

PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY 1972

# IN THE CENTER OF ACTIVITY



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<i>Secretary</i>	George M. Vetter, Jr.
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	Philip M. Shires
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<i>Librarian</i>	F. Charles Taylor
<i>Assistant Librarian</i>	
<i>Buildings Manager</i>	Henry F. Ferrante
<i>Business Manager</i>	Walter F. Whitney
<i>Coordinator of State Library Programs</i>	Charles W. Crosby
<i>Personnel Officer and Administrative Assistant to the Librarian</i>	Frank L. Hannaway
<i>Librarian Emeritus</i>	Clarence E. Sherman

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\* Trustee



# president's report

During our fiscal year ending June 30, 1972, your officers and committees followed the principles and policies heretofore established, including, among others, the practice of inviting the full Board of Trustees to attend the meetings of the Executive Committee.

Existing as we do, partly from gifts and endowment funds, but largely from City, State and Federal Grants, it is only appropriate that we express our gratitude for the enlightened benevolence which makes our continued existence effective and possible. In addition, we gratefully acknowledge:

- 1) the gift from Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island establishing the Charles Potter Memorial Collection and the undertaking to fund the collection each year in order to add new materials to it;

- 2) the gift from the Rhode Island Foundation for the purpose of strengthening the Portuguese Collection at the Fox Point Branch Library;

- 3) the supplemental grant from the Model Cities Agency for the South Providence Branch Library;

- 4) the contributions from the numerous donors, both large and small, to our annual appeal which not only raised in excess of \$18,000, but even more significantly, indicated the broad public acceptance and interest in our operations.

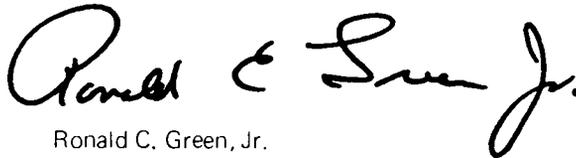
Internally, during the past year, some changes were instigated and effected:

- 1) Our Assistant Librarian, Mr. Joseph H. Quady, resigned to accept a position as Librarian of a Public Library in Illinois, and due to the ingenuity and efforts of our Librarian, Mr. Taylor, it has been unnecessary to-date to fill this position.

2) A committee was appointed to investigate and subsequently recommend our purchase of a Mini-Computer (known as the LIBS 100 Processing System). This addition will not only lessen the clerical load in the service departments, but will enable us to give better service to the public.

3) The Executive Committee unanimously adopted the recommendation that the Endowment Funds of the Library be placed in the hands of professional financial advisors. To authorize this result, as well as to make our by-laws consistent with legislation recently passed by the Rhode Island General Assembly, it was desirable to amend the by-laws of the Corporation, which was unanimously voted at special meetings of the Corporation held in May and June of this year.

My thanks to all of you who are in any way related to our aims for your efforts, your interest, and your loyalty.



Ronald C. Green, Jr.  
President

IN CITY COUNCIL  
OCT 5 1972

READ:  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED



CLERK

# **PPL...in the center**

The Weybosset Hill area of downtown Providence is alive with the excitement of revitalization. There, new apartments are bringing people back into the city to live, modern office buildings replace shabby structures, and a flourishing motor-inn attracts tourists. Entertainment will soon be on the upswing with the anticipated winter openings of the Providence Civic Center, providing a sports arena and convention center, and the Lederer Theater, the new home of the Trinity Square Repertory Company.

In the center of all this activity, surrounded by renewal, is the Providence Public Library, not changed outwardly, but continually revitalizing its collections and services.

This, of course, is the public library's role: to be a vital part of all that is going on in the community. We can remain dynamic only by being completely aware of current issues, concerns, and events and by recognizing and responding to changing individual and collective needs. We must also become so actively involved with the community that we keep it constantly informed of our resources, services, and programs. We conservatively estimate that our 1972 public services totaled 1,150,000—keeping PPL right in the center of activity with . . .

# **materials**

Circulation of materials throughout the system totaled 809,569. Over 800 films from the Rhode Island Library Film Cooperative were loaned to Providence organizations. Patrons made use of 35,411 microfilm reels and obtained 151,071 microprints and photocopies from the Central Library.

The Systems Office filled 10,110 regional library requests from our own resources and assisted in answering 2,976 regional requests by locating materials in other public, academic, and special libraries.

Trying to balance on one hand the tremendous increase in cost of books and a limited budget, and, on the other, the needs and demands of the public, the Library added 25,049 volumes to the collection, 7,030 of which were new titles.



Learning English can be fun—when you know there are Spanish books handy too.

Aware of the increasing importance of non-print media and the trend toward libraries as multi-media centers, PPL, with an increased grant of state and federal funds from the Department of State Library Services, added a Media Technician to the staff and began acquiring a basic collection of audio-visual equipment and materials. These filmstrips, tapes, cassettes, and records are especially effective when used with children who do not relate to the printed word. When one hears youngsters asking for the beautiful picture books first seen on a filmstrip, or listens to children using a tape recorder to recreate the sounds of the Indianapolis 500, one realizes that the potential of the media is boundless.

In order to make materials dealing with human sexuality and interpersonal relations more widely available through the State's Interrelated Library System, Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island established the Charles Potter Memorial Collection in the Providence Public Library. This collection, begun with an initial gift of \$1,000, an additional \$300 to be donated each subsequent year, is a memorial to Dr. Charles Potter, a Providence physician active in the organization until his tragic death in 1970.

Central and branches are adding to their collections to meet the needs of the city's expanding foreign-speaking population.

The Fox Point Branch has received a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to broaden the base of its Portuguese collection, and close liaison with the Cape Verdean-American Federation has provided avenues for obtaining hard-to-get information on Cape Verdean culture.

The Polish collection at Olneyville has been evaluated and publicized through an attractive booklist.

The Knight Memorial Library has acquired Spanish materials to support the Spanish-English classes offered at the library by the Latin-American Community Center. PPL helped to develop the proposal for this program, which is funded by Progress for Providence. The Smith Hill Branch is also purchasing for the growing Latin-American population.

These projects illustrate our commitment to the preservation of ethnic heritage, as does the Edna Frazier Memorial Collection on black history and culture at the South Providence Branch, which is now operated with Model Cities Funds.

Reading lists compiled by library staff members were distributed throughout the community to alert people to books and articles on such subjects as Cable Television, Drug Abuse, China, White Racism, and Abortion.

To help patrons find their way about the main library and more easily locate the items they want, a building floor plan has been installed on the first floor and detailed plans in departments and open stacks.

Tighter measures for the protection of the collections include the provision of a security system at the Empire Street door.

## **services**

Answers were provided to 139,263 reference and research questions, an increase of 7,401 over the previous year.

With increased funding from the Department of State Library Services, we now provide personal service to Providence shut-ins. Our new Home Services Librarian selects and delivers books and magazines to their homes or to nursing or retirement facilities. These visits play an important role in the lives of the homebound. For many, this is one of the few contacts they have with the outside world.

The Bookmobile began the year with a complete face lift, delighting the children with its new image as a lemon and lime colored caravan. Its patrons often live lives as transient as the vehicle itself and are happy to find it waiting for them in their new neighborhoods.

Book talks at Leisure and Learning programs for retirees in Providence and Cranston have given us an opportunity to share our enthusiasm for reading with people who are eager to hear about and borrow the books we bring to show them.

Among the many children and adults who have toured the Central Library, perhaps the several groups of participants in the Manpower Development Training Act Program gained the most. These adults, some new arrivals in this country, have had little previous exposure to libraries and are always surprised to find the many materials and services that have meaning for themselves and their families.

Exhibits are to enjoy, to admire, and to learn from. They often involve working with individuals and groups, providing a means for sharing creativity and ideas with others. Among this year's interesting displays at the Central Library were "As Boys See It," art work by members of the Providence Boys' Clubs, and "Art and Music Around the World," artifacts from the Haffenreffer Museum. At several of the branches, families enjoyed "Play and Playgrounds," a photographic exhibit sponsored by the Rhode Island Association for Education of Young Children.

If you can't get to the Library, it  
can come to you.





The Teacher Corps brings Africa  
to Providence children.

# programs

Special programs and projects attract adults and children into the main library and branches, bring librarians out into the community to reach those who might never have considered entering a library, and often involve cooperation with other local agencies and organizations.

Two Central Library programs interested both adults and young adults. "Film Project '72," films produced by Rhode Island student and teacher participants in a twenty-week program of study with local professional filmmakers, was presented in cooperation with the Arts in Education Project of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. Jazz came to the Library in June, when Empathy, a group of four Classical High School students, regular library users, presented an evening concert.

Mount Pleasant Branch patrons heard talks by the Providence District Nursing Association, the Rhode Island Consumer's Council, and the Internal Revenue Service; Olneyville showed W. C. Fields film shorts, and Wanskuck's Handicraft Club held a May Festival with a Heritage Cooking Demonstration and a talk and slide presentation on interior design.

Improvement of meeting areas in branches has added to the effectiveness of programs and also increased use by the community. A Wanskuck Senior Citizens Club has been formed, Adult Basic Education classes meet in several branches, and Rochambeau's newly remodeled room provides meeting space for groups ranging from the Rhode Island Button Club to classes for expectant parents held by the Childbirth Education Association of Rhode Island.

Story hours, film programs, magic and puppet shows, karate demonstrations, creative arts and dramatics, club meetings, and group visits brought 56,179 children into the library. Children's librarians reached 34,600 youngsters through storytelling in community agencies, school visits, and special multi-media programs in the middle schools.

Two important new thrusts in children's programming were a concentration on ethnic origins and programs planned for children and parents to enjoy and to learn together.

Rochambeau, Smith Hill, and Fox Point celebrated African Weeks, and Smith Hill, Oriental Month. Members of the Providence Teacher Corps and their troupe of sixth

graders brought Africa alive for middle school youngsters at each branch and Central with multi-media programs of dances, skits, slides, and exhibits.

The Rochambeau Branch introduced films on early childhood which gave parents an understanding of children's responses, at the same time capturing the interests of their three- and four-year-olds. At the Central Library, children and parents from all over the city filled the auditorium for a demonstration of puppet-making and use by Mr. Cleo Clarke of the John Hope Settlement House.

In December, the Library opened a Child Learning Center at the Smith Hill Branch. Funded through Progress for Providence, the program grew out of citizen concern about the lack of community resources to absorb children of the neighborhood in their after-school hours. The Center provides a variety of activities including creative dramatics, crafts, cooking, sewing, public speaking, and photography. Teen-aged counselors from the community work with the children, thus themselves developing qualities of leadership and judgment.

As Principal Public Library in the State of Rhode Island, we offered a number of statewide programs, bringing together librarians and those working in other community agencies to exchange information and to hear nationally-known and local speakers. These included a workshop on Foreign Children's Books and a Drug Forum. Co-sponsored with the Department of State Library Services were a workshop on Library Services to the Elderly and an all-day Cable TV Conference. The Cable Conference, held just prior to the scheduled state hearings on cable franchises, alerted the audience to the potentials and implications of CATV, and from this meeting stemmed a movement to assure that the requirements of non-profit and public service groups would be considered in the awarding of franchises.

By increasing their active participation in local organizations, the library staff has become more directly involved with those we serve, and thus more aware of ways in which we can help. Attendance at professional institutes, workshops, and conferences has provided insight into changing



Strange antics for a library—but what is more natural than preparing for childbirth?

techniques. Two intense sessions on group process and communications skills organized for PPL introduced staff, administration, and trustees to new concepts, focusing our attention on listening to and communicating with one another and with the public more effectively.



Valentine Mahabir (left), Program Director, observes activities at the Child Learning Center at the Smith Hill Branch.

Involvement, awareness, communication—these are the means by which we keep in touch with the community so that we can respond to its needs in significant ways and continue to play a central role in its activities.

Respectfully submitted,

F. Charles Taylor, Librarian

# financial statement

*Financial Operating Statement for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1972 and Budget  
for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1973*

	Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1972	Budget Fiscal 1973
<b>Receipts</b>		
Grant from City of Providence	\$ 624,600	\$ 648,600
Grant from Providence Model Cities Agency	33,700	50,000
Grants from State of Rhode Island	276,026	281,000
Income from endowment	473,369	470,900
Income from trusts and rent	7,982	7,200
Overdue charges and other income	48,191	45,000
Contributions from friends of the Library	20,950	20,000
Total Receipts	<u>\$1,484,818</u>	<u>\$1,522,700</u>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Salaries and related expenses	\$1,085,655	\$1,222,600
Books and other library materials	188,726	169,300
Buildings and grounds	78,830	81,700
Supplies, furniture and equipment	59,518	54,300
Other operating expenses	45,762	54,300
Transferred to Building Development Fund	22,000	---
Total Disbursements	<u>\$1,480,491</u>	<u>\$1,582,200</u>
Surplus—(Deficit)—(To be financed by withdrawal from Library's invested capital funds)	<u>\$ 4,327</u>	<u>\$ (59,500)</u>
<b>Building Development and Repair Fund</b>		
Balance June 30, 1971	\$ 5,798	
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Contributions	\$ 9,000	
Transferred from operating funds	12,500	
Transferred from Librarian's Discretionary fund	9,500	
Interest on savings account	291	
Total Receipts	<u>\$ 31,291</u>	
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Alterations: Central Library	\$ 767	
Branches	5,067	
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 5,834</u>	
<b>Balance, June 30, 1972</b>	<u>\$ 31,255</u>	

# directory

## Central Departments

*Art and Music*

*Bookmobile*

*Business-Industry-Science*

*Cataloging*

*Children's*

*Circulation*

*Coordinator of Children's Services*

*Data Processing*

*Library Information Coordinator*

*Order*

*Periodical-Microfilm*

*Reference and Reader's Advisor*

*Shipping and Receiving*

*Special Collections*

*Supervisor of Branches and*

*Community Services*

Mrs. Susan R. Waddington

Mrs. Constance H. Andrews

Mrs. Emma D. Beebe

Mrs. Jacqueline O. Smith

Mrs. Mary E. McKenna

Cynthia W. Neal

Mrs. Doris J. Hornby

Marcia J. Begum

Mrs. Florence R. Hindle

Mrs. Anne M. Burk

Mrs. Mildred T. Giusti

Patrick A. Kennedy

Mrs. Virginia M. Adams

Mrs. Ardis S. Moorhead

## Branches

*Fox Point*

*Mount Pleasant*

*Olneyville*

*Rochambeau*

*Smith Hill*

*South Providence*

*Wanskuck*

*Washington Park*

Mrs. Phyllis B. Pacheco

Marion W. Walker

Mrs. Jane Babcock

Mrs. Margaret M. Deignan

Helen M. Doolan

Mrs. Virginia T. Miles

Eileen B. Pulsifer

Mrs. Ruth Y. Ingraham

*Knight Memorial Library*

Leo A. Pinson