

LEABARLAINNA COMMOAE NA BAILLIHKE  
COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

All communications should be addressed:

S. J. MAGUIRE  
SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN  
(Send the following number quoted)

COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS  
GALWAY

27th May 1950

A Chara,

A Quarterly Meeting of the County Galway Libraries Committee will be held in the County Library Headquarters, the County Courthouse, Galway, on Saturday next, the 3rd day of June, 1950, at the hour of twelve-thirty o'clock in the afternoon, when the following business will be dealt with:-

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Donations.
3. Conference of the Library Association of Ireland.
4. Reports.
5. General.

's mise, le meas,  
S. J. Maguire.

County Librarian.

- To each member of the Committee.
- To the County Manager.
- To the County Secretary
- To the Town Clerks of Galway and Ballinasloe.
- To the Editors of newspapers published in the county.



Galway County Council  
(COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

MINUTES

OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF

Quarterly Meetings

HELD ON

Saturday, 4th day of March,

AND

Saturday, 11th day of March,

1950.

*Patrick Flynn*  
*5th June 1950*

O'GORMAN LTD., PRINTINGHOUSE GALWAY



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY  
MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 4th DAY OF  
MARCH, 1950.**

**Present :** County Councillor James Brennan, County Councillor M. Carty, N.T. ; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T. (Vice-Chairman) ; County Councillor Sean Glynn, County Councillor T. King, County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T., T.D. ; John Moroney, N.T. ; County Councillor Tadg O'Shea, N.T. ; County Councillor M. Quinn, Senator : and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

**Apologies :** Intimations of their inability to attend were received from the Chairman (the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn), Alderman and County Councillor Miss M. A. Ashe, and Urban Councillor M. Keane.

**Chairman of the Meeting :** County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T., Vice-Chairman.

**193. Minutes of the last meeting :** Resolved—That the Minutes of the last meeting circulated each member be taken as read ; and that they be signed.

**194. Adjournment of the meeting and votes of condolence :** Resolved—That as a mark of respect to the memory of County Councillor P. J. Colleran, a member of the Committee for many years, this meeting stand adjourned until Saturday next, 11th March, 1950 ; and that the Committee's sympathy be tendered the relatives of County Councillor Colleran.

Resolved also—That the Committee's sympathy be tendered the following on their recent bereavements : the relatives of the late Mr. James Kearns, Solicitor, Portumna, and to the County Librarian.

(Minutes Nos. 193 to 194 inclusive)



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING ADJOURNED FROM 4th MARCH, 1950, AND HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 11th MARCH, 1950.**

**Present :** County Councillor J. Brennan, County Councillor M. Carty, N.T. ; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T. (Vice-Chairman) ; County Councillor Sean Glynn, County Councillor T. King, County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T., T.D. ; John Moroney, N.T. ; County Councillor Tadg O'Shea, N.T. ; County Councillor M. Quinn, Senator ; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

**Apologies :** Intimations of their inability to attend were received from the Chairman (the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn), Alderman and County Councillor Miss M. A. Ashe, and Urban Councillor M. Keane.

**195. Minutes of the last meeting :**

Resolved—That the Minutes of the last meeting circulated each member taken as read ; and that they be signed.

**196. Donations :**

The Jersey Travel Association, Channel Islands :—

(a) a copy of *Jersey in Pictures* ; and

(b) *Official List of Holiday Accommodation*.

Galway County Committee of Agriculture : *Annual Report, 1949*.

Portumna and District Development Company : *Portumna Review, 1949*.

Bournemouth Corporation Publicity Department and Official Information Bureau : *Official Guide Book*.

Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants : *Year Book, 1949-50*.

**197. Irish Tourist Association Road Map :**

It was proposed by County Councillor Sean Glynn, seconded by John Moroney, and Resolved—That the County Librarian be instructed to draw the attention of the Irish Tourist Association to the absence of certain roads and towns on the Association's map ; and that the Association should take Bacon's *Road Map of Ireland* as a model.

**County Librarian's Report :** The County Librarian submitted his report on the Libraries for the quarter.

There is nothing spectacular to report. Unfortunately, while the tendency on the part of users of the Libraries towards vandalism has not increased it nevertheless continues. A new copy of Landreth's *Pursuit of Robert Emmet* costing twenty-one shillings was defaced. Two complete chapters of the work had been cut out of the book.



Accompanied by Mr. J. Collins, B.E., Chief Assistant County Surveyor, the County Librarian inspected the building known as O'Brien's Hotel, situated in Eyre Square. A report has been made to the County Manager.

X The Portumna Branch Library has been in operation since 1st January last, and has been much appreciated by the people of the town and district. The Portumna Local Development Company has shown how an unprepossessing house could by generius lighting and tasteful interior and exterior decoration be turned into an attractive place.

An agreement has been prepared by the County Council for the renting of the old school-house in Spiddal for use as a Brnach Library.

The local trustee of the Glenamaddy Town Hall has declined to let a portion of the hall for use as a Branch Library pending the building of a new school. He has, however, promised that on the completion of a new school to place the old school building at the disposal of the County Council for library purposes. On learning the trustee's decision the Local Development Committee requested the County Librarian to inspect other premises. A lock-up shop has been found suitable as a temporary Branch Library and has been reported on.

There have been no developments regarding a Branch Library for Clifden. It was reported to the local School Trustees that the cost of converting the disused school for use as a library would be prohibitive. The local Hall Committee has suggested that a room in the Town Hall be availed of, but nothing has been heard from the trustees of the hall since.

Vandalism is not confined to the Libraries. At a recent meeting of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society it was stated by a member that old carvings—particularly carved stones—found in course of demolition and reconstruction of buildings had been broken up for building purposes and road construction.

*The Galway Reader* has now reached its second volume, and its reception by readers has been favourable. The Editor would be grateful to readers and all those interested in the story of the City and County of Galway for contributions of articles, notes and queries. No. 3 Vol. II is now in the hands of the printer.

The reading public may be roughly divided into two main classes, the student research reader and the recreational reader. They are both entitled to service. The student reader demands up-to-date technical books and these average in price from thirty shillings to four pounds a volume. The ideal library service should be able to provide them within the month of publication and not years afterwards. There should be provided too an information service making available the latest directories, timetables, technical guides and Government publications ; and in the ideal library these should be available without having to consider the spending of every penny. There should also be the conception of the library as

a cultural and community centre with visual aid exhibitions, displays and town forum groups. Provision should be made to see that all citizens share equal privileges irrespective of the area they live in : branch libraries in the large villages and towns, delivery centres in small villages and housing schemes. Finally, in the ideal library service, library workers should be recognised as part of the educational trinity : schools, churches and library for the benefit and moral upbringing of youth ; and the cultural, educational and financial status of the librarian should be recongised as being on an equal footing with the heads of other public services.

While the Central Government has supervision under the recent Public Libraries Act it has so far failed to come to the aid of the local authority whose financial resources are not sufficient to give the community the full library service its needs requires.

The difficulty of obtaining the services of a Branch Librarian for Athenry has been added to by the loss of the premises used as a Branch Library.

#### 198. Library Headquarters :

It was proposed by County Councillor J. Brennan, seconded by County Councillor M. Carty, and Resolved—That the County Librarian be instructed to ask the County Manager to consider the transference of the County Library Headquarters from its present position to the new extention to the County Buildings and to retain the quarters in the County Court-house as a Branch Library for the city.

The County Librarian pointed out that the proposition should be reversed : that, if available, a temporary Branch Library in the County Buildings, the County Library Headquarters to remain as they are, as the premises are ideal for a Headquarters but totally unsuitable for a Branch Library.

#### 199. Salary of Branch Librarian at Athenry :

It was proposed by County Councillor J. J. Ruane, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and Resolved—That the County Librarian be instructed to ask the County Manager to increase the salary for the position of Branch Librarian at Athenry.

#### 200. "The Galway Reader" :

It was proposed by County Councillor J. J. Ruane, seconded by County Councillor Sean Glynn, and Resolved—That the County Manager be requested to increase the issue of *The Galway Reader* from 750 copies to 1,200.

(Minutes Nos. 195 to 200 inclusive).



leabarlanna comhóe na bailtine  
COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

All communications should be addressed to:  
S. J. MAGUIRE  
SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN  
(and the following number quoted)



COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS  
GALWAY

2nd September, 1950.

(in the Bar Room),

A Chara,

A Quarterly Meeting of the County Libraries Committee will be held on Saturday next, the 9th day of September, 1950, in the County Libraries A County Court-house, Galway, at the hour of twelve thirty o'clock in the afternoon, when the following business will be dealt with :-

1. Minutes of the last Meeting.
2. Donations.
3. Reports.
4. Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland at Galway.
5. General.

Mise le Meas,

*S. Maguire*

County Librarian.

To each member of the Committee,  
To the County Manager,  
To the County Secretary,  
To the Town Clerks of Galway & Ballinasloe,  
To the Editors of newspapers published in the county.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE  
3RD DAY OF JULY, 1950.

PRESENT:-

County Councillor James Brennan; County Councillor J.J. Cunningham;  
the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn (Chairman); County Councillor Sean Glynn; County  
Councillor Thomas King; Deputy M.F. Kitt, Co.C.; John Moroney, N.T.; County  
Councillor Tadh O'Shea; and County Councillor J.J. Ruane.

Apologies:-

Intimation of their inability to attend were received from Alderman  
and County Councillor Miss M.A. Ashe, and Urban Councillor Michael Keane.

201. Minutes of the last meeting:-

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the last meeting  
circulated each member be taken as read; and that they be signed.

202. Donations:-

RESOLVED - That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following  
donors: The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union; Hertfordshire Mercury;  
Meath County Library; Association of Secretaries in Commerce; Phillips Electrical  
(Ireland), Ltd.; and Mr. Frank McQuillan, Galway.

203. Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland:-

RESOLVED - That  
the County Librarian's arrangements for the Annual Conference of the Library  
Association of Ireland to be held at the University College be approved; that  
the following members of the Committee represent the County Libraries Committee:  
The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Deputy Kitt, Councillors King, Brennan, Ruane,  
and J. Moroney, N.T.

204. Reports:-

RESOLVED - That the Reports of the County Librarian for the last  
quarter be approved; and that the Annual Report be prepared.

(Minutes Nos. 201 to 204 inclusive).

*J.J. Cunningham*



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Leabharlanna Connógaí na Sairliúine  
(COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES)

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**TWENTY-FIFTH**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**1948-1949**



# LEABARLAINNA CONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE

## COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

### TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Twenty-fifth Annual Report summarizes the work of the County Libraries Department during the year ended 31st March, 1949. It is prepared not only for the County Manager and the Local Authorities of the county but also as a memorandum on public relations generally for the ordinary citizens in the scope and resources of their public library system and the services it is capable of providing.

The development of a public library is a continuous process, as may be inferred from the great amount of up-to-date history and biography, incorporated in books touching new developments. Events before 1939, the outbreak of the Second World War make the purchase of new works on these subjects inevitable. How truly, for instance, may it be said that the Russian Revolution is yet far from completion, and who knows what its ultimate effects may be on civilization? Or who will venture to say how far the United Nations Organisation will survive the tests which proved too much for its predecessor, the League of Nations? And, once again, war has given a remarkable impetus to science, as shown in the fields of aviation, radio, physics, chemistry and biology.

Wars are necessarily reflected in many books, as are also individual campaigns in the late world war. Equally the history of nations, and the profound institutional changes and new theories of government, are additions to historical works on different nations. But events outside the orbit of war may well be fraught with as great, or even greater, significance than those directly concerned with war: as President Roosevelt's "New Deal" with its apotheosis of the "common man"; the evolution of the British Commonwealth of Nations; the achievement of the Republic of Ireland and of India's independence; the discovery of penicillin; the development of television; the changing of values in art, literature, and music. All these and many other dominant up-to-date topics are adequately covered by the County Library.



### The New Format.

One of the results of paper rationing was thin books. The War Economy Agreement, which book publishers themselves voluntarily introduced during the most acute phase of paper shortage as an act of self-discipline, revolutionised the appearance of books. The British Government was so impressed by the effect of this Agreement that it decided not to grant or renew any publisher's quota unless the user conformed to the terms of the War Economy Agreement, which was thus taken out of the hands of the publishers and, instead of being a voluntary self-denying ordinance, became in effect an official order. Now, with the abolition of any Government sanction, conformity to the terms of the Agreement becomes a voluntary act. Publishers, if they like, can increase the size of their books beyond their pre-war girth. It is to be hoped that they will resist all temptation to do any such thing. By all means let us have more opaque paper, wider margins, reasonably spaced type and better cloth for books. But also let us hope that the book that was made thick for the sake of thickness is one of the things that has gone forever.

### Book Prices.

One fact emerges very clearly from a study of the figures showing the expenditure on books during the financial year now ended: books are costing more, which in turn affects all public libraries. The rise in price during even the past twelve months is high, and taking the period 1939 to date, is in some instances phenomenal. Nor is this upward tendency confined to any particular branch of literary output.

The obtaining of adequate raw materials is no longer the publisher's first preoccupation as in the middle of March of this year paper for books came off the ration. Thus, for the first time in nine years the producer of books is now able to buy his paper according to his individual requirements, without benefit of licence, permit or other official form. According to comment, this liberation has arrived too late. The publisher has for some time past been inclined to relegate paper rationing to a secondary place—his main concern during the past year being the ever-rising cost of manufacture at the very time when an increase in prices to meet these costs is particularly undesirable. One may safely say that in nearly every case the money value of books is greater to-day than it was twelve months ago.

The consequence of improved manufacturing facilities is that, although the student and the specialist user of books still remain short of their requirements, the general reader has been offered an abundance.

### Books and Leisure.

Books or conversation or listening to the radio? Which is the better way to gain knowledge or to spend one's leisure? What of the cinema? A book will stay untouched on the library shelves until a film or radio version is made of it, and then everyone asks for it at once and long waiting lists accumulate. Since some of the books filmed or broadcast are out of print, it is not always easy for the library to meet sudden demands of this kind, but that is not the only aspect of the matter which arouses concern. The custom of broadcasting serial versions of books may in due course have an adverse effect on the use made of the books themselves, as it may be expected to curtail listeners' leisure that might otherwise be used for reading.

While at the moment the "new leisure" is being turned to good account it should be pointed out that it is obvious that reading is not only a leisure-time occupation in itself, but more and more a means of acquiring knowledge of other leisure-time occupations, such as gardening, carpentry, handicrafts, sports and games.

"Few things are so susceptible to eye-appeal as books." Whenever a book is given a display in the library the issues rise, whatever its subject. It is not that the public library reader is gullible, but that he relies to a large extent on the library as a guide to his judgment. The library's stock must be ample and contain, not necessarily the latest, but the best books on every subject. If the library has to keep the reader waiting for a book a reader has asked for by name then the library falls in the estimation of the reader. Again, the staff must be intelligent and courteous, and a properly trained staff will know how to deal with the three main types of readers. First is the one who knows exactly what he or she wants. That is easy, as the assistant just has to know where to look. Second is the reader who wants a book on a particular subject. The assistant must know the best work available on the subject. The third is the optimist who wants a book for the boss or a relation, but does not know what. The assistant must find out all about the boss or the relation. If he or she is right on all these occasions the reader will in turn be quite satisfied.

### Object.

The main object of the public library system is to promote the habit of reading and the wider distribution of books, and it is to be recorded that our readers are now keeping us busier than before. With the spread of education and opportunity and the quickening of public interests, there is no difference whatever between the literary needs of one community and another or between urban and rural. In every locality nowadays there are young people



studying for professional, technical and other examinations and entrances; and people of all ages with an infinite variety of tastes and interests, and the following table shows the number of books which were available:—

Headquarters and Centres ... ..	32,947
Ballinasloe Branch ... ..	5,271
Loughrea Branch ... ..	2,693
Tuam Branch ... ..	4,002
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>44,913</b>

### Information.

Through our book information section the system provides readers with a valuable service. Many enquiries—by letter and telephone—are answered each week. Most of them are requests for lists of books on special subjects. There are many enquiries about titles, authors and publishers of out-of-the-way books, translations, and books that are out of print. As an aid to authors, journalists, teachers, students, and anyone engaged in business or scientific work, that service can be of great value, though research in the academic sense cannot be provided.

### Books for All.

Just as no individual can acquire all the books that he needs, neither can every public library acquire every book which its community members need or might possibly require in the future. But, if Galway, let us say, has not the book required, the Irish Central Library for Students might have it, or the National Central Library, London, or the Scottish Central Library for Students. Thus, there has been evolved a system of inter-library exchange. Add to this the close contact with the English and Scottish public libraries throughout Great Britain, therefore, in actual fact, there is to-day, for a person living in the most remote village in the county, access to the combined libraries of Great Britain and Ireland.

Through this system of inter-library exchange 585 volumes were obtained for Galway readers during the year.

### Reading Lists.

Annotated lists of books have been published quarterly covering city and county history, literary history and present trends, the relationship of books to education and politics, and the pleasures and problems of book-selection and book-collecting.

A reference collection of "books about books," Irish and general history, agriculture, art, bibliographies of many subjects, works relating to authorship, printing and publishing, and a varied section of literary history, biography and criticism is available.

### Home-reading.

The popular life of most new books is short and a public library does not exist just to satisfy a temporary demand for best sellers. The libraries simply cannot afford to provide unlimited numbers of copies of any one book, because that would mean not buying many other books of more lasting value. Every effort is made to keep a reasonable balance between the demand for a book and the number of copies provided. Also, some form of co-operation between publishers might eliminate duplication of certain minor English classics and so help provide a better representation of classics generally and of other essential works.

The following table shows the books added to the libraries during the year, and arranged by classes:—

General Works ... ..	54
Philosophy ... ..	17
Religion ... ..	47
Social Science ... ..	69
Languages ... ..	34
Natural Science ... ..	69
Useful Arts ... ..	171
Fine Arts ... ..	204
Literature ... ..	174
History, Geography, Travels and Biography ... ..	616
Adult Fiction ... ..	3,733
Juvenile Books ... ..	1,444
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>6,332</b>

Tables showing (A) the total number of books lent for home use, and (B) the same figures in more detail:—

TABLE (A).

	Headquarters.	Branches and Centres.	Total.
Adults ... ..	76,572	106,556	183,128
Children ... ..	22,522	28,190	50,712
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>99,094</b>	<b>134,746</b>	<b>233,840</b>



TABLE (B).

	Non-Fiction.	Fiction.	Juvenile.	Total.
Headquarters ...	22,341	51,977	17,477	91,795
Ballinasloe ...	7,355	17,759	3,861	28,975
Loughrea ...	5,725	17,538	1,161	24,424
Tuam ...	4,573	19,106	5,518	29,197
Schools and Village Centres ...	10,877	27,298	21,274	59,449
Totals ...	50,871	133,678	49,291	233,840

### Junior Library.

In all libraries the children's book stocks have suffered more than any other owing to the difficulties of obtaining sufficient replacements. While the supply position has shown definite tendencies to improve, there is a dearth of suitable non-fiction books for children.

As already reported, the facilities for children at the County Library Headquarters are being severely taxed and are a cause of great inconvenience to adult readers. At the request of parents and teachers, the Juvenile Room is open only on each Friday afternoon. The absence of proper accommodation prevents the system from giving the many extra and necessary services that should be characteristic of a Junior Library.

The following table shows the number of books lent to children for home reading:—

Headquarters ...	...	...	...	17,477
Ballinasloe ...	...	...	...	3,861
Loughrea ...	...	...	...	1,161
Tuam ...	...	...	...	5,518
Schools ...	...	...	...	21,274
Total ...	...	...	...	49,291

### County Library Work with Children.

The service began some twenty-five years ago with a box of books—or sometimes, two boxes of books in the various schools—exchanged at three months intervals. In those twenty-five years the service has expanded and developed to include not only the rural areas, but also those urban areas where no library service had been established prior to the introduction of the County Library Movement; and, moreover, the whole conception of the service has broadened.

Library service to children must go much further than the mere provision of "something to read" if we are to avoid in future generations, the present vast numbers of people whose reading is confined to the headlines of the daily paper and the local gossip of the weekly press. The aims of the service have now become threefold: (a) the ample provision of books of a high standard for all children from the time they can use them, in the most accessible places, (b) education in the use of books as tools, and (c) the development of literary taste and critical ability; and the more rural the population the greater is the need for generous public library provision, since there is rarely any other source of book supply, except in a limited number of homes.

It was natural from the first that the school should most frequently be the chosen place of distribution and that the school teacher should act as librarian. From the first emphasis was on book supply, with premises as a secondary consideration. The immediate recognition of the importance of work with children, enabled more rapid progress to be made in its development. Results show that the local school is not always the best point of service for the adult population, the service is too often associated with education, and its scope not realised. On the other hand, experience has shown that the school is at least the most successful centre for the children, since they could exchange their books during their normal visit to school. Though this tends to result in some cases in segregating the two centres, it also results in a higher proportion of children being reached. The guidance in choice of reading, too, if not entirely satisfactory, is better than they would usually receive from the non-teacher voluntary librarians in the general centres. Exchanges are effected four times a year; and visits by the County Librarian ensures that better contact is maintained with headquarters, and an opportunity given for suggestions to be made, difficulties discussed and help given in the running of the centre. The visit of the County Librarian also creates an opportunity for ensuring that the children are aware that the service is part of a much wider one, and not just the receipt of a collection of books "out of the blue."

The practice of maintaining the service to rural children through the schools, and to children in urban areas through branches is now well established.

Whatever may be the opinion regarding the advantages of school or public library service, everyone must realise the necessity of books in schools—other than those used directly in connection with lessons. If the maximum benefit is to be derived from what is taught, further material on the subject should be readily available, and if all children are to receive adequate instruction in the use of books as tools, a collection of reference books in the school should



be a necessity. Attempts are being made to carry out this latter instruction, but inadequate accommodation and insufficient staff limit this, so that only a small percentage of children benefit.

The uses of the school library have been summed up in the School Library Association's Draft Report on School Libraries in post-war reconstruction, as follows :—

“ To make children familiar with the sight and use of a collection of books, to help them grow to love and care for them, to provide material for the child's own recreational reading and exploration, to supply additional reading material illustrating the subjects taught in class, to give opportunities for elementary instruction in the use of books and for carrying out individual and group projects, to give scope for the exercise of simple responsibilities, and, finally, to prepare the way for the use of larger libraries, including the public library in adult life.”

The teacher can reciprocate in the training of children, both as the present junior and the future adult borrowers of the public library, by co-operation in the arranging of the library periods, by making himself familiar with the larger stock at the headquarters, so that constant reference may be made to it and unnecessary duplication avoided.

When the whole county area is covered by this service, and close contact maintained with all schools to ensure that all children are introduced to the junior library as soon as they are able to read, and to the adult department at the age of fourteen, we may look forward to an intelligent reading public for the future.

Criticism that a high proportion of children are leaving Irish rural schools in an illiterate condition is constantly being made in the daily newspapers. It is charged against the Department of Education that it fails to provide an education consistent with the needs of rural life. It seems to have followed too closely the pattern of an out-moded system and the curricula followed have been too bookish. The kind of education traditionally given has often completely unfitted pupils for the pursuit of rural occupations. Undoubtedly many rural children leave school to-day without having developed a taste for reading and this position provides sorrowful testimonial to the apathy shown by the Department to the development of school libraries. The critics of the system ask the education authority to give careful attention to the special needs of rural school children and suggest that the same consideration be given to the necessary facilities for reading. The failure to develop a modern attitude in dealing with the needs of youth has left them with no effective power to compete with the cinema, dance hall, commercialised sports, radio, etc. It is still pitiable to

see the lack of direction, the inability to concentrate energy and talent, and the downright stupidity on the part of the Department of Education, which seems to remain indifferent to efficient library work among school children and young people in our rural areas. When will it realise that the future of youth service depends on a lead and on the spirit of co-operation in village life ?

#### Book Exhibitions.

It is suggested that the County Library should organise a publicity service bringing books directly to the notice of various grades in industrial concerns and agriculture, displaying books not only on technical and agricultural processes but also on such subjects as personnel, management and the like. Its aims would be rather for increased technical knowledge amongst workers. One of the impediments between the worker and the book that he requires for his work is the lack of information about new technical publications. The publicity service suggested would be of immense benefit both to the County Library, industry and farming. In the meantime, it would be pointed out with all proper modesty that THE GALWAY READER plays no mean part in providing information on the lines suggested.

#### The Galway Reader.

The idea of THE GALWAY READER arose from a discussion among teachers, university people, members of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society, local honorary librarians, interested readers and the staff of the Library. It was pointed out that there was a tendency for the reading of fiction to increase at the expense of other classes of literature ; that many outstanding and important books are left unread through lack of knowledge of their existence or contents ; and that there was a lamentable want of knowledge of city and county history.

It was agreed that the journal should not be too literary, that it should not compete with the local newspapers or overlap the object of the local archaeological journal. A marked feature was to be the Library List which was to follow each article, and the subjects to be dealt with, though general, should have a specific appeal to the people of the county and should deal with the county in some phase or other. Each number was to contain a bibliography on subjects such as Local History and National History, Biography, Travel, Agriculture, Economics, etc. The lists prepared by the Irish Book Association have been found invaluable for this purpose.

While people of to-day are interested in the books of to-day, it is hoped through the medium of THE GALWAY READER to



induce them "to come more sweetly to the old books," to let them understand that any literature, past and present, is relatively but a detail in the lives of the few. To many others it will point out that religion, science, economics, business, music, history, travel, and a variety of useful subjects are more necessary than Shakespeare is to the student. It is emphasised that as people must choose from a library, the nearer they come to forming it themselves the better. Everyone nowadays has the habit of letting the eye run along a certain number of printed lines, and it has become one of the dangers of civilization. Reading of this kind tends to produce automatic reaction, the taking of opinions ready-made without troubling to work them out for oneself. The only kind of reading worth stimulating is reading which will encourage reflection. For example, the majority of readers care no more about poetry than a tone-deaf man about music and no effort is made to overcome mental lassitude or vacuity. There is a very large number of general readers outside the ranks of our students who would like to read the books which, rather snobbishly, are regarded as the students' own peculiar property. These readers who are not students in the sense that they are studying for any particular purpose, would not, if their attention were drawn to good reading, confine their search to the fiction department of the library.

There is the familiar type of person who wanders about the shelves hoping to catch sight of a book which will help him. He does not know what subject interests him most, and he is not quite sure what book he wants, but he feels that if only he can find the book he will recognise it in a moment. The quest is not an easy one, because the books with really attractive titles are not infrequently the worst. The cheap and sensational book obtrudes itself on the unpractised eye and attracts. The journal may be described as a market place for exchange of ideas where the soundness of each reader's pet theories may be tested in notes and queries, so that he may be tempted to read a little further, if only in the hope of defeating his opponent next time. It is, perhaps, too much to expect that most readers can indulge in disinterested discussion on political problems, just now, but most people can discuss their favourite books reasonably, and learn to see other aspects which they had not noticed in their own reading. The librarian will know individuals who frequent his shelves and who would be anxious to meet others with whom they might exchange their views and from whom they may catch other enthusiasms.

This, then, is the object of THE GALWAY READER—to encourage the reading of good books of every kind and above all to encourage the general reader. The County Library provides the material for reading, but with the very varied nature and standard of the books on its shelves, the greater, therefore, are the difficulties of the general reader. Galway being a university town it has been

found that the professional student can look after himself both in the County Library and in the University Library. The journal helps borrowers to become discerning readers, and by developing taste leads the reader from the elementary to the advanced.

### Special Collections.

The collections of books, pamphlets, maps, prints, etc., which illustrate all phases of the past and present history of Ireland, the scarce works dealing with the Irish Language and Philology, are a special pride of the libraries. They aim at completeness as far as possible.

### Gifts.

The attention of the public may be drawn to the fact that one of the best memorials they can make of friend or relative is a gift of books of value to their County Library. Apart from the great national memorial collections—as they are actually—in the National Library, the Royal Irish Academy and elsewhere, ordinary public libraries have preserved names, through gifts of books, that would otherwise have escaped the memory of man. This is recalled by donations from Philip O'Gorman, Esq., Galway, and from Senator R. M. Burke, Toghermore, Tuam. Mr. O'Gorman's gifts included copies of *Rotulorum Patentium et Clausorum Cancellariae Hiberniae Calendarium, Henry II—Henry VIII*, and *Inquisitionum in Officio Rotulorum Cancellariae Hiberniae Asservatarum Repentorium*. Each work bears the imprint: "This Book is to be perpetually Preserved in and for the use of the Peace Officer of the County of the Town of Galway by the Special Order of His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of Ireland, 1828." Senator Burke's work is entitled: *Facsimiles of National MSS. of Ireland, Photozincographed by Command of Her Majesty Queen Victoria*, by Major-General Sir Henry James, R.E., F.R.S., Director General of the Ordnance Survey. Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton. 1874.

The following is a description of the respective books:—

#### (a) The Patent and Close Rolls.

The Patent and Close Rolls of the Chancery contain grants or lands in fee or otherwise, Creation of Honours, Charters of Incorporation, Grants of Offices, Presentations, Denizations, Wardships, Pardons, Ancient Statutes, Kings' Letters, and other State Documents, with several Inquisitions, and many Deeds, Conveyances, Letters of Attorney and Chancery Proceedings.



The volume commences with a few Inrolments of the Reigns of Henry the Second, John, Henry the Third, and Edward the First, the earliest extant in the Offices, and ends with those of the Reign of Henry the Seventh.

#### (b) The Inquisitions.

The Inquisitions preserved in the Rolls Office of the Court of Chancery of Ireland, are records of the highest authority and value. They may be classed under two distinct heads, viz. : Inquisitions Post Mortem, which are the most numerous, and Inquisitions on Attainder. They are divided, according to the four provinces and the several counties of Ireland, into Reigns, and generally commence in the time of Queen Elizabeth, few being prior to that period. The former class (Inquisitions Post Mortem) ceases soon after the Restoration of Charles II., when the feudal tenures were abolished. The latter (Inquisitions on Attainder) extends to the Reign of William III.

The Inquisitions Post Mortem were taken under Commissions directed to the Escheators of each province, and others joined with them ; and find, by the oath of a jury, what lands any person died seized of, by what rents and services they were held, and who was the next heir and his age, by which the right of the Crown to escheat or wardship was ascertained. On them were founded all grants of Wardships of Body and Marriage, Liveries of Lands—Pardons of Intrusion—Pardons of Licences of Alienation, etc., in virtue of the tenures in Capite. They are the best evidences of the descent of families and of the transfer and possession of property during the period they embrace. Numerous family settlements, deeds, wills, leases and other instruments relating to property in Ireland, are set out in full, or copiously recited ; and of the greater number of these there are, at present, no other traces to be found.

The Inquisitions on Attainder were generally taken under Commissions directed to Commissioners in the several counties, and show whether any person was attainted, in which case his lands and other property, which were also found, were seized into the King's Lands. The present volume deals only with the province of Leinster.

#### (c) Facsimiles of the National MSS. of Ireland.

The art of photozincography was discovered by Major-General Sir Henry Jones in 1860. In 1861 he produced by this method 500 facsimile copies of Domesday Book, a National MS., contained in two volumes on 1,664 pages. Dr. Todd, Librarian of Trinity College, Dublin, suggested that an Irish series of National MSS.

should be printed in facsimile. The final selection of the documents to be reproduced was entrusted to Mr. J. T. Gilbert, Secretary of the Public Record Office of Ireland, who also translated them. This series is remarkable not only for the great antiquity of many of the MSS. comprised in it, but also for the splendid examples of pictorial art which it contains, of which the highly-coloured drawings and letters on the title-page give an idea. These are from the Book of Kells. A great number of the MSS. are copies of the Gospels and Psalters, which exhibit in their illuminations the devotion to their work of artists of the highest skill, both in fanciful design and colour. In the preface to the book Dr. Todd states : " I wish you would consider whether it would be possible to do the entire of the Book of Kells ; it is, I believe, the most splendid specimen of a Latin Evanglistarium in the world. It would be of immense importance to Biblical Literature to have such a MS. in facsimile." Incidentally, the desire of Dr. Todd is being carried out at the moment by the authorities of Trinity College, who are having a complete facsimile being made in Switzerland for sale to the principal libraries of the world for a subscription of £100.

#### Educational, Social and Religious Societies.

The principle of voluntary service in co-operation with the public educational services : primary, secondary, vocational and university education ; and with the various bodies of social workers : the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Catholic Young Men's Society, the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, etc., continues. In addition to the mutual help in the lending and borrowing of books, pamphlets, scientific and philological journals, small libraries have been continued in Temperance Societies, Clubs, in Parochial and Village Halls, Sodality Clubs, etc., throughout the county.

#### Statistical Abstract.

The following brief explanation is necessary for the proper understanding of the information supplied by the Abstract :—

First of all, the figures represent the number of books issued for home reading only. They do not include the encyclopædias, guide books, dictionaries, almanacs, etc., consulted in the Headquarters and Branches. Again, the figures shown are those compiled from the issues kept at the Headquarters, Branches and Centres, and do not include the issues at the Centres where the records are not properly kept or not kept at all. And, lastly, since the inception of the scheme the Abstract has been compiled on exactly the same lines, so that it provides the only satisfactory basis available for comparing one year with another.



**1. Finance.**

## INCOME.

From Rates	...	...	...	...	£5,707	0	0
Subscriptions	...	£173	4	0			
Fines	...		9	9	6		
Replacements	...		6	12	4		
Other Receipts	...		2	13	7		
						191	19
							5
Total Receipts	...				£5,898	19	5

## EXPENDITURE.

Salaries and Wages	...	...	...	...	£1,556	11	3
Books, Binding and Periodicals	...	...	...	...	2,718	12	7
Transport and Travelling	...	...	...	...	313	1	1
Rent, Maintenance and Repairs	...	...	...	...	273	8	2
Other Expenditure	...	...	...	...	140	10	2
Total Expenditure	...				£5,002	3	3

Amount of Rate levied for Library Purposes: 2.18d.

**2. Library Centres.**

Total number of Centres in operation ... 40

**3. Book Stock.**

Total Adult Fiction	...	...	...	...	16,085
Total Adult Non-Fiction	...	...	...	...	23,525
Total Juvenile Fiction and Non-Fiction	...	...	...	...	5,346
Total Stock	...				44,956

Number of books available per 100 of the population served: 26.7.

**4. Book Issues.**

Issued from Headquarters direct to readers...	99,094
Issued from Branches and Centres direct to readers	134,746
Total Issues	233,840

**5. Borrowers.**

Estimated number of registered borrowers	37,480
Estimated number actually borrowing per 100 of the population	20.9



Receipts

Grants		
Book Sales		45,707 10 0
Subscriptions	1,374 4 0	
Donations	2 0 0	
Amalgamation	6 12 4	
Other Receipts	2 15 0	
		<hr/>
		48,102 3 4

Total Receipts

48,102 3 4

Expenditure

Salaries and Wages	11,500 10 0
Books, Binding and Periodicals	2,718 10 0
Transport and Travelling	715 0 0
Build. Maintenance and Repairs	100 0 0
Other Expenditure	100 0 0
	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	15,133 10 0

Amount of Rate levied for Library purposes: 2,184

2. Library Cost

Total Stock 40

2. Book Stock

Total Adult	16,040
Total Child	13,837
Total Juvenile and Non-Fiction	7,348
	<hr/>
Total Stock	47,225

Number of books available per 100 of the population served: 28.7

Issues

Issued from Headquarter's direct to readers	98,074
Issued from Branches and Centre direct to readers	134,740
	<hr/>
Total Issues	232,814

3. Extension

Estimated number of registered borrowers	37,430
Estimated number actually borrowing per 100 of the population	60.9

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Galway County Council Archives



## COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES; COURTHOUSE, GALWAY.

Minutes of the Proceedings of a Quarterly Meeting held on Saturday, the 9th day of September, 1950.

Present:-Alderman Miss M.A.Ashe, Co.C.; County Councillor James Brennan; County Councillor M.Carty, N.T.; County Councillor J.J.Cunningham, N.T.; Vice Chairman; County Councillor Seán Glynn; County Councillor T.King; County Councillor Tadg O'Shea, N.T.; Senator and County Councillor Martin Quinn; and County Councillor J.J.Ruane.

Apologies;-Intimation of their inability to attend were received from the Chairman (the Very Rev.P.Canon Glynn), and John Moroney, N.T.

Chairman of the Meeting:- County Councillor J.J.Cunningham, N.T., Chairman.

205. Donations:- Resolved that the Committee's thanks be tendered to the following donors:-County Libraries; Laoise, Cork, Clare, Londonderry, Wexford, Sligo and Donegal; The Hospital Library Council of Ireland; City Library; Bournemouth City Publicity Department; The Library Council of Ireland; The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust; The Fire Protection Association, London; The Rev. Bartholomew Egan, O.F.M., Killiney; Phillips Electrical (Ireland) Ltd.; The British Rubber Development Board; and E.G.

206. Reports.  
Resolved- That the Reports submitted by the County Libraries be approved

207. Conference of the Library Association at Galway.  
Resolved - That the arrangements made by the County Libraries in connection with the Conference of the Library Association of Ireland be approved; and that the subject of local censorship be raised at the conference.

208. Branch Library, Aran Island:- It was proposed by Alderman Miss M.A.Ashe, seconded by County Councillor King, that a Branch Library be established at Kilronan as soon as possible.

(Minutes Nos. 205 to 208 inclusive)

*J. Cunningham Co. C.*