

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1963.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE
EAST YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD.

BY

D. S. ASHBIDGE.

DECEMBER 1963.

December 1963.

Library "housekeeping" is seldom given much publicity in annual reports. Yet routine and repetitive as it is without it the library would soon become slovenly, even chaotic.

Each day hundreds of books were issued to and returned by readers. Overdue book reminders were sent out weekly. Returned books were replaced on the shelves. Shelves were "read" for proper arrangement as misplaced books usually elude the searcher. Books needing repairs or lettering were removed from the shelves for attention. Displays were kept filled and attractively arranged.

The thousands of books which arrived had to be properly added to stock records and prepared for circulation. Filing catalogue cards, indexing certain useful books and listing others in special categories increased the usefulness of the collection. Checking the shelves regularly for outdated and missing books, withdrawing records from the catalogue kept the stock in up-to-date order.

With the increased volume of books added this year and their increased use by readers these operations required the concentrated attention of the whole staff.

It was, then, these various routines which made it possible to carry out the library's educational and recreational functions for children, young people and adults.

As Mrs. Pielsticker mentions in her report there were many students from various institutions using the library. It was also of interest to note the numbers taking night or correspondence courses who came in search of material. This is an important function of the library - to provide the information necessary for those wishing to improve their qualifications. It is the reason we try to contact and remind students who are leaving high school that the resources of the public library will continue to be available to them.

One of the pleasures of library work experienced in 1963 as in other years was working with people anxious to read but uncertain of what they wanted. Here we had the opportunity of introducing authors who might otherwise remain unknown. To supplement personal suggestions annotated lists of various types of books were placed in a conspicuous place in the library. Going beyond the library itself book talks were given to community organizations.

The staff welcomed a number of groups to the library, continuing last year's plan. Representative of such was the Don Mills United Church group of about 60 members. These people held a meeting in the auditorium and then were shown around the library and had refreshments with us.

Advertising was carried out, in addition to methods mentioned

above., by making available shopping bags with the library crest, signs regarding special events displayed in the library, the Municipal Building, Community Centre and on Township trucks, mailing notices to individuals, newspapers, radio and TV stations. Young Canada's Book Week and Canadian Library Week were both occasions for special displays. Miss Whiteman will report on her department's successful plans. For Canadian Library Week some of Bruce Kidd's trophies were displayed, special collections of books were arranged for circulation and a film showing of a new National Film Board picture, Nahanni, was held.

The Auditorium and Exhibition Room in which library and outside organizations sponsored events also kept the library before the public. The secondary school art teachers' show of their art and the revue "Tickled Pink" were examples of outside groups, and the C.I.L. art show of the library-sponsored events. During the latter's three week stay some 1,500 people viewed the collection. For many of the Elementary school pupils it was an introduction to modern art and for the secondary school students an opportunity to study trends in Canadian painting.

Two staff members continued with the play reading group this year. There was a slightly increase attendance and there are indications that it will continue to grow. Plays chosen provided an interesting contrast ranging as they did from Antigone to You Can't Take It With You.

The circulation of records for home use increased this year. Records on display, especially circulated well. When the operas were presented in Toronto opera records were in great demand. Folk songs, featured on the display board also were popular. Of course at examination time, Shakespeare's plays on records were at a premium for use both in the library and for home listening. The use of records in conjunction with stories for children was an interesting experiment here this past year.

This was the first full year of stocking films and has given some idea of its usefulness as will be seen in Mrs. Sharf's report.

The way in which various services are coordinated to serve the public was shown recently in giving help to a church group which was making a study of India. Miss Carey prepared an annotated list and collected books for display at their meeting. The library projector and films selected by Mrs. Sharf provided the visual part of the programme.

Books provided at East York Acres were appreciated by residents who enjoyed reading. Books they liked were regularly passed on to their neighbours. It was interesting to note that there were more requests for specific titles towards the end of the year and these

were supplied from the main library stock. While the personality of all staff members is important, in a place such as East York Acres it is particularly necessary to have a friendly and interested person, and in this we were fortunate.

Our other operation, the Todmorden Room improved this past year. In April the location was changed to a room on the main floor. Since then there has been a steady increase in circulation. 66% more books were in the hands of borrowers than on the same day in 1962. Miss McArton gave a book talk to one of the groups in the Community Centre and it is hoped more opportunities of the kind will be afforded us.

During the year staff members have also been active in professional matters outside of library hours. They have attended meetings and conventions of the C.L.A., O.L.A., and I.P.L. and have represented those bodies at other organizations.

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BY
ELLEN SHARF

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One fact of librarianship which is taken for granted and rarely acknowledged is the high quality of the service to the borrower. The staff is carefully trained to be quiet, pleasant and unobtrusively helpful. We endeavour to use all the resources at our command to help the borrower without them feeling pressure, invasion of privacy, or imposition on the staff.

If a book which we own, is not on the shelf, we offer to reserve it for the borrower and telephone when the book arrives. There is a five cent fee for handling charges. We reserve an average of one hundred books per month and we feel that this service is much appreciated by those who take advantage of it.

There is no real pattern to these requests except that they reflect interests of the borrowers. Reservations cover a broad range - from popular best sellers to old favourites - from books on chess to books on car repairs - from hobbies in origami to ventiloquism and stamp collecting - from books on courses of study to interests being enlivened by movies such as Lawrence of Arabia, The Cardinal and Tom Jones.

Should a borrower wish a work of non-fiction which we do not own we endeavour to borrow it through our Interloan service which draws upon collections in Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto, the Universities in Ontario, the Provincial Library and the National Library. In the past year we borrowed over 170 books through interloan. Many of these requests were for volumes now out of print and difficult to obtain. Some requests were of a very specialized nature and would not be generally found in a small public library such as ours. Certain borrowers wished to supplement material available in our library with further information and this was supplied through inter-library loans. We supplied over 60 volumes to other libraries requesting material for their subscribers. We also borrow books in other languages upon request and are servicing an active group of readers in German, French and Dutch.

It is a rare occasion when we turn away a borrower without the volume that he has requested if it is available in Canada.

Our reference department is a very active department particularly with students who are currently attending school. However, there are two groups - growing in size - which should have particular mention.

We have a great number of older people who come to the library after many years of absence to research for the night course in which they have just registered. We have had lists from people studying, psychology, art, business, public speaking, writing, French and German, millinery, English literature, accounting. We have also been conscious of a growing group who vary from ages 16-20 who have left school. Some are going to night school to complete subjects missed on

matriculation courses. These last groups usually want actual text books (geography and mathematics especially), specific books to complete a reading assignment, or strictly specified segments of knowledge to complete an essay. Unless they are studying an English course they rarely borrow anything else at this stage.

I think that a special effort should be made to help these last two groups and make them feel at home in the library because they are perhaps more shy than the younger people - but their need is equally great - they are deserving of our best efforts

Another service to our public is our active film rental library. We rent films and projectors to meetings, clubs, churches, parties, business organizations, students and teachers. We borrow films from all sections of Metropolitan Toronto to satisfy requests. This year we have supplied 175 films to our borrowers and shown over 38 films in special film showings at the library. The film librarian attended 11 meetings at the National Film Board and 2 meetings of the Audio-Visual Section of the Ontario Library Association. The film librarian supervised the care and repair of films and attended to public relations by advertising, by mail, posters, and answering all telephone enquiries and planning film programmes. Films were used to support special occasions at the library in the community, and at the schools. Close co-operation with other film libraries and with the National Film Board was carefully maintained.

The film service is building up gradually and more and more people are sending their friends and acquaintances to us for films and projectors. We feel that this is a worthwhile community service and are looking forward to a more active, busier year in the film department in 1964.

Report On Work With Young People, 1963

East York Public Library

In working with Young People this year, it has been gratifying to note that students from the Eastern section of Metropolitan Toronto have come to us in increasing numbers with problems on school and university assignments.

The fact that we have been building up both our reference and circulation collections has made it possible for the Librarians to cope with these demands more effectively than in the past.

We have found our expanding Vertical File collection is increasingly valuable, with its newspaper articles, pamphlets, clippings and government documents. We are constantly on the lookout for current material of all types to add to it.

The following are typical requests which we have answered with material from our Vertical File:

1. Pictures and description of Upper Canada Village
2. Copy of President Kennedy's Inaugural Address.
3. Arguments for and against Grade 13
4. Construction of the Trans-Canada Highway
5. Articles on euthanasia
6. History of East York Township
7. Water safety rules
8. Articles on Gerald Gladstone
9. Results of the last general Ontario election
10. Pope Paul's speech for World Peace
11. Articles on Separatisme
12. Arguments for water fluoridation
13. Career of dietician
14. Articles on Doukhobors

Instruction and book talks were given to a total of 1,161 students in eighth grade class visits to the Library this year. Of these, 1,006 are now members of the Library.

As always, these students range from the advanced and well-read to those who have no interest nor ability in reading. It is a challenge to a Librarian to make the contents of the Library so attractive and stimulating that all of the students will find some books of interest to them. Even if a boy borrows only a book on hot-rods and a girl takes one on hair-dressing, they have at least become aware of the Library's resources. The students show a genuine interest in the way

books and the catalogue are arranged and are proud of their ability to help find their own books.

We also prepared special displays and book lists for Young People throughout the year.

The Librarian in charge of the new East York Collegiate Library is most co-operative, and we have found this to our mutual advantage. Through him, we are arranging to talk for a few minutes to each of the Grade 12 classes in their Library, in order to remind them of the resources of the Public Library which they can use in future life. There are fifteen of these classes which meet in the Collegiate Library once a month.

During this year, we have assisted in the preparation of the Supplement to "Books for Youth", a publication which has been acclaimed in schools and libraries across Canada. A committee of Young People's Librarians evaluated hundreds of books and prepared annotations for those which were chosen. The experience of pooling our knowledge of Young People's books has been invaluable in our daily work at the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Alberta Pielsticker
Young People's Librarian
East York Public Library

Work With Boys and Girls in 1963

M. B. Whiteran

"Good housekeeping" in the library is practiced in order to make books available to borrowers and to maintain them in the best possible condition. Much of this important work goes on behind the scenes and it involves in some way every member of the staff. In 1963, a good deal of thought has been given to the organization of this part of the work. Changes have been made in some of the procedures in order to speed up routine activities.

During the summer months the book stock was examined. A very large number of books received minor repairs so that they were ready for the Fall rush.

A new and very simple method of keeping statistical records was introduced which has proved highly satisfactory.

The stock of children's books is now about 16,000. Because of the number of schools we serve, the number of regular classes receiving book talks, and the large number of pre-school children using the collection, there are many duplicates. For example, we have twenty four copies of Ludwig Bemelman's *Madeline*. Even taking this into consideration, the collection contains a large number of titles. By way of comparison, the stock of Boys' and Girls' House is about 13,000. We employ a very simple system of classification which divides the non-fiction by subject. We have found that a stock of this size requires a more complicated system of classification so that the books can be found on the shelves quickly and easily. Under Miss Silcock's direction such subjects as History, Travel and the Sciences have been subdivided into small subject groupings. This involved changing all the shelf signs, re-lettering all the books, and changing the catalogue cards and the stock record. The work should be completed early in 1964. It not only makes the books easier for borrowers to locate, it also makes putting away and revising shelves easier and quicker.

We are very conscious of the fact that we have a beautiful building and fine facilities. There are only as effective as the use that is made of them. This year we have attempted to give variety to our work with groups by making greater use of films and records. While Mrs. Terblanche was here we explored the field of children's records and added some very good ones to the collection. Last June when the classes came for the last time and again at Christams we tried to make the visit to the Library a very special occasion by using records. Music, stories, poetry and dramatizations have all been enjoyed. This Christmas, a Grade 5 class filed into the Story Hour Room expecting their usual book talk and found a fire burning in the fireplace. The teacher quickly switched off the light and said "I hope you have a ghost story for us". Miss Silcock rose to the occasion by playing Lionel Barrymore's dramatized version of Dicken's Christmas

Carol with musical accompaniment. That particular group of children will probably never forget sitting around the fire and hearing the spine chilling voices of the "Christmas ghosts".

Again, during Young Canada's Book Week, we used films on the theme "Our French Heritage" with the sixth grade classes who had provided displays for the show case. One teacher who remembers the days of the Library in the school and the crowded schedule said as we walked upstairs "This is a far cry from libraries in school basements".

We still have a lot to learn about films and the best way to use them. We plan to explore this field further in 1964. So far, our most successful showings were the ones for the parents of pre school children. Films dealing with pre school children were shown while the children were at the Wednesday stories.

During the Christmas holidays, there will be film showings on December 28 and January 4 at 2.00. At 10.00 a.m. on January 4 the puppet group will perform. Early in the New Year, we hope to have a Punch and Judy show.

Perhaps a few figures will indicate the extent of the use that has been made of our facilities. These figures do not include the month of December.

80 story hours - attendance 2,099 including 396 at the pre school sessions and 903 at the Picture Making Sessions (about 1,5000 pictures were produced.).

The puppet group performed to an estimated 1,115 people.

419 classes all of which heard either a story, a book talk, a film or a record.

21 classes have been visited at school and been given a story or a book talk.

Miss Silcock wrote a separate report about the Art Exhibit. I hope that more shows of this calibre can be held here. The response of the children was amazing. Each time I conducted a tour I was shown something that I had'nt seen before. For many of them this was their introduction to good contemporary art.

ART EXHIBITION AS VIEWED BY CHILDREN.

Paintings from a C.I.L. art collection were on display at the East York Public Library, from the 25th. of October to the 15th. of November. With the co-operation of the teachers, we took eleven classes of elementary school age children from Public and Separate schools to see the pictures.

There was much enthusiasm and interest shown both by the pupils and the teachers. I would stress that though some pictures were more general appeal than others, every picture in that collection was someone's favourite.

Of the abstract the children said that they liked the design, colour, and boldness in the techniques and mediums of the artists. The younger children were quick to recognise the subject in such highly impressionistic paintings as Godwin's *The forest is green*. There was a tendency of course, to look for identifiable objects in abstracts. A little girl, etc.

A little girl called Joanna in an accelerated Grade 1 had amazing vocabulary. She looked at William Ronald's *Cuchulain* and said "That looks like a dripping candle". Heart II by Robert Hedrick like "a drought" and *Homage to Cubism* like "a struggle". She also immediately identified "*The forest is green*" as trees with different coloured leaves on them, and twigs and branches. Though her teacher failed completely to see the design and thought that it was purely abstract.

The teacher of one Grade 5 class talked to the children about different kinds of painting and what to look for in the pictures before allowing them to enjoy them on their own. The comments of these children were most interesting, they all discussed why they liked or disliked certain pictures and had great appreciation of the difficulties of being an artist. They particularly enjoyed Carserman's "*Open Window*". One girl said "you could feel the broken glass", and someone else said they like "the picture within a picture".

The more realistic pictures were popular, particularly the two pictures of Glen Adams "*At Maces Bay*" and "*The Sir William Alexander*". The children stressed their care and precision, and how neat they were from a close view as well as a distance. However other children thought they were too precise. "*On the Fence*" by Danny P. Brown was very controversial, some thought it was the finest picture in the collection, others said "Why don't you show me a photograph".

It was a pleasure and a privilege to be present when the children were looking at the pictures. Their minds are so open and uninhibited. One little girl in Grade 2 looked at William Kurelek's "*Hauling Sheaves*". "I know what that is" she said, "The forty thieves carrying away the treasure".

There was tremendous interest in texture. One child was sure that Christmas " 61 " was not paint but material. The children also found "Speak" and " Genesis quintet No 1 " interesting from this point of view. They were puzzled by Ronald Bloore's "Triple Sun" Parclard Makamura's "Line Waves No. 2" but were interested in the technique.

The thing that impressed me most was an apparently instinctive knowledge that abstract art is the product of intellectual activity. In speaking about Composition II one girl said "The artist must have thought about it in his mind and it came out a design!" A boy, referring to the same picture, remarked that he could paint like that himself. A classmate replied, " I don't think you could . It took a lot of thought to make the shapes and colours balance."

Anne Silcock.

Margaret Whiteman.