



Good books are my friends—they bring me wisdom and happiness. In our Public Library I have found hundreds of pleasant books to read. I am only one of over 20,000 others who read there.

Are

You

?

Twenty-fourth Annual Report
of the
Free Public Library
St. Joseph, Missouri
1913-1914





THE LIBRARY STAFF

On April 30, 1914.

Charles E. RushLibrarian
Lulu C. SenterAssistant Librarian
Emma BockAssistant, Loan Department
Martha BrownChief, Children's Department
Clara B. Davis.....Librarian's Secretary
Elda Floyd.....General Assistant
*Louise Floyd...Assistant, Children's Department
Esther Frederickson.....Supply, Carnegie Branch
Jessie M. Gibson.....Chief, Accession Department
Elizabeth Hull.....Assistant, Reference Department
Mabel Hull.....Assistant, Catalogue Department
Lawson KinneyMessenger, Loan Department
May Kinney.....Page, Loan Department
Ruth Lowary.....Page, Children's Department
Joseph Mann.....Chief, Deposit Stations
Eudora L. Martin..Chief, Classification Department
Rose Nash.....Assistant, Washington Park Branch
Etta Parry.....General Assistant
Helen Pfeiffer.....Librarian, Carnegie Branch
Mary L. Reichert.....Chief, Catalogue Department
Anise Sandford.....Librarian, Wash. Park Branch
Gladys Veiock...Assistant, Children's Department
Jennie K. Willson.....Chief, Loan Department
*On leave of absence.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Condensed from extended reports, verified by affidavits of the Treasurer and Librarian, now on file in the office of the City Auditor.

RECEIPTS

City apportionment	\$23,384.05
Library collections	1,630.12
Total	<u>\$25,014.17</u>

EXPENDITURES

Books	\$ 3,758.93
Periodicals	1,145.76
Binding	1,374.92
Salaries	12,550.32
Heat	577.52
Janitor service	2,146.10
Printing and stationery	247.70
Repairs	527.30
Insurance	14.40
Furniture	371.72
Telephone	91.19
Light	455.79
Cards	50.85
Miscellaneous	1,497.25
Balance appropriated for books	204.42
Total	<u>\$25,014.17</u>

happiness is also in the performance of service reveals that attitude towards one's work in the possession of which Emerson counted a man happy 'who, when there is a question of success, looks into his work for a reply, not into the market, not into opinion, not into patronage.'

"In closing I desire to convey my thanks to the Directors who, by the lenient and considerate exercise of their authority and judgment at all times, have given me assurance that the work attempted at the Library has not been unavailing."

Yours respectfully,

CHARLES E. RUSH,

Librarian.

June 1, 1914.

Twenty-fourth Annual Report
of the
Free Public Library

For the Year Ending
April 30, 1914



St. Joseph, Missouri
JUNE, 1914

A number of small exhibits have been held throughout the year. A series of Alaskan and American Indian curios from the Harry L. George Collection, the Eugene Field First Editions, collected by former Librarian Purd B. Wright, the display of Confederate flags loaned by the Daughters of the Confederacy and the loan of the Donovan loving cup by Mrs. Douglas McCaskey, deserve special mention.

We are sometimes asked this question: "Why strive so hard to better and enlarge the methods, work and influence of the Library?"

The Board of Library Directors regretfully accepted the resignation of Miss May Guymon and extended to Miss Louise Floyd an indefinite leave of absence. The staff appointment of Miss Gladys M. Veiock of the 1912-13 training class, was made near the first of the year and in March, 1914, Miss Elda Floyd and Miss Etta Parry satisfactorily finished the apprentice work and were appointed to the substitute list. A number of important gifts have been made to the Library during the past year, but up to the present time this Board has not received bequests and gifts for the establishment of trust funds, the income to be used for the purchase of books in specified departments, as is commonly done in other cities.

Can any memorial be greater than a gift to the community of an institution for the good of all?

The closing remarks of Mr. Edward F. Stevens, Librarian of the Pratt Institute Free Library of Brooklyn, N. Y., are so delightfully appropriate to the St. Joseph situation that I shall take the liberty of quoting them with Mr. Stevens' permission:

"I value the privilege every year of letting the conclusion of my report give expression to the acknowledgment I always owe to my colleagues in the Library for whatever measure of success may be ours, and my dependence upon them for the sympathetic co-operation, suggestion and counsel without which my librarianship would be ineffectual.

"The manifest prevalence in the staff of a considerate forbearance and unanimity, of an openness of mind and breadth of spirit that abolish rivalries, secures for us the first pre-requisite of success. That

and the Edison Kinetoscope as well, is its general advertising value.

Almost 20,000 people are enrolled as regular patrons of the Library. Does that list include all the reading members of your family?

Library publicity has not been neglected in St. Joseph. Among all the customary efforts in this line two items may be of special interest. The Library is now maintaining street car ads in more than one-half of the street cars in the city, having made a very satisfactory arrangement with the Mark D. Batchelder Advertising Company, a business concern which thoroughly appreciates the educational work being done by public libraries. Near the middle of the year the Library issued a double postal card addressed to the patrons of the Library asking their assistance in spreading the Library habit and inquiring in what way the Library might be of more direct help to them. A small quantity has been mailed regularly each day from the Loan Desk with decidedly helpful results. This postal form has been adapted by the American Library Association headquarters for general library use and may be purchased in small or large quantities. Through the use of a Rotary Neostyle scores of short book lists have been issued and distributed.

Your Public Library is endeavoring under very limited means to do its part in making its resources accessible to everyone.

In October the first joint convention of the Missouri and Kansas Library Associations was held in St. Joseph, the Board of Library Directors of the St. Joseph Public Library acting as host. Through the splendid co-operation of the Board of Education, Commerce Club, St. Joseph Country Club and other organizations and individuals, the visiting delegates were entertained quite successfully. The Library Department was represented by the Librarian at the annual conference of the A. L. A. held in June at Kaaterskill, New York.

It is our aim to make this the best Public Library of its size in the United States. With sufficient support this ambition can be realized.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

To the Honorable, the Mayor and the
Common Council of the
City of St. Joseph, Missouri:

Gentlemen: As President of the Board of Library Directors of the City of St. Joseph, I take pleasure in transmitting herewith the twenty-fourth annual report of the Library Department for the year ending April 30, 1914.

The Public Library, offering free individual service to all people and striving at all times to increase this service, holds a position in the community that is often unappreciated. Likewise its educational results and its far-reaching opportunities for the future are underestimated. When any public institution serves more than twenty-five per cent of the men, women and children of a community, all of whom voluntarily apply for aid, then the work of that institution merits due appreciation. When year after year hundreds upon hundreds of new patrons are attracted to this institution by the educational opportunities which it offers, then greater financial support and larger quarters become acute physical needs. The Board of Directors desires to express the hope that the merits and needs of the Public Library Department will not go unappreciated and that the splendid possibilities in the near future for increased service to greater and greater numbers of people will be realized.

Again we call your attention to the crying need of the Department—larger quarters for the Central Library. This necessity becomes more and more painful upon the steady increase in the number of patrons and their use of the Library. We cannot now satisfactorily meet their demands and much needed new lines of work cannot be undertaken under present conditions. It is our confident hope that we can in the near future present a solution of this difficulty.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES H. McCORD,

June 1, 1914.

President.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

For the year ending April 30, 1914

OFFICERS

James H. McCordPresident
Rabbi Louis BernsteinFirst Vice-President
Smith A. PennySecond Vice-President
Henry Krug, Jr.Secretary-Treasurer
Charles E. RushAssistant Secretary

DIRECTORS

James H. McCord	Carroll Connett
Rabbi Louis Bernstein	Rt. Rev. M. F. Burke
Smith A. Penny	Morte H. Craig
Terms expire 1914.	Terms expire 1915.
Charles P. Cargill	
Henry Krug, Jr.	
Samuel I. Motter	
Terms expire 1916.	

COMMITTEES

Library.....Directors McCord, Bernstein, Burke
Administration..Directors Cargill, Bernstein, Penny
Bldg. and Grounds..Directors Penny, Burke, Connett
Finance.....Directors Krug, Cargill, Motter
By-Laws.....Directors Bernstein, Craig, Connett
Carnegie Branch.....Directors Burke, Motter, Krug
Wash. Park Branch..Directors Penny, Cargill, Craig

much more cheerful and hospitable appearance. New patrons numbering 536 were registered, making a total of 3,070. With a total of 9,377 books, of which 493 were added during the year, 30,120 books were loaned for home reading. The average loan of each juvenile book was 5.9, while that of each adult book amounted to only 2.4. New books in eleven different languages were placed on the shelves in an effort to interest the large foreign population in South St. Joseph; Polish and Roumanian books being used to the greatest extent. The Story Hour with an average attendance of seventy, was featured during the winter under the direction of Miss Agatha Pfeiffer. The Branch stands in great need of additional reference material and much more shelf room.

The receipt for perpetual Ignorance is this: "Be satisfied with your opinions and content with your knowledge."

The fourth annual report of the Washington Park Branch records 6,550 books in stock, 2,557 registered home-readers and a total circulation of 32,808. New readers numbering 570 were registered and 601 new volumes were added to the shelves. This large gain of new patrons is especially noteworthy. A number of alterations were made in reading room shelving, improving the appearance and usefulness of the interior of the building. As a part of the branch publicity, very effective Library bulletin boards were maintained in nearby stores. The Story Hour conducted by Miss Brown, resulted in an average attendance of ninety-two. The use of moving pictures with the stories again demonstrated their value and adaptability in the Story Hour at both Branches.

It is a kind and neighborly act to tell others how they can increase their earning power and joy in life without further expense.

The Library was presented with a Victor portable stereopticon machine, a surprisingly economical, simple and efficient outfit. The Library gladly loans it, together with the slides, for private, club, church or school use. The best feature about it,

THE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The most encouraging part of the past year's work has been the increasing interest and appreciation which the business and professional men of the city have shown in the educational efforts of the Public Library. These men are realizing more and more that the Library is a treasure-house of new ideas for them in their work which heretofore they have allowed to lie dormant and unused. The future for the St. Joseph Library can not be other than bright with the earnest support of larger and larger numbers of influential patrons.

The best reading for the greatest number at the least cost.

The pressing need of new and larger quarters for the Central Library becomes more and more apparent and in the very near future unfortunate emergencies will certainly arise owing to the present crowded and cramped conditions. "When physical limitations are reached in human strength, building capacity and financial support new lines of expansion are well nigh impossible and even an attainment of past efforts and results becomes difficult under such conditions. The only hope for future growth lies in the dream of a Central Library building and in an adequate maintenance fund. If this Library is to retain its present standing and efficiency, both here and elsewhere, the citizens of St. Joseph must relieve the pressing need by either enlarging the present School Headquarters building (built, controlled and partially maintained by the School District) or by erecting a separate Central Library building fully adequate to furnish the proper service to the city and to care for the many phases of Library work which cannot now be undertaken. The building now housing the Central Library offers for library use only one book-stack room, three small reading rooms and three very small work rooms. A lack of space is a limitation which should be easily overcome in the face of such tremendous educational opportunities." (Quoted from last annual report.)

progressed throughout the year, requiring the full time of an extra reference assistant. The peculiar satisfaction with which the service of this department was received by the business men of the city effectively demonstrated the value of making special efforts to interest them. Business men realize the value of publicity and recognition and respond readily to its appeal. Particular attention was given to the working out of a satisfactory arrangement for the U. S. Government pamphlets. Another new feature was the installation of the magazine clipping collection of articles on popular subjects. The indexing on cards of local newspapers has proven to be of much important use and a very economical, time-saving arrangement. Splendid progress has been made with the circulating picture collection. Several thousand pictures have been collected and trimmed and by the opening of the fall school and club work there will be enough mounted pictures to make a very creditable showing.

Why do some people neglect their money invested in their Public Libraries? Usually they are not so negligent in other investments.

The most noteworthy acquisition during the year was the unusually fine collection of 575 stereopticon slides secured from Mr. Francis B. Purdie of St. Joseph. This collection, largely composed of travel scenes in Western United States, Mexico, South America, London, Scotland and Switzerland, contains some especially fine and rare views of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado and southern-most South America. Subsequently these slides will form the nucleus of a large general collection to be known as the "Purdie Stereopticon Collection," to which the Library will rapidly add additional items. Many local slides for use in park, boulevard, civic, health, tuberculosis, "clean-up day," etc., campaigns have been secured and greatly used.

Special messengers will deliver or call for your books at very reasonable rates.

The report of the twelfth fiscal year of the Carnegie Branch Library contains many interesting items of improvements and needs. The interior redecoration of the building and the addition of a number of good pictures have given the Library a

Practical ideas for your daily work, recreation and hobby are on tap in the Library for your use.

The increase in the number of registered borrowers and the increase of service rendered in the reference departments become the best measures by which we may judge the work of the year. The total circulation of home-read books is often given most importance, when in reality by its very nature it cannot be so. It happens to be only a certain part of the year's work and its fluctuation is quite dependent upon a number of physical conditions which may easily arise. During the past year the total circulation fell by a little more than 13,000 volumes of which more than 11,000 were fiction, while the number of registered patrons increased nearly 22 per cent and the reference departments experienced an unprecedented increase in their work. The two physical conditions which reduced the circulation figures were the necessarily reduced book fund and the long, uncomfortably hot summer months of 1913.

Number of branches	2
Number of deposit stations	12
Number of delivery stations	1
Number of school stations	6
Number of classroom collections	200
Population of St. Joseph, 1910	77,403
Tax income per capita in cents29
Total number of volumes, April 30, 1914	69,817
Total number of new books added	4,786
Number of volumes per capita90
Total circulation of books	266,282
Circulation per capita	3.44
Percentage of fiction circulated69
Total number of registered borrowers	19,017
Increase in number of borrowers	3,376
Per cent of population as borrowers	24 1/2
Circulation at Carnegie branch	30,120
Circulation per borrower, Carnegie branch	9.8
Circulation at Washington Park branch	32,808
Circulation per borrower at Washington Park branch	12.8

A decrease of 1 per cent in the total percentage of fiction read, an increase of 3,376 new patrons, and an addition of 4,786 new books, making a total of 69,817 volumes in the Library, are pleasing figures to report. A total of 1,404 books were worn out or withdrawn. Particular attention has been given to the purchase of foreign books; special collections of Jewish, Yiddish, Assyrian and Polish books were secured and greatly appreciated by patrons. Shelving in the stacks and reading rooms is rapidly becoming crowded and in the very near future the crowded condition of the books will become a very serious problem.

"None suffer so much as they who endeavor to conceal their necessities."

Work with the children in the schools was especially emphasized through the juvenile department. More than 1,300 books were graded and distributed among six schools in the outlying districts. New boxes, twenty-eight in number, were made by special order and constructed to serve as book cases in the school rooms. These 1,300 books were loaned 11,552 times, averaging two books per month per child. The co-operation of the teachers deserves highest commendation. Arrangements have been made to establish a school branch in the eastern part of the city, a section quite out of the reach of the Central Library. A new and much needed departure was the graded instruction on books and libraries given to the school children in the Central Children's Room. The grades of six schools received these lessons and plans are being made to extend the work next year. The arrangement of the Central Children's Room was so changed as to give additional space for two more tables, but these cramped quarters are growing more and more inefficient owing to the increasing number of children who are becoming regular patrons. The total circulation from this department was 63,323, while the total circulation from Central and Branch departments was 89,173 volumes.

The Library is not only a storehouse for the records of the past, but it is also a storehouse of new ideas for immediate and future use.

In the catalog, accession and classification departments greater results were secured than during the previous year, owing to the increase in the number of old books re-classified and re-catalogued and the necessity of using a larger number of written cards. A very satisfactory advance has been made in revising the old classification and cataloging.

A book unused is of little value to anyone. The right book in the hands of the right man may be of untold value.

The work of the reference department steadily