BOSTON

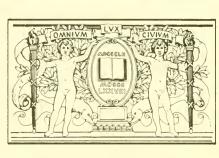
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ANNUAL REPORT

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BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY











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ANNUAL REPORT of the BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY For the Period Ending June 30, 1977



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To the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library:

As Director and Librarian, I have the honor to submit my report for the year July 1, 1976, to June 30, 1977.

This year was not unlike Dickens' much-quoted "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Because of the city's tight fiscal situation there was need for constant, careful attention to use of energy, personnel, and materials. We were deeply aware of the need to operate efficiently, minimizing use of resources but maximizing services to the citizens of Boston. On the side of the "best of times" was the Library's success in bringing eminent contributors and contributions to Library programs and holdings. This report will call attention to the grim realities of cutbacks, but — dominantly — to the postive activities and events which pushed the Library forward in service to a great city.

In response to the city's "tight" fiscal situation which mandated a drastic cut in budgeted expenditures, the Library curtailed or eliminated certain valuable services: Sunday openings and operation of bookmobiles; and Saturday hours in the Rare Book Department. The Trustees announced these retrenchments in service and the postponement of filling key positions with regret. They indicated that the Library would "exert every effort to minimize the impact of these curtailments." Announcement was similarly made that service at Kirstein Business Branch would be curtailed as part of stringent reductions. The plan was almost immediately reversed when Friends of the Kirstein Business Branch launched an effort to raise \$200,000 "to keep Kirstein open." The fund-raising is spearheaded by a committee of leading citizens with Thomas Boylston Adams in the forefront and with the First National Bank of Boston assisting in receiving donations.

GENERAL LIBRARY SERVICES

In service to all age groups the branches and General Library maintained a high level of activity in spite of staff shortages and reduced hours. Speakers, films, and special events gave testament to the Library's stance as a center of activity. The statistics of branch-centered programs are as follows:

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

	Number of	
Program	Programs	Attendance
Film	319	16,790
Preschool	448	6,315
Reading Club	85	2,487
School classes at library	221	4,828
Special events	128	2,807
Story hours	199	3,205
	1,387	33,945

ADULT PROGRAMS

Program Never Too Late Group	Number of Programs 104	Attendance 1,826
Film	107	2,023
Discussion Groups		
(Book and Parent)	256	3,295
Special events	76	2,362
Friends of the Library	7	345
	550	9,851

Among the important events in branches at least two should be recorded here: the annual awarding of the Mary U. Nichols Books Prizes (to Angela Abbondanza and Maurizio Romeo) at the North End Branch Library, with Carlo L. Golino, Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Boston, delivering the address; and Professor James R. Green of Brandeis University speaking of the historical roots of the community.

In several branches and the Central Library the very popular group, geared to senior citizens and appropriately named Never Too Late, provided programs of dynamism and relevance. Sample events included Christina tree of the *Boston Globe* offering a slide tour entitled "How New England Happened"; Antonio Franco, singing stirring arias by Verdi in "Opera in the Round"; Captain Jonathan Lucas, master of the schooner "R/V Westward," presenting "Eavesdropping on Whales"; John O'Brien, an actor and teacher at Malden High School, performing a one-act play on the famous lawyer, Clarence Darrow.

Boston's chidren and teenagers were well served this year in several directions—through diligent attention to building a fine book collection, lively programming, and continuing cooperation with schools and other youth-serving agencies. Among the bright activities which summoned young people to their neighborhood and Central Library were a presentation of "Rip

Van Winkle," a musical play based on A.A. Milne's "When We Were Very Young"; and "The Elegant Dollhouse," a lecture demonstration.

The Young Adult Department sponsored the annual workshop on creative writing for the fourth year. Among the author/speakers were Nancy Garden, John M. Landsberg, and Bob Elliot.

The major program of the year was Children's Books International III, this year focusing on the design, illustration, and art of children's books. Called "Global Graphics: A Many Splendored Thing," the symposia this year brought speakers from England, France, Germany, Japan, and Canada and included such outstanding people of the book/film world in this country as Virginia Haviland of the Library of Congress, Morton Schindel of the Weston Woods Studio, and Zena Sutherland of the University of Chicago Graduate Library School.

The circulation of materials was considerably facilitated this year with the installation of eight new IBM computer terminals in the General Library Circulation Division. The new terminals, of the 5230 system type, represent the latest technology in data collection. This new system inputs data electronically onto diskettes (thin, flexible disks coated with magnetic recording material) rather than the prior system which collected data on punch cards. The changeover to the new systems will bring increased efficiency to the Circulation Division.

Research Library Services

In its continuing in-depth development of collections, in important acquisitions, donations, exhibits, publications, and programs the Research Library maintained a profile of growth and vitality.

Several high points of the Library's calendar were provided by the annual endowed lectureships: Philip Hofer spoke on "W.A.D. as I Knew Him" for the fourth Dwiggins Lecture; the annual Maury A. Bromsen Lecture in Humanstic Bibliography was presented by Dr. John Parker, "Windows into China: The Jesuits and Their Books, 1580-1730"; the twelfth annual Wiggin Symposium this year centered on the art and craft of printmaking. Entitled "Impressions," the event featured art historian Peter Wick and artist Barbara Swan.

Programs

In addition to offering vital one-to-one services, the Library functioned throughout the year as the site of dynamic programs — lectures, symposia, conferences, demonstrations, readings, and concerts. These programs drew in a diverse range of audiences, called on experts in many disciplines, and — in content — encompassed the arts and humanities, science, and business. The programs were sometimes single events, other times part of a series format.

Music - classical, folk, instrumental, vocal - sounded frequently through the Library halls. The popular "Music Makers" series included several concerts, among them "The Message of the Woodwinds," "Music from the Attic," and "International Folk Instruments." This last event created an engrossing listening/learning experience. Exotic instruments such as the Arabic oud, the Turkish kanon, the Russian balalaika, the Greek buzuki, and others were introduced both by commentary and demonstration. Other musical performances included Trio Mexico, an ensemble sponsored by the Mexican government as a tribute to the U.S. Bicentennial; a program of Handel and Haydn offered in conjunction with the NEH Learning Library course, "From the Psalm Book to the Symphony"; a concert of Afro-American spirituals; and a "preview in sight and sound" of Meyerbeer's "Le Prophete," cosponsored with the Boston Opera Association in advance of the Metropolitan Opera's Boston season. Dance also became a delightful program ingredient in a lecture/demonstration of modern dance by Patrice Regnier and the Rush Dance Company of New York.

Numbered among the year's high points in drama was "Freedom and Angelina," base on the letters, speeches and diaries of Angelina Grimke, abolitionist and early feminist. Noteworthy, too, was "An Evening with Siobhan McKenna," in which the leading member of Ireland's Abbey Theater related anecdotes and presented passages from Shaw's "Saint Joan."

Learning Library

Continuing a pattern of excellence demonstrated since its inception, the Learning Library series (funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities) featured several eminent teachers contemplating diverse areas of knowledge. The courses and teachers were as follows: "Painting in Boston, 1670-1970," taught by Professor Margaret Supplee Smith of Boston University; "After Strange Fruit: Changing Literary Taste in post-World-War-II Boston," delivered by Professor P. Albert Duhamel of Boston College; "Images of Boston: Writers' Views of the City," led by Professor Robert Hollister

of M.I.T.; "From the Psalm Book to the Symphony: Music in the Culture of Boston," taught by Professor John Swan of Tufts University; "Growth and Development in the Boston Metropolis," delivered by Professor Donald Levitan of Suffolk University; "The Way We Really Live," taught by Professor Sam Bass Warner, Jr. of Suffolk University; "Boston's Workers: A Labor History," by Professor James Green of Brandeis University; "Broadway down East: The Story of the Theatre in Boston from the Puritans to the Present Time," by Elliot Norton, drama critic with the Boston Herald-American; "From Common School to Magnet School," taught by Dr. James Fraser of the Church of the Covenant and Radcliffe Institute.

Each of the vital explorations offered by leading teachers and philosophers of the area fulfilled the goals of the Learning Library plan: to bring to enrollees, free and unencumbered by rules and academic requisites, a challenging and involving experience of the intellect.

Two additional events marked the Learning Library year. One was the visit from Ronald Berman, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, who paid tribute to the success of the pilot program in Boston. The second key moment was the announcement of the extended funding of the Learning Library for an additional year. In the 1977-78 period the Boston Public Library is firmly committed to finding patterns and support for bringing permanence to the people's university concept evinced in the Learning Library.

Literary Boston

The Literary Boston series, supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Massachusetts Council for the Arts, was originally designed to extend from April, 1975, through the Bicentennial year. Because of its demonstrated popular support and educational/cultural impact, the series was extended six months. The eminent literary figures who gave lectures, readings, and commentaries included many poets—John Malcolm Brinnin, George Starbuck, James Tate, Jane Shore, Sam Cornish, Alan Dugan, Edwin Honig, Ruth Whitman, Denise Levertov, Kathleen Spivack, Marge Piercy, Elizabeth Bishop, Ai, Michael Harper, Robert Pinsky, Dona Stein. In the concluding program of the series the Library was honored to present Robert Hayden, poet and poetry consultant for the Library of Congress. Novelists who participated in the

series were Alan Lelchuck, Tim O'Brien, Ivan Gold, Anne Bernays, and Penelope Mortimer. Critic Richard Todd and Professor Sacvan Bercovitch of Columbia University also took part in this important group of programs.

Other Programs

Belles lettres and the arts served repeatedly as sources for programs. For example, Professor Henry A. Tate celebrated the birth of Robert Frost with a special illustrated lecture, "Happy Birthday, Robert Frost." Scholar/writer Richard Hobbs vivified an eminent artist and his work in "The Symbolist Art of Odilon Redon."

Providing a practical antipode to programs in the arts were other lectures in business and science. From January to June the Library joined forces with the U.S. Department of Commerce to present "Business Briefings." Designed as a series of six monthly seminars on timely topics, the lectures brought in such experts as James N. Gabriel, U.S. Attorney, speaking on "Crime in Business," and Joseph Lawless, Director of the General Services Administration Business Service, speaking on "Doing Business with the Federal Government." Other experts addressed themselves to patents, bankruptcy, metrics, and product liability.

In the area of science the Library provided the site for the first public lecture sponsored by a new organization, the Massachusetts High School Science Association. On this occasion physicist Robert Var spoke on "The Unification of Matter, Energy, and Space." Dr. Timothy Johnson, well-known for his TV series "House Call," provided an "Update on Health" program.

The Library continued to pay tribute to Boston's rich diversity in national/cultural heritages with ethnic celebrations. A "Salute to Finland" was mounted in October which turned attention on "Life in Finland Today," Finnish epic poetry, contemporary architecture of Finland, Finnish cinema and crafts, and—of course—Sibelius. In a "Salute to the Baltic States" similar attention was accorded the culture of the people of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. In time-honored deference to February as Black History Month, the Library sponsored programs on black art and drama

Exhibits

Particularly noteworthy this year were the exhibitions in both

the McKim and Johnson buildings which, often with visual dynamism, keynoted special collections, recent acquisitions, materials loaned by other agencies, or items topical or thematic. Among the exihibits were: photographs which won recognition in the John Hancock Tower color photography competition; Boston documents and books of significance to the Bicentennial; archives of four colonial towns; selections from the Holt Collection, donated by Mr. and Mrs. John D. Holt and reflecting three centuries of the European visions of Islam; "Roland Hayes, 1887-1977, Remembrances in Print and Pictures"; "Around the World in Fairs," featuring banners, coins, photographs, and other memorabilia derived from the World Fair events, all part of the collection developed by Robert A. Feer: rare Christmas items from the Herbert H. Hosmer collection, loaned to the Library from Mr. Hosmer's John Greene Chandler Museum in South Lancaster. In addition, several special displays augmented programs and symposia; among them were exihibits tied in with the Dwiggins Lecture, Literary Boston, and Marigold Garden. Especially impressive and elegant was the exhibit in the Boston Room drawn from the American Institute of Graphic Arts "Best Books" and the Stinehour Press.

Gifts

Several gifts this year added significantly to the Library's holdings in several disciplines. Among the donated items were a White Mountain Collection presented by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rendell of Newton: a handsome collection of more than 600, steel-engraved covers celebrating issues of postage stamps, a bequest by Blanche E. Robinson to the West Roxbury Branch ninety-one prints by eminent artist Chamberlain, donated by his widow, and filling out the Library's Chamberlain collection. From Mr. and Mrs. William Randolph Hearst came a rare volume related to the War of 1812. The work, in beautiful condition, belonged to Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst and is valuable for its rare textual content as well as for the full-page wood engravings which it contains. Another interesting donation, four Olympic medals, came to the Library from Jean-Louis Delisle, Consul General of Canada.

An important new endowment was established, the Maury A. Bromsen Endowment for Latin American Acquisitions. The income will be used for the purchase of Latin-American manuscripts and rare books.

A gift with important implications for future library service in West Roxbury was the donation of a plot of land adjacent to the library which eventually will provide the site for an addition. The land, "situated at the northwesterly corner of Mount Vernon and Centre Street, said parcel containing 18,590 square feet," was given by members of the West Roxbury Congregational Church, whose church on this land burned down some time ago.

Publications

The Boston Public Library published several booklists, booklets, and major books this year. A particularly important addition to history and books is a short history of Boston based on the Learning Library lectures delivered by Professor Thomas H. O'Connor of Boston College, titled *Bibles, Brahmins and Bosses*. The book covers the total experience of an American city. The most impressive, artistic work to be published by the Library is *The Work of Thomas W. Nason*. The handsome book draws on the expertise of Francis Comstock and William Fletcher, who prepared the definitive catalogue of prints and contributed essays; Walter Muir Whitehill, who wrote a biographical essay; and Sinclair Hitchings and Paul Swenson, who also made contributions. The book presents a many-sided picture of Nason's life and work both in text and more than 800 illustrations presented in folio format.

This year witnessed, also, the publication of the Catalog of the Large Print Collection, an invaluable listing of works published for readers with sight problems.

A "best seller" among library publications is "Medical Books for the Layperson," an annotated bibliography compiled by Marilyn McLean Philbrook of the Science Reference Department. Released this year was an important reprint, *Marionettes in Motion*, written by William A. Dwiggins in 1939. A new edition of "Books Build Background," a list of ancient and modern classics, was also released this year.

Visitors

Year after year the Boston Public Library draws visitors from all over the nation and the world who seek out its rich holdings, behold its art and architecture, or study its systems of operation. Among the guests this year were Gustave Girardot, Director of the Comite des Expositions de Livre et des Arts Graphiques-Français (Paris); Dr. David Clemente of the British Library (London); Ms. Siliam Haydar El-Zein, Chief Librarian at the John F. Kennedy American Center (Beirut). Other visitors came from New Zealand, Malaysia, Korea, Venezuela, and Uraguay. Tours of the building were scheduled throughout the year, effectively handled in many cases by members of the Associates.

Associates of the Boston Public Library

This year the Associates continued their supportive activities. A major contribution from the group of friends is a handbook of the arts and architecture of the Library. Prepared by Peter Wick, the handbook calls attention to the McKim, Mead and White Library, its significant attributes as a building and as a center of art. The book is scheduled for publication shortly.

Eastern Regional Library Service

In this fiscal year the Eastern Region continued to provide services, programs, and materials to member libraries without any increase in funding. Numbered among the activities and developments of the year were improvements in communication. Advances were made with the installation of two IN-WATS lines at the Headquarters Library and with the implementation of UPS delivery for the New Bedford Public Library. A major improvement in facilities was realized with the relocation of the North Reading Bookmobile Center to quarters in Andover. Future relocations of the Yarmouth Port Deposit Center and the Taunton Bookmobile Center are being explored.

Film services continued to receive intensive attention — demand for 16mm films was unabated; new feature films were added, including *Roots*; new film booking and registration forms were devised; work progressed on a cumulated supplement to the film catalog.

Interlibrary loan remained a major service to member libraries. A new loan form was devised and put into use. Statistics for this year show that 56,797 interlibrary loan and reference requests were handled.

Grants under the Library Services and Construction Act brought \$15,000 for captioned or non-verbal films; \$5,000 for a new delivery vehicle for Yarmouth Port; \$5,000 for Adult Basic Education materials; \$20,000 for materials for bookmobile deposit centers.

The staff specialists in the Eastern Region office were active in attendance at professional meetings, consultant visits to member

libraries, conducting workshops, and participation in committees of library associations.

The Boston Library Consortium

The Boston Library Consortium, the association of academic and research libraries, continued actively this year in cooperative projects. The two-volume, First Edition of the Consortium's *Union List of Serials Currently Received* was released this year. Another activity was the cosponsorship of an energy conservation colloquium. A major step ahead was the opening of an office on the third floor of the Johnson building and the appointment of a Coordinator of the Consortium. The post is held by Joanne E. Poage.

Personnel

The Library staff was active in many directions beyond the demands of their various positions. James Lawton of the Rare Book Department contributed an essay to the recently published book, Caxton, An American Contribution to the Quincentenary Celebration. Shirley Utudjian and Euclid Peltier of the Audiovisual Department attended the annual American Film Festival in New York City, with Euclid Peltier acting as jury chairman for the "Performing Arts" category of films. Mrs. Irenemarie Cullinane, Children's Literature Specialist, played a key role in a University of Wisconsin Extension program by speaking via a two-hour, telephone hookup between her home and Wisconsin. As Chairman of the A.L.A. Juvenile Book Evaluation Committee, she discussed what makes a "notable" book.

Diane Farrell and Jack Forman of the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System Office accepted important committee positions with A.L.A., Miss Farrell as Chairman of the Newbery-Caldecott Awards Committee, Mr. Forman as Chairman of the Best Books for Young Adults Committee. Miss Rose Moorachian, Young Adults Specialist, became editor of the Adult Books for Young Adults column of School Library Journal. Assistant Director John J. Doherty presented a talk on energy management at Boston University's Mugar Memorial Library as part of a colloquium sponsored by the Boston Library Consortium. Suzanne Gray, Coordinator of Science, served as secretary of the Science Fair Committee which helped organize and run the annual fair held at MIT. Mrs. Gray also

represented the Library at the Washington Conference of Patent Depository Libraries.

In the annual recognition ceremony tendered library employees with twenty-five years of service, eight staff members were honored: Joseph Competiello, Summer Fryhon, Raymond Leary, Margaret Lewis, Francis Moloney, Joseph Sarro, Pasquale Vacca, and Joseph Walsh.

This year brought changes in branch library administration with the retirement of three branch librarians: Belle Levin, Hyde Park Branch; Dorothy Flood, Uphams Corner Branch; and Sarah Richman, Allston Branch Library. New appointees to branch librarian positions were Helen Maniadis to East Boston/Orient Heights Branches and Ellen Sisco to Parker Hill Branch.

The Library suffered a major loss this year in the untimely death of Ann Curran, Assistant to the Director for Systems and Data Processing. Her contributions to the Boston Public Library and to the library profession were substantial.

Since tributes to the Library Director and Trustees redound favorably to the image of the total library, it should perhaps be mentioned here that Philip J. McNiff was so recognized, receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from Tufts University; an award from Simmons College for distinguished service to the community; a Bicentennial Award from Boston College as one of its "finest alumni and friends"; a decoration from the Spanish government as Commander of the Order of Alfonso X el Sabio. Trustee Sidney R. Rabb was honored this year by the City of Boston as one of Boston's outstanding community leaders, a "Grand Bostonian." Mr. Rabb was also tendered an honorary Doctorate Degree from Brandeis University.

In conclusion, I wish to express appreciation for the strong support accorded the Boston Public Library by the City of Boston, for the cooperation from library staff members, and for the leadership and support of the trustees.

PHILIP J. McNIFF, Director and Librarian.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Table 1. Circulation

BOOK CIRCULATION

	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976	Fiscal 1977
Central LibraryKirstein Business Branch*	1,122,148 *4,525	1,160,023	1,022,244
Adams Street	77,383	70,204	63,404
Allston	35,857	38,307	36,885
Bookmobile Service†	129,072	178,286	137,610
Brighton	105,912	97,347	83,542
Charlestown	44,677	48,239	44,846
Codman Square	35,566	31,843	24,520
Connolly	39,433	37,646	29,349
East Boston	37,526	40,844	40,006
Egleston Square	28,004	31,833	24,392
Faneuil	35,940	37,247	31,133
Fields Corner	90,604	90,475	76,174
Grove Hall	31,795	32,251	26,660
Hyde Park	101,682	104,046	94,439
Jamaica Plain	52,387	53,822	48,939
Lower Mills	36,754	33,202	32,855
Mattapan	31,308	30,046	21,937
Mt. Pleasant‡	13,078	14,276	4,900
North End	28,214	28,093	31,563
Orient Heights	28,614	26,077	26,691
Parker Hill	27,226	25,978	19,411
Roslindale	100,088	97,722	85,056
South Boston	72,681	71,730	66,108
South End	31,138	28,855	27,702
Uphams Corner	51,736	58,123	60,781
West End	56,656	57,048	49,418
West Roxbury	129,400	137,752	125,667
Hospital Library Service	20,127	19,533	22,664
Multilingual Library	24,821	22,246	19,330
Total, Branches	1,368,607	1,364,885	1,218,372
Total, Entire Library	2,624,352	2,703,194	2,378,226

^{*}Ceased circulation of materials in May, 1975. †Suspended service March 30, 1977.

[‡]Branch closed October, 1976.

CITY DOCUMENT NO. 15 NON-BOOK CIRCULATION

	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976	Fiscal 1977
Films and Film Strips	40,012	44,445	45,417
Recordings	139,560	141,177	130,367
Totals	179,572	185,622	175,784

VOLUMES SENT ON INTERLIBRARY LOAN

	Fiscal	Fiscal	Fiscal
	1975	1976	1977
Interlibrary loans	15,625	24,222	39,258

Table 2. Growth of the Library BOOKS

	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976	Fiscal 1977
General Library:			
Volumes added	148,699	148,328	130,974
Volumes withdrawn	16,561	27,544	45,628
Total on hand	1,577,137	1,697,921	1,783,267
Research Library:			
Volumes added	103,943	86,297	80,429
Volumes withdrawn	110	16	262
Total on hand	2,286,649	2,372,930	2,453,097
Total Book Stock	3,863,786	4,070,851	4,236,364

	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal	Fiscal 1977
Films	5,623	6,206	7,607
Film strips	577	577	581
Recordings	196,787	206,939	218,958
Cassettes	14,352	16,638	18,586
Lantern slides	14,884	14,884	14,884
Negatives	2,130	2,130	2,130
Pictures	426,426	426,426	426,426
Postcards	133,805	133,805	138,805
Prints and drawings	57,559	57,859	58,399
Projected books	178	178	178
Microcards	11,851	11,851	11,851
Microfiche (sheets)	268,522	317,369	372,448
Microfilm (reels)	73,884	79,922	84,293
Microprints (boxes)	4,140	4,246	4,512
Aperture cards	10,151	13,130	21,669

Table 3. Cataloging Statistics

	Fiscal 1975	Fiscal 1976	Fiscal 1977
Volumes Processed	252,642	289,888	211,403
New Titles cataloged	71,769	74,104	71,110
Original cataloging	14,518	16,564	15,581
NUC cataloging	5,341	13,015	14,151
LC cataloging	61,998	42,560	53,783
Rare Book cataloging	1,912	805	598
Films	259	611	224
Recordings	9,381	7,650	6,198
Cassettes	2,407	2,286	1,848

Table 4. Binding

	Fiscal	Fiscal	Fiscal
	1975	1976	1977
Volumes bound	57,200	63,194	61,000

Table 5. Library Expenditures











BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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