out 323 reference letters and responded to 4,641 telephone calls.

A milestone was reached this year with the acquisition of the one millionth microfiche. Among the additions to the collection in business and economy were *Thomas's Register of American Manufacturers*; *Moody's Manuals on Microfiche*; *The U.S. National Economy*; and *Cambio 16* (a weekly Spanish journal). The *Rutherford B. Hayes Papers* were added to the nearly complete collection of presidential papers.

The Library's holdings were considerably buttressed in other fields as well—in missionary work, science and technology, genealogy, anti-slavery, music and fine arts, native Americans. A major addition augmented women's studies with the diaries of eight women who lived on the Eastern seaboard during the 18th to 20th centuries, *American Women's Diaries, Segment 1: New England*.

The Newspaper Room, devoted to making the current world press available, responded to 6,468 telephone calls this year. Newspaper resources grew with microfilm of the *London Gazette* (1665-1800) and the *Jerusalem Post* (1970 to date).

Science Reference

FY85 was marked by filling of vacancies and, resultantly, a steady increase in online searching services and special events.

The Inventors Weekend, scheduled for the first weekend in February at the Museum of Science, drew an attendance of 12,000

people. Participating department staff enjoyed great public relations opportunities—performing computer demonstrations on CASSIS, distributing the list “Notable Women Inventors,” and informing attendees of patent and trademark search capability at the Library.

A further opportunity to spread the word of the Library’s strong posture as a patent/trademark depository took place in April with a Patent Depository Library Open House attended by Consortium librarians.

Staff attendance at the 8th Patent Depository Library Conference in Virginia considerably expanded their background and training in CASSIS, problem solving, and more.

The expansion of online searching has mounted to 100 to 200 searches a month. Suggested for the future is formal publicizing of the searching capability. The department has implemented the use of DIALOG in the Research and General Libraries and has introduced it to many patrons, but publicity and demonstrations for the general public are necessary.

Fine Arts Department

“By all accounts,” noted Coordinator Tess Cederholm, “1984-1985 was the busiest and most productive year for the Fine Arts Department yet.” In summation: staff continued active involvement in professional and community organizations, mounted five library exhibits, directed 13 student intern projects, and carried on aggressively building collections.

Testifying to department activity were the following statistics: telephone reference: 13,653 calls; letters: 303; interlibrary loan and photoduplication requests: 517 and 139; in-person reference questions: 13,986. Ninety-four percent of the items requested from the bookstacks were delivered, a total of 20,192 items.

Beyond the daily, ongoing service demands of the department were several events and special projects: Appraisal Day, Art Newbury Street, the Franklin Park Centennial Lecture Series, and COBRA (collaboration on Bibliographic Records on Art).

Department staff amassed an impressive record of achievements in FY85 in the areas of writing, lecturing, and service on local and national art/architecture committees and panels. To cite only one major accomplishment: Tess Cederholm served as executive

producer for a film funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities on social realist painter Jack Levine. The film will be aired on PBS in 1986.

Exhibitions

Special exhibits transmit visually quick, often memorable, messages to the patron passing by on other informational missions. Exhibits highlight a given time or person or event. They target elements in the Library's collections that may be otherwise invisible. They link materials together that are apart in the classification system. They support programs. Among the major exhibits of FY85 were the following:

"The Written Word of Christian Faith," including illuminated manuscripts from the 11th to 15th centuries (Rare Books).

"The World Beyond," including books that shaped the discovery of America—works by Ptolemy, Strabo, and Aristotle (Rare Books).

"Boston Latin School: 350th Anniversary 1635-1985" (Rare Books).

Exhibit honoring Boston Pops Centennial (Music).

"*La Bande Dessinée*: Belgian and French comic books" (Jordan Collection).

"Children's Books International 10" (Jordan).

"*Omnium Lux Civium*: The Light of All Citizens." History of the McKim Building" (Fine Arts).

Franklin Park on the 100th anniversary of F. L. Olmsted's "crown jewel in his emerald necklace" (Fine Arts).

Grants and Gifts

During FY85 changes were instituted in the structure and staffing of gift receipts. Mainly, the activity was transferred from Book Preparation to the Research Library Office. As the year drew to a close, there remained a backlog of approximately 50,000 unsorted and unsearched volumes. The planned addition of a computer terminal to the operation in August 1985 promises to expedite the searching of materials. The number of gifts received in FY85 totaled 29,117. Notable items included:

Art library of dealer Gustav D. Kliman

Art library of sculptress/educator Beatrice Whitney VanNess

270 sound recordings, gift of Caroline Bochman

300 professional brochures of American, Japanese, and European architectural firms given by the Planning Office of Harvard University

Several remarkable collections of photographs donated by Mrs. Winslow Warren, Mrs. Horace Kenney, former *Herald* photographer Cal Hutchinson, Mrs. Warren Guild, Richard Heath, and Robert Severy

Papers from Chief Justice Elijah Adlow

148 items on computers donated by Mini-Micro Systems

223 items on Ireland and Irish culture from the Consulate of Ireland

113 books from the Goethe Institute of Boston

Other gifts and royalties included: Nason Fund: \$32,926.66; Wiggin: \$1,200; Edinburg: \$300; Avantaggio: \$500; Boston Authors: \$250; Fred Allen: \$1,000; Marjorie Gibbons: \$175; Rita Dinneen: \$450;

Ester Feer: \$47,597.28; Friends of Kirstein: \$16,321; Msgr. Murray: \$1,000; Antiquarian Booksellers: \$1,201.97; Senator Bulger: \$1,000. An elegant Royal Windsor tea service, one of only three in the world, was the gift of Ignatius Jerome O'Connor.

Among the grants received:

MURLS (Metropolitan/Urban Research Libraries)	\$18,000.00
LSCA grant to establish a handicap access center	\$53,000.00
Title II-C grant for newspaper preservation	\$175,000.00

Buildings

FY85 began with grim assessments of their units by branch librarians. East Boston commented on the fence in need of repair and the outside litter and trash. Connolly noted that the "building is less than shipshape inside." Roslindale called attention to failure of its air conditioning system, noxious aromas from corroded batteries for emergency lights, and burned out heaters." South Boston was equally distressed by "worn out heating and the air conditioning unit, boarded up back windows, worn linoleum, leaking roof, and a sign with missing letters."

The last three months of the year, July through September, saw a heartening turnaround to many problems. The work completed by carpenters, painters, and custodians led to repair of broken windows, painting several units, installation of new floors, and contracts for other improvements and restorations.

Once again this year the Library submitted to the Public Facilities Department a program of essential projects falling within the purview of that department. Among them: attention to the roof and interior lighting of Grove Hall, repair of rear wall of the Charlestown Branch, air conditioning at several branches, and access for the

handicapped at several branches. Public Facilities responded positively that all projects were being addressed.

The restoration of the McKim building made advances this year. Architects Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott, Inc. drafted a space use tool with a concept plan scheduled to follow. A 12-week process will deal with the investigation of mechanical/electrical systems. Then a 16-week study will be undertaken by SPNEA (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities). By fall, the space use and concept plans should be ready for authorization by the Trustees.

Staffing

From July 1984 to February 1985, the Trustees and their appointed citizens' committee functioned, remote from the ongoing administration of the Library, in search of a director. They reported their progress at each Trustees' meeting—from determination of qualifications to advertising of the position, to creating a short list of candidates and interviewing them. At a special session of the Trustees on February 21, 1985, they met to consider seven finalists. In their subsequent vote, the majority of the board voted for Arthur Curley to serve as the next director and librarian, the 13th director in the Library's 132 years. Curley, presently a deputy director at the New York Public Library has held leadership positions in Avon (MA), Montclair (NJ), and Detroit (MI). He began his career at the Boston Public Library.

Efforts to recruit staff were aggressive this year. Letters were written to every accredited library school and interviewing took place at the American Library Association convention in Dallas. Recruitment remains a problem across the country. There are few library school graduates (9,000 in 1974; now only 5,000). Our Library goal continues to be strengthening our pre-professional program. A difficulty continues in our salary levels which run \$2,300 lower than in comparable libraries.

As we moved ahead in adding new professionals to our ranks, the results showed in branches and central. Adams Street commented: "Throughout the 1984-85 year we have been fortunate to have had a stabilization of the staffing patterns at Adams Street." Brighton/Faneuil Branches reported "an exciting year. For the first time in many years professional service on all three levels — adult, young adult, and

children—flourished at the Brighton Branch. Our ability to maintain consistent staffing during the year helped immeasurably in our efforts to improve library service.”

Year End Review of Goals

FY85 ended on a positive note. General Library’s report captured this positive mood: “FY85 presented a much more hopeful and successful period in the General Library after the stark and lean years beset by budgetary problems.” Part of the progress noted was attributable to enhanced access to data. A DIALOG terminal was added and Wilson-line became a permanent tool in the department.

The Audio-Visual Department continued its successful film series including programs on Laurence Olivier, documentaries on how films are made, and a summer film festival.

We began FY85 with the announcement that branch book buying quotas would be raised 25%. The response from branches was immediate and glowing. From Mattapan/Grove Hall came this comment: “The book collections have continued to improve. Patrons have frequently remarked about the regularity and speed that new books have been arriving. And the regular replacement ordering schedules have been invaluable in maintaining the quality of the collections.”

In addition, several actions were taken this year relative to the circulation of materials. Already noted was the circulation of some Research Library items through Interlibrary Loan. It was decided to remain with the IBM circulation system for another year and to commence conversion from punch card to bar code within the next few months. The conversion from Dewey to Library of Congress classification continues for the circulating collections.

Dudley Branch expressed the year-end enthusiasm repeated in many units: “Growth in terms of service and use marked the mission of Dudley Branch during the past year when there was a noticeably higher number of new patrons and a strengthening of relationships with community groups.”

In concluding this upbeat review of the year, let me extend thanks to all individuals involved in maintaining the Boston Public Library’s record of prominence in Boston, in the commonwealth, and in the nation.

Liam Kelly
Acting Director

Library Resources*

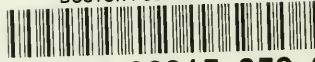
General Book Collections (volumes)	5,300,000
<u>Special Collections</u>	
Rare Books and Manuscripts	1,100,000
Prints	798,000
Patents	8,000,000
Maps	300,000
Government Documents	2,300,000
<u>Periodicals</u> (Current subscriptions)	14,800
<u>Non-Print Material</u>	
Audio-recordings	270,000
Films and other projected materials	65,000
<u>Microforms</u>	2,800,000
TOTAL	20,677,800

**These approximate statistics have not been verified at time of publication.*

LIBRARY EXPENDITURES

	FY83	FY84	FY85
Salaries and Wages			
City Appropriation	\$7,318,792.00	\$8,100,318.00	\$7,605,112.00
Commonwealth of Massachusetts			
Eastern Regional Library System	141,597.00	694,126.00	685,111.53
Library of Last Recourse	0.00	0.00	932,734.00
Federal Grants	28,204.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	\$8,088,593.00	\$8,794,444.00	\$9,222,957.53
Books and Other Library Materials			
City Appropriation	\$1,455,642.00	\$1,442,032.00	\$1,164,654.00
Commonwealth of Massachusetts			
Eastern Regional Public Library System	839,103.00	822,134.00	1,755,824.72
Library of Last Recourse	1,070,419.00	2,073,616.00	1,137,724.00
Other State Aid	0.00	0.00	281,497.00
Trust Income	217,508.00	292,076.00	302,807.77
Federal Grants	2,085.00	11,054.00	139,081.00
TOTAL	\$3,584,757.00	\$4,640,912.00	\$4,781,588.49
All Other Expenses			
City Appropriations	\$2,217,377.00	\$2,557,228.00	\$2,547,556.00
Commonwealth of Massachusetts			
Eastern Regional Public Library System	330,753.00	371,178.00	757,611.51
Trust Funds income	38,122.00	23,609.00	54,586.28
Federal Grants	34,963.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	\$2,621,215.00	\$2,952,015.00	\$3,359,753.79
GRAND TOTAL	\$14,294,565.00	\$16,387,371.00	\$17,364,299.81

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



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