

Minutes of Proceedings of Galway County Librarians
 Committee, ^{Annual} meeting, held on Saturday
 3rd July, 1954.

Present. 153

Election of Chairman. Rev. Canon P. A. Glynn
 was elected Chairman.

Election of Vice-Chairman. Councillor Michael
 Kitt was elected Vice-Chairman.

Minutes of previous meeting. Taken as read
 and signed by Chairman.

Ballinasloe Branch Library. A discussion
 on Ballinasloe Branch Library was postponed
 to a special meeting to be held in
 August.

Branch Library Committee Minutes. It was
 decided to recommend that the minutes
 of meetings of Branch Library Committee
 be ~~present~~ submitted to County Library
 Committee.

Resolutions of sympathy. Resolutions
 of sympathy were passed to Mrs. J. J. Glynn
 on the death of her husband, to Dr. Michael
 Hall on the death of his sister, and
 to Mr. J. J. Uster on the death of his son.

Delegates to Irish Librarians Association Annual
 Conference. Mr. Co. Librarian, Councillor
 Michael Kitt and Councillor James Keane
 were selected to represent the County Library
 Committee at the Irish Librarians Assoc. Annual
 Conference to be held in Dublin.

LEABHARLANNA CONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

(Minutes)

Minutes of the proceedings of a quarterly meeting held on Saturday
26th March, 1955.

PRESENT:

Very Rev. P. Cannon Glynn (Chairman), Mr. Sean Donnellan, N.T.,
Co. Councillor P.T. Galvin, Co. Councillor S. Glynn, Mr. M. Gohery N.T.,
Co. Councillor Tomas Mac an Ríogh, Co. Councillor M.P. O'Ceit, An
t-Atair M. MacDonnchadha, Mr. F. Mullin N.T., Councillor J.A. O'Connell,
Tadhg O Seaghdha Uas, N.T., Councillor J.J. Ruane, Co. Councillor
M. Ua h-Uiginn N.T., Co. Councillor Peter SIRR.

163 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Resolved that the minutes of the last meeting circulated to each
member be taken as read; and that they be signed.

164 VOTE OF SYMPATHY:

Resolved.

That the committee's sympathy be tendered to the widow and children
of the late Mr. Samuel Maguire, County Librarian, and that the Acting
Librarian should convey the message on behalf of the Committee.

165 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Proposed by Co. Councillor Kitt and seconded by Mr. S. Glynn
and resolved "as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Mr.
Samuel Maguire that this meeting be now adjourned until Tuesday
29th day of March, 1955 at the hour of 5.00 p.m. and that the
members of the Committee be deemed to have received notice of the
next meeting.

Minutes nos 163-165 inclusive

Muirín O'Connell
29th March 1955

Minutes of the proceedings of the Quarterly Meeting (adjourned from 26th March,
1955) held on Tuesday 29th March, 1955.

PRESENT

Co. Councillor Michael Carty, N.T.; Co. C. Sean Glynn; Co. C. P. Kitt, N.T.;
Rev. Fr. McDonough; Councillor J.A. O'Connell; Co. C. M. Quinn; Councillor
James Ruane; Co. C. M. Ua h-Uiginn, N.T.; Co. C. R. Joyce; Co. C. J. Cheevers;
Co. C. P. SIRR; Sean Donnellan Esq., N.T.; M. Gohery Esq., N.T.; Rev. P.
Canon Glynn; and J.M. Moroney, Esq., N.T.

CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

Co. Councillor M.P. Kitt, N.T.

166 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Resolved - That the minutes of the last meeting supplied to each member be
taken as read. The minutes were signed by Co. Councillor M. Quinn who vacated the
chair on arrival of Co. Councillor M. Kitt.

167 CORRESPONDENCE

A letter, from Dominick Street and William Street West, Traders Association
(Dated 19/2/'55) re use of premises known as The Lock House, for a Branch Library,
was discussed by the committee and it was proposed by Co. Councillor Carty and
seconded by Co. Councillor Higgins, and resolved, that the premises be inspected by
the Co. Engineer and Acting County Librarian, and that a report be submitted to the
next quarterly meeting.

168 DONATIONS

Resolved - That the committee's thanks be tendered to the following donors:-

United States Information Service; Royal Dublin Society.

169 STAFF: NOTED -

The Acting County Librarian reported on staff changes since the last meeting.

170 REPORTS: Headquarters & Branch Libraries

The Acting Co. Librarian referred to overcrowded conditions at Headquarters and
reviewed work of the branch libraries.

171 Proposed by Co. J.A. O'Connell and seconded by Co. C. Kitt and resolved -
"That the committee approves the reports of the Acting County Librarian".

172 CITY BRANCH

Proposed by Co. J.A. O'Connell and seconded by Co. C. M. Higgins and resolved -
"That separate accommodation be sought for County Library Headquarters, or for
a branch library for Galway City".

173 NEW BRANCH LIBRARIES

Proposed by Co. C. M. Quinn and seconded by Co. C. M. Higgins and resolved -
"That the branch libraries, provided for in this year's estimates be opened without delay".

174 MOBILE LIBRARY

Resolved - "That the Acting Co. Librarian prepare a report for the next quarterly
meeting on the feasibility of servicing certain areas of the County by means of a
Mobile Library.

175 IRISH BOOKS AT BRANCHES

Resolved - "That the Acting Co. Librarian provide figures for the next meeting
showing the percentage of Irish books available at branch libraries.

CLOSE OF MEETING: There was no other business and the meeting closed.

Minutes Nos 166-175 inclusive.

Patrick Higgins
18th June, 1955.

GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

Minutes of a Quarterly Meeting of the County Libraries
Committee held on Saturday 18th June, 1955.

PRESENT

Rev. Canon P. Glynn (Chairman)
County Councillors, M. Carty, Sean Glynn, M.P. O'Ceith,
M. Higgins, Richard Joyce, Peter Sarr, An t-Athair M.
MacDonnchadha, Sean Donnellan, Esq., N.T., M. Gohery,
Esq. N.T., Tadhg Uas. O'Seaghda, N.T., F. Mullen Esq.,
N.T., Sean O'Maolruini Uas. N.T.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1/1955 Resolved - Minutes as circulated to members be taken
as read and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2 CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Mr. Hugh Hannon, Flood Street, Galway,
offering his premises for rent, for use as Library. *Noted*

3 DONATIONS

Resolved - That the following donors be thanked:-
Ford Motor Co., U.S. Information Service, Nat. University,
Carnegie U.K. Trust, Minister for External Affairs.

4 REPORTS

The Acting County Librarian reported on Headquarters
and Branch Libraries, Proposed by Comb. Uas. h-Uiginn and
seconded by T. O'Seaghda N.T., and resolved - That the children
be admitted to the Headquarters Branch each Saturday between the
hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

5 MOBILE LIBRARY

Acting Co. Librarian submitted short report and committee
resolved - That further information should be supplied at second
meeting of the new committee.
(Minutes Nos. 1 - 5/1955 Inclusive)

20th August, 1955. Patrick Glynn

(Minutes Nos 1-5 1955 inclusive)

GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

Quarterly Meeting of Co. Library Committee 18th June, 1955.

REPORTS

The problem of accommodation at Library Headquarters was considered
at the last meeting and an effort has been made in the meantime to find
a solution.

This problem has been approached from two angles viz:- To find
accommodation for a separate branch library for Galway City and retain
the County Library Headquarters at the Courthouse, and or, alternatively
to obtain separate premises for headquarters and retain the City Branch
at the Courthouse.

The Canal Lock House, on which the Committee asked for a report,
would be unsuitable for use as a branch library as it is too small and
would require considerable alteration internally. Its situation is
also unsuitable.

I understand that the Woodquay Dispensary will be made available
for use as a Co. Library Headquarters when the Medical Services are
transferred to the new Co. Health Clinic. In this event the Galway
City branch would remain at the Courthouse and all the space at present
available there, could be devoted to giving proper library facilities
to the citizens of Galway. One complete room could be made available
for use as a childrens library and another room made available for use
as a reference library and study room. A number of alterations would
be necessary at the Courthouse including new shelving, removal of the
present staff enclosure and its replacement by a smaller and more conven-
ient structure which would allow proper supervision of readers and
better contact between the public and the staff. The hours of opening
at Galway Branch could be extended for at least two evenings per week
up to 8 or 9 p.m. to facilitate people who cannot make personal use of
the library at present, owing to the fact that their business hours
coincide with those of the library.

BRANCH LIBRARIES: Gort & Kinvara

I had hoped to be in a position to report on the opening of new
Branch Libraries at Gort and Kinvara which will take place as soon as
all the necessary furnishings have been delivered. The County Engineer's
Department is attending to this matter at the moment.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The committee at its meeting in March requested me to submit a
report on the possibility of providing a Mobile Library Service to
certain areas of the County. The initial cost of providing a Mobile
Library would be in the region of £1,500 and the annual running costs
would be approximately £1,000 per annum for wages, petrol, maintenance etc.

I do not propose to go into details now but would suggest that this
is not an opportune time for the introduction of a Mobile Library Service
in County Galway. I think consideration of this idea should be deferred
until new headquarters are occupied and the present programme relating
to Branch Libraries has been carried out. When all the new Branch
Libraries have been established we will be in a much better position to
arrange a Mobile Library Service to the remaining areas of scattered
population, and to judge the proper type of vehicle that will be required
for the purpose.

We have not the facilities, nor the staff, available at present for
the successful introduction of a Mobile Library. A Mobile Library requires
first-class organization and must be run strictly on schedule if books
are not to be lost.

IRISH BOOKS AT BRANCHES

No separate record is kept of Irish books at branch libraries but I
can assure the committee that there is an adequate supply & very little demand.

GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

Minutes of 32nd Annual Meeting of Galway County Libraries Committee held on Saturday 20th August, 1955.

PRESENT

Very Rev. Canon Glynn, Alderman Miss Ashe, Messrs M. Breathnach, M. Carty, T. Clarke, J. Dowd, P.J. Galvin, Sean Glynn, R. Joyce, T. Mac an Riogh, M. O Ceit, M. Mannion, J.M. Moroney, F. Mullen, J.A. O'Connell, L. O'Toole, M. Quinn, J.J. Ruane.

APOLOGIES: The County Manager was unable to attend owing to pressure of business.

6/'55 Minutes of the previous meeting were signed by the chairman.

7. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 1955/56

Mr. S. Glynn proposed Very Rev. Canon Glynn for the office of Chairman, seconded by Mr. M. Kitt. Very Rev. Canon Glynn elected unanimously.

8. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 1955/56

Mr. M. Kitt was elected Vice-Chairman on the proposal of Mr. M. Carty, seconded by Mr. F. Mullen.

9. ANNUAL REPORT 1953/54 and 1954/55

The Report of the Acting County Librarian was adopted on the proposal of Mr. M. Kitt seconded by Mr. M. Carty.

10. Consideration of the question of a Mobile Library was adjourned to the next meeting.

11. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND AT CORK

Mr. M. Carty was proposed by Mr. Glynn and seconded by Mr. M. Quinn.
Mr. M. Kitt was proposed by Mr. Mannion and seconded by Mr. J. O'Connell.
The meeting decided that the delegation should consist of Messrs. Carty and Kitt and the Acting County Librarian.

12. ENCYCLOPAEDIA

The members decided not to purchase the Encyclopaedia Britannica for the County Library.

MINUTES 6 - 12/1955 Inclusive

16/11/55

Patrick Glynn

LEABHARLANNA CHONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARY



Thirty-First and Thirty-Second
Annual Reports

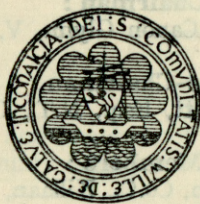
1953/1954 :: 1954/1955

Príomh-Arus,

Leabharlanna Chonndae na Gaillimhe,
GAILLIMH.

LEABHARLANNA CHONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE

GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARY



**Thirty-First and Thirty-Second
Annual Reports**

1953/1954 :: 1954/1955

Príomh-Arus,

Leabharlanna Chonndae na Gaillimhe,

GAILLIMH.

LEABHARLANNA CHONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

COUNTY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE :

Chairman :

Very Rev. P. Canon Glynn, V.F., B.A.

Vice-Chairman :

Michael Kitt, Esq., N.T., Co.C.

Members :

Senator Martin Quinn, Co.C., Killaan, Woodlawn.
Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe, Galway.
Michael Carty, Esq., Co.C., Loughrea.
Sean Donnellan, Esq., N.T., Moycullen.
Patrick Galvin, Esq., Co.C., Ballinasloe.
Sean Glynn, Esq., Co.C., Williamstown.
M. Gohery, Esq., N.T., Glenamaddy.
Thomas King, Esq., Co.C., Balroe buckmore, Currandulla.
Rev. Fr. McDonough, President, St. Mary's College, Galway.
John Moroney, Esq., N.T., Barna, Galway.
F. Mullin, Esq., N.T., Woodford.
Councillor J. O'Connell, Tuam.
Councillor James O'Connor, Ballinasloe.
Councillor Thomas O'Connor, Upper Salthill, Galway.
Tadhg O Shea, Esq., N.T., Rosaveel, Ballynahown.
Councillor J. J. Ruane, Athenry.
Councillor J. Cheevers, Salthill, Galway.
M. Higgins, Esq., N.T., Co.C., Moycullen.
Richard Joyce, Esq., Co.C., Clifden.
Peter Sirr, Esq., Co.C., Ballymoe.
J. Hoban, Esq., N.T., Glenamaddy.

County Manager :

C. I. O'Flynn, Esq., A.I.A.A.

Acting County Librarian :

P. J. White, Dip. Lib. Tr., D.P.A.

LEABHARLANNA CHONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

REPORT FOR THE YEARS 1953-1954 and 1954-1955

To :

The Chairman and Members of Galway County Libraries Committee and the County Manager.

A Dhaoine Uaisle,

Is mór an chuis áthais dhom an Tuarascbháil fá choinne an dá bhliadhain dar críoch 31ú Márta, 1955, do sholáthar díbh.

I have much pleasure in presenting this report for the two year period ending 31st March, 1955.

The end of a financial year brings us an opportunity of critically examining the work done in the past, and as a result of this examination to decide on measures to improve, wherever possible, the Library Service to the public.

The history and development of the Galway County Libraries has been fully and adequately recorded in the reports of the late County Librarian Mr. S. J. Maguire, who was responsible for the organization and progress of the past 31 years, and who also planned the present programme for the development of Branch Libraries throughout the County.

My service with Galway County Council and as Acting County Librarian covers only the last month of the period under review, and realising this I can offer little more than figures to show in some measure the work accomplished by my predecessors.

The number of books borrowed by the public is still the only method of showing the quantitative value of the Library Service. The number of books issued during the year 1953/54 was 276,503. Of this total 56,630 were non-fiction, 181,847 were fiction, and 38,026 were juvenile.

Book issues for the year 1954/55 were as follows : Non-Fiction 37,554, Fiction 162,850, and Juvenile 46,720, a total of 247,124.

You will observe that the total issues for the year 1954/55 show a decrease of 29,379 on the number of books issued during the previous year. This apparent drop in books borrowed may be explained by the fact that I have excluded figures for schools and village centres, a feature of previous reports, as no returns are

available and estimated figures tend to produce a distorted picture.

The actual number of books sent from Headquarters to Centres and Schools during the years 1953/54 and 1954/55 were made up as follows :—

| Non-Fiction | Fiction | Juvenile | Total |
|-------------|---------|----------|-----------------|
| 1,370 | 2,401 | 650 | 4,421 (1953/54) |
| 1,329 | 1,053 | 637 | 3,019 (1954/55) |

Book Stock :

The total stock of books in the Library on 31st March, 1954, was 72,620 and on 31st March, 1955, the number was 79,289.

Headquarters :

Previous reports have drawn attention to conditions at Headquarters, and the lack of adequate space. Until such time as separate accommodation is found for a Headquarters or separate Branch Library for Galway City, further development of the County Library Services can only be carried out with great difficulty and inconvenience to staff and readers.

The Headquarters staff are compelled to carry out all administrative and routine duties in two rooms and all books dispatched and received at Headquarters must pass through a room which serves the dual purpose of a book store for the County and a Lending Library for the city of Galway. Thus a city with a population of over 20,000 is almost completely deprived of the services which are an accepted part of a modern public library system. There are no facilities for reference or study, children are admitted on Friday afternoons only, and it is impossible to cater for the number of children who desire to use the library.

A city of the size and importance of Galway, deserves proper facilities for all who wish to make use of the library ; and the County requires a Headquarters with sufficient space for books and proper accommodation for the staff to deal with all the administrative and routine work involved in providing an efficient Library Service.

Branch Libraries :

(a) In addition to Headquarters which serves Galway City, part time Branch Libraries under the supervision of paid branch librarians are in operation at :—

Abbeyknockmoy, Athenry, Ballinasloe, Ballygar, Carraroe, Clifden, Dunmore, Glenamaddy, Headford, Killimor, Loughrea, Moylough, Oughterard, Portumna, Spiddal, Tuam, Woodford.

The Branch Libraries at Ballinasloe, Loughrea, and Tuam are open to the public for twenty hours per week. The other Branch Libraries open for ten hours each week.

Many of the Branch Libraries require better heating and lighting arrangements and in some large branches notably Ballinasloe, Tuam, and Loughrea floor covering is required to prevent damage to books from dust. Several branches need extra shelving and re-arrangement of shelves in order to improve supervision.

(b) Branch Libraries for the following places have been sanctioned by the County Manager, but are not yet in operation :—

Creggs, Currandulla, Gort, Kilronan, Kinvara, Menlough, Miltown and New Inn.

(c) Provision has been made in next year's estimates for Branch Libraries at Ahascragh, Clonbur, Craughwell, Kilrickle, Lettermore, and Moycullen.

The policy of renting accommodation for Branch Libraries in privately owned premises does not, in my opinion, tend to produce the best results and I would suggest that future policy should aim at acquiring accommodation in public buildings whenever such accommodation is available.

Co-operation with Neighbouring Counties :

In many instances Galway County has provided Branch Libraries in places such as Ballinasloe, Headford, Portumna which border on neighbouring counties, and it would appear that a considerable saving would result from co-operation between the counties of Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Tipperary and Clare if reciprocal arrangements for use of Branch Libraries could be made.

School Libraries :

It is not necessary for me to make a case for the provision of school libraries. The Library Association of Ireland which represents the views of Librarians all over Ireland presented a memorandum to the Minister for Education in 1954 asking him to subsidise the development of this very important aspect of the public library service. County Cork at present serves over 50% of its national schools and Limerick County serves about 50 of its 150 national schools.

In County Galway there are at present 19 Centres in Schools which are exclusively for the use of the pupils. The organization of a school library service would require the services of a trained children's librarian.

Transport :

The efficiency of any County Library Service may be measured by its success in " placing an adequate supply of books in all parts of the County where they invite use," and also by its ability to keep books in constant circulation throughout the County area.

I respectfully submit that distribution of books in boxes by hired transport is no longer sufficient if we are to attain the degree of efficiency demanded of a modern public Library Service.

Transport needs to be speedy and flexible, and should provide a personal link between the Headquarters and Branch Libraries, and where necessary between the Library and the individual reader.

The committee at its meeting in March requested me to submit a report on the possibility of providing a Mobile Library Service to certain areas of the County. The initial cost of providing a mobile library would be in the region of £1,500 and the annual running costs would be approximately £1,000 per annum for wages, petrol, maintenance, etc.

I do not propose to go into details now but would suggest that this is not an opportune time for the introduction of a mobile library service in County Galway. I think consideration of this idea should be deferred until new Headquarters are occupied and the present

programme relating to Branch Libraries has been carried out. When all the proposed Branch Libraries have been established we will be in a much better position to arrange a mobile library service to the remaining areas of scattered population.

I am of the opinion, however, that the County Library should possess its own system of transport in order to effect regular exchanges of books at Branches and Centres and to avoid book stocks becoming stagnant. A small van would be adequate for present purposes but keeping in mind that in future it will be necessary to provide direct service to certain areas by travelling library, and the fact that a considerable development in school libraries must take place, I would recommend that serious consideration be given to the purchase of a large van so designed as to permit of use for the following purposes:—

(a) Exhibition van for exchanges at Branches, Centres and Schools.

(b) Transport of furniture, fittings, etc.

(c) Travelling Library for direct service to the public.

Stocktaking 1954-1955 :

The annual Stocktaking at Headquarters was carried out on 29th, 30th, and 31st March, 1955, and the Headquarters branch was closed for this purpose.

Stocktaking of the 17 Branches was carried out by the Acting County Librarian and another member of the Headquarters staff, and at the same time deliveries of supplies receipt books, stationery, tickets, etc., for use in 1955/56 were made. Combining these deliveries with stocktaking visits resulted in a saving of staff time at Headquarters, and costs of carriage and postage on supplies.

The results of the stocktaking for the year 1953/54 showed that 2,036 books were missing at Headquarters and in 1954/55 Headquarters showed a deficiency of 1,963. It would appear that 73 books, not charged out to readers, were returned during the year 1954/55. Perhaps this is a good omen and I would make a particular appeal to all residents of the city and county to return any library books in their possession to the County Library Headquarters or their nearest branch library.

Cataloguing of Book Stock :

Arrangements have been made for cataloguing all non-fiction books added to stock from the 1st April, 1955, and for this purpose a large number of standard catalogue cards have been ordered. The form of catalogue to be used will be an Author and Classified Catalogue.

The ordinary stock card in use at present could by re-arrangement (alphabetical instead of by number) be made to serve as a catalogue for books of fiction and would, therefore, lighten considerably the great task of providing a complete catalogue of books in the County Library.

The work of cataloguing the very excellent reference and local collection at Headquarters is a task which requires special training in cataloguing and however desirable and essential this work is, it must be deferred until more trained personnel are available.

Binding and Worn out Books :

Towards the end of the last financial year some 5,000 books were examined and a decision made on their suitability for re-binding. Three thousand books were earmarked for withdrawal from stock and two thousand were prepared for dispatch to binders. At least another 5,000 books remain to be dealt with in a similar manner.

Statistical Abstracts :

The statistical tables at the end of this report are self explanatory, and I do not think any useful purpose would be served by dwelling on them at length in this part of the report. The abstract has been compiled on similar lines as in previous reports, with the addition of some financial and general statistics which may prove of some value to other library authorities as well as our own. Comparisons, however, should be made with caution, as for instance in the case of registered readers I have discontinued the practice of carrying forward figures from one year to the next.

I believe that some comment is necessary on the general question of presentation of statistics in the Annual Reports of Irish Libraries. The variety of methods in use in presenting Library Statistics instead of being useful to other Local Authorities and helpful to fellow librarians, tend to cause confusion if any attempt is made to compare results in one county with those in another. Our obvious need is an agreed statistics blank on the lines of that recommended by the Library Association (British).

Conclusion :

In concluding this report I should like to express my thanks to the members of the Libraries Committee for their advice and guidance and their kindly toleration at my first committee meeting. I wish to thank the County Manager, the County Secretary, and the County Accountant, and all the other officials who helped me over the hurdles. Finally, my best thanks to the staff of the County Library for their willing co-operation which made my task lighter, coming to Galway as I did at the close of a financial year.

Approved County Libraries Committee Minute No. 9/1955,
20/8/1955.

GENERAL STATISTICS

| | | |
|---|------------|--------------|
| 1. Population (1951) | 160,204 | |
| | 1953/54 | 1954/55 |
| 2. Ratable Valuation | £572,160 | £578,374 |
| 3. Product of 1d. in £ | £2,384 | £2,410 |
| 4. Expenditure per Head of Population | 1/1d. | 1/3d. |
| 5. Total Cost of Library Service (see Table 5) | £8,780/1/2 | £10,148/19/3 |
| 6. Number of Separate Establishments: | | |
| Headquarters | 1 | |
| Branches | 17 | |
| | — | 18 |
| Centres | 36 | |
| Schools | 19 | |
| | — | 55 |
| Total number of Service points in operation | 73 | 73 |
| 7. Number of Staff (Full Time): | | |
| Headquarters : | | |
| (a) Librarian & Assistants 6 (2M. 4F.) | | |
| (b) Clerk-Typist | 1 (F.) | |
| (c) Attendants | 1 (M.) | 8 |
| Branches (Part Time): | | |
| 5 (M.) | | |
| 12 (F.) | 17 | 17 |
| Total Paid Staff | 25 | 25 |
| 8. Book Stock : | | |
| (Totals) (see Table 3 for details) | 72,620 | 79,289 |
| Books added (see Table 1) | 4,873 | 7,569 |
| Books Withdrawn (Table 2) | 701 | 900 |
| 9. Number of Vols. per 100 Population | 45.3 | 49.5 |
| 10. Number of Issues per 100 Population | 172.6 | 154.3 |
| 11. Total Issues (see Table 4) | 276,503 | 247,124 |
| 12. Registered Readers* : | | |
| Adult | 5,154 | 4,650 |
| Juvenile | 1,231 | 6,385 |
| | | 1,450 |
| | | 6,100 |

*N.B.—Figures include only those readers registered during each of the years 1953/54 and 1954/55.

TABLE 1

BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARIES 1953/54 and 1954/55

| | 1953/1954 | 1954/1955 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| A General Works | 17 | 39 |
| B Philosophy | 27 | 35 |
| C Religion | 75 | 61 |
| D Social Science | 139 | 228 |
| E Languages | 11 | 3 |
| G Natural Science | 31 | 65 |
| H Useful Arts | 139 | 203 |
| K Fine Arts | 140 | 211 |
| L Literature | 493 | 122 |
| M History, Geography, Travels and Biography | 732 | 1,570 |
| F Adult Fiction | 2,795 | 3,400 |
| J Juvenile Books | 274 | 1,632 |
| TOTAL | 4,873 | 7,569 |

TABLE 2

BOOKS WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION 1953/54 and 1954/55

| | 1953/1954 | 1954/1955 |
|--|------------|------------|
| A General Works | — | 3 |
| B Philosophy | — | — |
| C Religion | 2 | 6 |
| D Social Science | 4 | 8 |
| E Languages | — | 1 |
| G Natural Science | 3 | 5 |
| H Useful Arts | 1 | 16 |
| K Fine Arts | 1 | 15 |
| L Literature | 12 | 30 |
| M History, Geography, Travels and Biography | 31 | 96 |
| F Adult Fiction | 456 | 538 |
| J Juvenile Books | 191 | 182 |
| TOTAL | 701 | 900 |

TABLE 3
BOOKS IN STOCK 1953/54 and 1954/55

| | | 31/3/54 | 31/3/55 |
|--------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| A | General Works | 1,615 | 1,651 |
| B | Philosophy | 340 | 375 |
| C | Religion | 1,599 | 1,654 |
| D | Social Science | 1,711 | 1,931 |
| E | Languages | 479 | 481 |
| G | Natural Sciences | 943 | 1,003 |
| H | Useful Arts | 2,809 | 2,996 |
| K | Fine Arts | 2,737 | 2,933 |
| L | Literature | 9,144 | 9,236 |
| M | History, Geography, Travels, and Biography | 10,120 | 11,594 |
| F | Fiction | 31,032 | 33,894 |
| J | Juvenile | 10,091 | 11,541 |
| TOTAL | | 72,620 | 79,289 |

SUMMARY OF BOOK ISSUES: HEADQUARTERS
& BRANCHES

TABLE 4
1953-1954

| Branch | Non-Fiction | Fiction | Juvenile | Total |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Headquarters | 28,416 | 86,847 | 18,143 | 133,406 |
| Abbeyknockmoy | 878 | 2,683 | 560 | 4,121 |
| Athenry | 1,359 | 4,154 | 867 | 6,380 |
| Ballinasloe | 2,466 | 16,309 | 3,444 | 22,219 |
| Ballygar | 1,045 | 3,192 | 667 | 4,904 |
| Carraroe | 1,124 | 3,435 | 717 | 5,276 |
| Dunmore | 2,000 | 6,114 | 1,277 | 9,391 |
| Clifden | 872 | 2,663 | 556 | 4,091 |
| Glenamaddy | 1,559 | 4,766 | 996 | 7,321 |
| Headford | 652 | 1,991 | 416 | 3,059 |
| Killimor | 1,004 | 3,069 | 642 | 4,715 |
| Loughrea | 3,104 | 9,486 | 1,982 | 14,572 |
| Moylough | 1,455 | 4,447 | 929 | 6,831 |
| Oughterard | 1,595 | 4,875 | 1,019 | 7,489 |
| Portumna | 2,133 | 6,520 | 1,362 | 10,016 |
| Spiddal | 1,830 | 5,593 | 1,169 | 8,592 |
| Tuam | 3,809 | 11,642 | 2,432 | 17,883 |
| Woodford | 1,329 | 4,061 | 848 | 6,238 |
| TOTALS | 56,630 | 181,847 | 38,026 | 276,503 |
| Percentages : | 20.5 | 65.8 | 13.7 | 100 |

TABLE 4
1954-1955

| Branch | Non-Fiction | Fiction | Juvenile | Total |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Headquarters | 14,509 | 69,545 | 14,966 | 99,020 |
| Abbeyknockmoy | 364 | 3,231 | 686 | 4,281 |
| Athenry | 336 | 1,949 | 602 | 2,887 |
| Ballinasloe | 7,084 | 16,324 | 2,044 | 25,452 |
| Ballygar | 2,166 | 7,210 | 2,538 | 11,914 |
| Carraroe | 941 | 2,424 | 357 | 3,722 |
| Clifden | 821 | 5,039 | 1,637 | 7,497 |
| Dunmore | 1,271 | 6,588 | 3,585 | 11,444 |
| Glenamaddy | 290 | 2,336 | 2,442 | 5,068 |
| Headford | 168 | 2,701 | 418 | 3,287 |
| Killimor | 480 | 2,807 | 906 | 4,193 |
| Loughrea | 1,358 | 5,517 | 2,099 | 8,974 |
| Moylough | 3,336 | 3,911 | 1,630 | 8,877 |
| Oughterard | 1,051 | 6,987 | 3,318 | 11,356 |
| Portumna | 546 | 5,290 | 3,167 | 9,003 |
| Spiddal | 588 | 2,860 | 781 | 4,229 |
| Tuam | 1,741 | 11,061 | 3,313 | 16,115 |
| Woodford | 504 | 7,070 | 2,231 | 9,805 |
| TOTALS | 37,554 | 162,850 | 46,720 | 247,124 |
| Percentages : | 15.2 | 65.9 | 18.9 | 100 |

Minutes of a Quarterly Meeting of the County Committee held on Wednesday, 14th December, 1955.

PRESENT:

Very Rev. Canon Glynn (Chairman); Co. Clr. Michael Carty; Thomas Clarke, Clr.; Co. Clr. R. Joyce; Co. Clr. J. Dowd; Clr. P. Flood; Co. Clr. P. Galvin; Co. Clr. S. Glynn; Co. Clr. T. King; Co. Clr. M. Kitt; Co. Clr. M. Mannion; S. Moraney, Esq. N.T.; F. Mullin, Esq., N.T.; Very Rev. Canon McDonough; J. J. Nestor, Esq.; T. O'Shea, Esq. N.T.; Co. Clr. M. Quinn; Clr. J. Riddell; Co. Clr. J. J. Ruane; L. O'Toole, Esq.

APOLOGY:

Letter received from the County Manager apologising for his absence.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

13/55 The minutes of the previous meeting were signed by the Chairman.

14/55 Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting a discussion took place on the "Mobile Library". The proposal of Mr. M. Kitt that a library-van be purchased was also discussed. Mr. Kitt withdrew his motion on the proposal of Mr. M. Carty.

15/55 The Acting Librarian read a letter from Galway Corporation requesting the Committee to consider the establishment of a branch library at the Lough House, Dominick Street. A report on the premises was submitted by the Acting Librarian. No discussion took place.

16/55 REPORTS: Headquarters, Branches

A report on progress since the last meeting was submitted to the Committee. On the proposal of Mr. Galvin, seconded by Mr. Kitt, the Committee expressed its thanks to the voluntary workers who saved the books during the recent fire at Ballinasloe Branch Library.

17/55 NEW BRANCHES:

The following new branches were approved for inclusion in the estimates for 1956 - 7:- Carna; ~~Cornamona~~; Eyrecourt; Leenane; Roundstone; Tullycross; Williamstown; and Kileconnell.

Proposed by Mr. Kitt and seconded by Mr. King that the Acting Librarian be "empowered to continue the work of opening the branches provided for in the estimates for the current year."

18/55 Mhol an t-Uasal Tadgh O Seaghda r un comhghairdeachais don Canóbach Mac Dhonnchadha, ar ocaid a cheapcain ag an Easbog Sar Oirmhedneach De Brun, chun an Cheibidil Ard Eaglasta. Chuidig an t-Uasal Sean Mac Fhleoin leis an run agus d'faon ghuth bhí an coiste rannphairteach sa run comhghairdeachais.

Minutes Nos. 13 - 18/1955 inclusive.

John W. Collins

PROGRESS REPORT

1.

HEADQUARTERS

Since the last meeting the hours of opening at the Headquarters branch have been extended on two evenings each week, Mondays and Fridays, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The results of this extension are most gratifying and there is a steady improvement in book issues according as this evening opening becomes more widely known. The numbers now using the Library between 7 - 9 p.m. on Fridays is approximately 80 persons, and total issues for Fridays, when the children's section is open have reached the figure of 850 books.

The total number of readers now using the Headquarters Branch Library is 2,050 and the figures for juvenile readers already show an increase of 30% over the total figure for last year. The number of children registered to date is 414 (increase of 106).

In the Annual Report for 1954/55 reference was made to arrangements for cataloguing all non-fiction books added to stock since 1st April, 1955. This work has been carried out and the catalogue which is an Author and Classified Card Catalogue is being compiled in accordance with the best modern practices. This catalogue will enable us to provide classified lists of books on various subjects contained in the County Library. I am happy to report that the work of classifying and re-arranging the entire book stock at the headquarters branch has now been completed. In order to undertake this work it was necessary in the first place to relieve pressure on shelf space at headquarters. This was achieved by withdrawing over 3,000 worn out books from circulation and by increasing the stocks of several branch libraries. The committee will appreciate the magnitude of this task when it is understood that every book required individual examination and the entire book stock required to be moved and re-arranged.

The actual number of books withdrawn from stock was 3260.
Books sent for re-binding 1780.
New books added to stock totalled 5915.

BRANCH LIBRARIES

There are now 20 branches in operation in various parts of the County. Two new branches were opened since the last meeting of the Committee, one at Kinvara on 7th November, 1955 and the other at Gort on 12th November, 1955. Three new Centres have been opened in schools at Crumlin Girls N.S., Ballyglunin, Garbally N.S., Menlough, Ballinacree, and Killeslan N.S., Castleblakeney. The branch at Creggs will be opened as soon as the County Engineer supplies the necessary shelving and fittings.

The new branches at Gort and Kinvara have been provided with a wide range of literature; both libraries are completely classified and the Gort branch has been provided with a classified catalogue. The work carried out recently at Headquarters has enabled us to make a comprehensive selection of books for the new branches and the charging system adopted will ensure that no duplication of stock will take place in future.

The total number of books sent to branches for the period 1st April, '55 to 30th November, 1955 was 13,447.

BALLINASLOE BRANCH

The fire which destroyed the greater part of the Workhouse Building at Ballinasloe on 2nd inst., was prevented from reaching the room occupied by the branch library. The books were removed to the Boys School by voluntary workers during the fire, but a large number of books have been badly damaged by water. The Library has since been transferred to a room in the Courthouse at Ballinasloe, and the books are being sorted and examined in order to estimate the damage. It will be necessary to find proper accommodation for the branch library at Ballinasloe, and I suggest that the problem would best be solved by adding an additional room to the new fire station to be erected there.

LOUGHREA BRANCH

We have received notice to vacate the Branch Library premises at the Temperance Hall, Loughrea, by 1st July, 1956. I have suggested the addition of a room to the proposed new County Council Offices there for use as a branch library. The present rent for premises at Loughrea would pay for the new room in about 7 years.

TUAM BRANCH

Approval for floor covering (lino) and re-arrangement of shelving, lighting etc. has been approved for this branch and when the work is carried out there supervision of readers will be improved considerably, and borrowers will be able to select their books under more comfortable conditions.

Galway County Council Archives

GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

Minutes of a Quarterly Meeting of the Libraries Committee held on Saturday 3rd March, 1956.

PRESENT

Clrs. J. Dowd; Peter Flood; P. Galvin; S. Glynn; M. Ua h-Uiginn; R. Joyce; T. Mac an Biogh; M. Kitt; M. Mannion; J. Moroney; F. Mullin; Rev. M. Canon McDonagh; J.J. Nestor; J. O'Connell; T. O'Shea; L. O'Toole; Martin Quinn; J. Riddell; J.J. Ruane.

19/55 CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

It was proposed by Mr. T. O'Shea, seconded by Clr. J. O'Connell and resolved that Councillor Sean Glynn be Chairman of the meeting.

20/55 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting, as circulated to each member, were signed by the chairman.

21/55 ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA

The committee decided on a show of hands (10 votes to 6). The proposal of Councillor M. Carty seconded by Mr. M. Higgins to recommend to the County Manager that a secondhand set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica on offer to the County Library, be purchased.

22/55 REPORTS

Arising from the report of the Acting County Librarian on Headquarters and Branch Libraries, Mr. Ruane proposed "that as a matter of general policy the Committee suggest to the County Manager that where public buildings, such as Fire Stations, Courthouses etc. are being erected throughout the county, that a special room be added to such buildings for library purposes. Mr. Higgins seconded the proposal.

23/55 RECOMMENDATIONS OF AN COMHAIRLE LEABHARLANNA

The committee approved in general of the proposals of An Comhairle Leabharlanna for the improvement of the Public Library Service but, considered the recommendation for the appointment of a 'Library Advisor' unsatisfactory in as much as the report does not detail the functions of the proposed Library Advisor, nor does it set out what qualifications are required for the position. On the proposal of Clr. J. O'Connell, seconded by Mr. T. O'Shea, the Acting Librarian was instructed to seek clarification of the recommendation relating to the appointment of a Library Advisor.

24/55 VOTES OF CONDOLENCE

Resolved that the Committee's sympathy be tendered to Most Rev. Dr. Philbin, Bishop of Clonfert in his recent bereavement; and also with Rev. Dr. Mooney, St. Jarlath's College, Tuam; with the relations of the late Mr. Davin, Parliamentary Secretary; and with the Acting County Librarian.

6th July 1956. *Patrick Glynn*

LEABHARLANNA CHONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

S. BOHAN
County Librarian
& Secretary

County Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
GALWAY.

28th June, 1956.

A Chara:

The Thirty-third Annual Meeting of the County Libraries Committee will be held on Friday 6th July, 1956, at the County Library Headquarters, Courthouse, Galway, at 5.00 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting is set out below. Enclosed please find a copy of the minutes of the last meeting.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Election of Chairman for the year 1956/1957.
3. Election of Vice Chairman for the year 1956/1957.
4. Branch Library Buildings: Loughrea & Ballinasloe.
5. Any other business.

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.

LEABHARLANNA CHONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

Minutes of 33rd Annual Meeting of County Libraries Committee
held on Friday 8th July, 1956.

PRESENT

Very Rev. P. Canon Glynn, Very Rev. M. Canon McDonagh,
Alderman Miss M.A. Ashe, Alderman F. Coogan, T.D., Co. Councillors,
M. Carty, J. Dowd, P. Galvin, S. Glynn, T. King, M. Mannion,
M. Quinn, M. Kitt, J.J. Ruane, Councillors, F. Breathnach,
J. Riddell, J.J. Nestor Esq., F. Mullin Esq., S. Moroney Esq.,
M.J. Higgins Esq., T. Clarke Esq., J. O'Connell Esq.

1/1956 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting as circulated
to each member be taken as read and that they be signed.

2/1956 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 1956/57

It was proposed by Alderman M.A. Ashe and seconded by F. Mullin
and resolved that Very Rev. P. Canon Glynn be re-Elected Chairman
of the Committee for the year 1956/57.

3/1956 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN 1956/57

It was proposed by Alderman M.A. Ashe and seconded by F. Mullin
and resolved that C. Co. M.F. Kitt, N.T. be re-Elected Vice
Chairman of the Committee for the year 1956/57.

4/1956 BRANCH LIBRARY AT BALLINASLOE

The provision of better Branch Library premises at Ballinasloe was
discussed by the Committee. It was proposed by C.Co. M. Kitt and
seconded by C. Co. M. Quinn and resolved that it be recommended to
the County Manager and County Council that a Branch Library similar
in size and cost to one for which a plan was circulated at the
Meeting be erected in Ballinasloe, the Urban Council of Ballinasloe
to be requested to present a free site for same to the Co. Council.

5/1956 LOUGHREA BRANCH LIBRARY

It was proposed by Co. Co. M. Carty, seconded by J.J. Ruane, and
resolved that the County Librarian be directed to enquire from the
County Manager as to what progress had been made in regard to the
inclusion of a new Branch Library premises in proposed Council
offices to be erected in Loughrea. A recommendation as to a new
separate building was postponed pending information on the proposed
County Council Offices.

6/1956 NEW BRANCHES

Arising from the Report of the County Librarian on progress in the
opening of new Branches in areas recommended by the Committee it
was proposed by T. Clarke, seconded by M.J. Higgins that the County
Librarian be directed to advertise for premises in all areas still
outstanding and that it be recommended to the County Manager that
Branches be opened in those areas where suitable premises are available
without delay.

7/1956 VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was resolved that the sympathy of the members of the Committee be
tendered to C. Co. Joyce on the death of his mother and to the relatives
of the late Mrs. Carpenter and Mrs. O'Rourke.

Signed: Michael F. Kitt.
18/10/56

LEABHARLANNA CHONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

HEADQUARTERS

Arrangements are now almost completed for the transfer of a number
of sections of the County Library Headquarters to the Woodcay premises
and a number of the staff will be taking up duty there as from the 1st
November. All work in connection with the issue and return of books
for Branches and Centres will be carried out there together with work
on old stock and worn out books and books for rebinding.

Alterations to the present Headquarters and City Branch are now in
progress and when completed will have the following results:

1. The provision of a separate Children's Library.
2. The provision of a Reference Department for public use.
3. The complete separation of the Galway City Branch from the County
Headquarters.
4. The provision of extra floor space for Borrowers.
5. The provision of additional Book Stacks.

The new books department will be retained at the present premises but
will operate independently of the Galway Branch.

These alterations were deemed necessary due to the continued increase
in the demand on the Galway City Branch. At present there are over 2,000
registered readers using the Branch. This number includes some 500 children.

17th October, 1956.

S. BOHAN
County Librarian

GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

County Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
Galway.

15th October, 1956.

A Chara:

Please note that the Library Committee meeting arranged for 11.0 a.m. on Thursday 18th has been changed to 1.30 p.m. on the same day.

Mise, le meas,

County Librarian

LEABHARLANNA CHONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

County Library Headquarters,
Courthouse,
Galway.

11th October, 1956.

A Chara:

A Meeting of the Galway County Libraries Committee will be held on Thursday 18th October, at 11.0 a.m. at the County Library Headquarters, Courthouse, Galway.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of previous Meeting (herewith). ✓
2. Quarterly Report of County Librarian (To be circulated at Meeting). ✓
3. Statistics for $\frac{1}{4}$ year ended 30th September (herewith) ✗
4. Branch Libraries. ✓
5. Any other business. ✓

To each member of the Committee.
To County Manager.
To Assistant County Manager.
To Acting County Secretary.
To Town Clerks of Galway and Ballinasloe.
To Editors of local newspapers.

LEABHARLANNA CHOMNDAE NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

Statistics for Half-year Ended 30th September, 1956,
with comparative figures for 1955.

BOOK ISSUES

| <u>Branch</u> | <u>1955</u> | <u>1956</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Headquarters | 45,223 | 54,421 |
| Abbeyknockmoy | 1,952 | 2,024 ✓ |
| Athenry | 1,545 | 1,954 ✓ |
| Ballinasloe | 9,496 | 12,316 ✓ |
| Ballygar | 5,547 | 4,197 |
| Carraroe | 2,453 | 3,413 |
| Clifden | 2,760 | 2,828 |
| Craughwell | -- | 783 |
| Creggs | -- | 1,989 |
| Dunmore | 3,898 | 4,191 ✓ |
| Glenamaddy | 1,342 | 123 (Reopened Sept.) ✓ |
| Gort | -- | 6,423 ✓ |
| Headford | 1,656 | 1,504 |
| Kinvara | -- | 2,698 |
| Killimor | 1,257 | 2,748 |
| Loughrea | 3,755 | 6,870 |
| Moylough | 521 | 2,388 ✓ |
| Oughterard | 3,768 | 2,798 |
| Portumna | 2,972 | 4,344 ✓ |
| Spiddal | 1,869 | 2,521 |
| Tuam | 6,688 | 7,305 ✓ |
| Woodford | 4,849 | 2,896 |
| TOTAL: | 99,331 | 150,734 |
| INCREASE over 1955: | | 31,403 |
| PERCENTAGE INCREASE: | | 32% |