

Galway County Libraries Committee

DRAFT Minutes

2 Feb 1952 - 1 Aug 1959

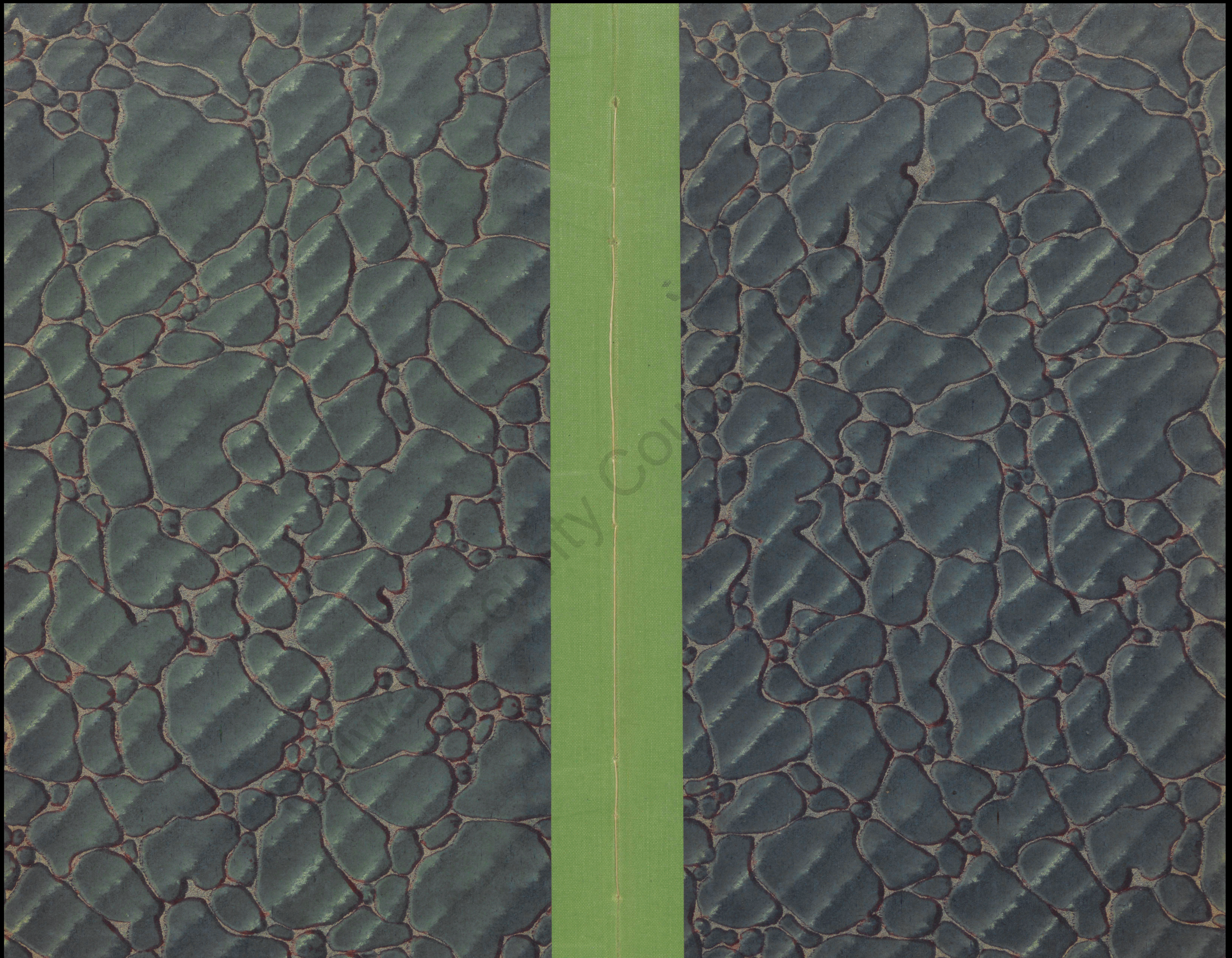
G01/5/4



C.C. BOOK E.

Arabic Manuscripts
~~Arabic Manuscripts~~ **BOOK**

E2628. 75Bks 5/50. B. & N. Ltd.



G01/5/4

Index

1. Quarterly meeting, 2nd February, 1952

Page 1

Galway County Council Archives

Quarterly Meeting held on Saturday, the 2nd day of February, 1952

Present:-	Apologies
Ashke, Miss	P.
Barty, Mr	P.
Cunningham, J.F.	P.
Donnellan, Sean	P.
Gabris, P.T.	
Glynn, Canon	P.
" , Sean	P.
Gohery, Mr.	P.
Haban, J.	P.
King, T.	P.
Kitt, Mr.F.	P.
McDonough, Rev.M.	P.
McElhinney, J.	P.
Murphy, J.	P.
Mullen, F.	P.
O'Connell, J. A.	P.
O'Connor, James, Ballymoe	P.
O'Connor, Thomas, Galway	P.
O'Shea, T.	P.
Owens, J.	P.
Quinn, Mr	P.
Ruane, J. J.	P.

Apologies:-

In Attendance.

L. J. O'Shea

246. Minutes of the last meeting:-

247. Donations:-

Donor	Nature of Donation
United States Government	(1) New York Times (Paris Edition) - Daily (2) New York Herald Tribune (" ") - " (3) America Youth - Weekly Periodical (4) The Heavenly Tenants, by William Maxwell (5) Junior Review - Weekly Periodical (6) In Quest of Peace and Security: American Foreign Policy.
First Church Christian Scientists, Dublin.	(1) Christian Science Monitor - Weekly
Governors of India	(1) Indian News - Weekly
Allied Ironfounders, Ltd., Waterford	(1) Waterford at Work. illus.
William F. O'Neil.	(1) A Plague of Bureaucrats: a Study of Irishmen - pamphlet
Dr. Mackay, Sun Laghairc	(1) Life of Thomas Moore, by the donor (2) Excerpts from ms. written by Roger Casement in the condemned cell in Pentonville Prison, by the Rev. James McCarroll. - Pamphlet
The Hon. Douglas Storey, Alexandria, Egypt.	(1) History of the O'Briens, by the donor.
Delight Rev. the Bishop of Menorca.	(1) Menorca Diocesan Yearbook, 1952
The County Librarian	(1) Exhibition of Books (1951) - Festival of Books

Thanks

248.

Reports:-

The Library Association of Ireland :-

Paragraphs (1)

Paragraph (2)

Paragraph (3)

Paragraph (4)

Galway County Council Archives

Headquarters :-

(1) Dispatches to Branches since last meeting.	2,455	
(2) " " Centres " " " " " "	783	Total 3,238
(3) General Works issued to Readers	997	
Fiction " " " " " "	1,916	
Juvenile " " " " " "	325	
Total issues		3,238

Maylough and Woodford Branch Libraries are now in operation.

Summary of Issues

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	8,763	13,981	4,025	26,769
Ballinacree	976	2,140	224	3,340
Loughrea	458	1,919	219	2,596
Inam	746	2,018	162	2,926
Glenamaddy	496	699	192	1,387
Spiddie	217	595	188	1,000
Portlanna	122	1,179	211	1,512
Oughtrasna	79	471	129	679
Maylough	49	139	81	269
Centres				
Woodford	861	14,246	5,102	20,209
Totals	12,767	27,387	10,533	60,687

Provision for a Branch Library for the City of Galway :-

Previous efforts abortive

The ingenuity and enterprise of all have been ^{so thwarted} ~~frustrated~~ that it seems to be taken for granted that a Branch Library for the City of Galway is impossible under what has been described as manifold difficulties. At meeting after meeting the Headquarters' situation — the congestion, the dual service to County and City with all its concomitants of inadequate supervision, due to lay-out and the factors which make separate stocks common to both — have been discussed. In most of the discussions the provision of an Art Gallery and Museum was attached to the subject of a Branch Library for the City. It is a constant bottleneck! The President of the Library Association has stated that there is unmistakable proof that in the last few years it has become fixed so firmly in the public mind the conception of libraries as necessary tools of living that despite the present economic difficulties, there can be no thought of recession, but instead a realistic understanding that in times of stress and limitations good libraries are much more, and not less, necessary.

The problem 1911/1915

Due regard must be paid to the character and purpose of a County Library Headquarters and particularly to the unique position of Galway. It was agreed in 1934, when Galway had a population of approximately 18,000, to allow the people of the City to use the County Library Headquarters, pending the provision in a reasonable time ^{for} of municipal buildings including a Branch Library. Note the words: "a reasonable time!" After 18 years with Galway's population increased at 22,000 and a relatively higher increase in the valuation of the City shell remains without municipal buildings, Branch Library, Art Gallery or Museum. ~~What comparison shows~~ "If", in the words of Virgil, "it is allowable to compare small things with great," let one glance at three other Counties: - Wexford, Cork and Limerick. Each of these Counties has in their respective County towns a municipal library maintained solely by the municipality. It will be argued that

these towns are county boroughs. Granted! but Galway with its 22,000 of population is the next largest town in the country. As already pointed out the problems arising through the use of the county library Headquarters as a city library are increasing.

Leave out
everything but
Branch library

The only solution, therefore, is to consider the matter of a Branch library by itself. Even temporary suitable premises for this purpose should be again sought for. The acquisition of such premises while not the ideal is really ~~rather~~ ^{very} urgent.

Problem of the
children's library

The Headquarters is meant to be the principal store - a large book-pool from which branches can be constantly refreshed and augmented. As already stated, population conditions in Galway have during the past fifteen years altered materially. New housing schemes have sprung up and the density of population is no longer what it was. The reading habit has increased, and the tension on the facilities: space, equipment, supervision, etc. at Headquarters has increased and is increasing more than relatively. The day of the corner of a room set aside for two and a half hours a week for children is totally inadequate, apart not only from the fact that the presence of large numbers of children are a nuisance. In justice, by their sheer numbers they are entitled to adequate provision quite as much as adults. Children should be supplied with a room specially planned for their use: light, airy, attractively decorated, with low book-cases, display features, comfortable chairs and tables of suitable heights for younger as well as for older children.

It is, therefore, necessary to review library policy. More determined attempts must be made in the light of experience to achieve a branch library service for the city of Galway which shall meet, even in a limited way, the requirements of the present day. Such achievement will not only ease the storage problem at Headquarters, but will be a more efficient agency for the distribution of books. No other policy will lead to a higher standard of efficiency.

Adjourned - Irish Lib. Assoc. and
Branch library for City

Col. Joyce's house

Shaw Request

Council Archives

The Shaw Request :-

Library Centre
Manager Col. Joyce

Mr. Edward Griffin :-

to increase Griffin's
ask Council manager for next budget
Prof. Mr. Glynn. Recy, personal basis.

Killimor Branch: Notice of Motion - Councillor Learty :- W

Moved by Learty.

No further branch librons after Killimor.

Granted.

Galway County Council Archives

Censorship of Publications Act - List of Books, Memorandum No. 245

Junctions : Advisory Committee
Publication
Book Selection Committee.

Patrick O'Connell. Get press report.

Ref. & Reading Room in Headquarters
What use valuable books at present in ?
Shelving in private office allowed.

(1) Get new premises, lending, reference room, buy more
of specialised nature, desks & opening at night

(2) One or two other branches reference rooms at

Manager again Col Joyce's house.

J.P. Birmingham :-

Barry - how preserve balance secondly Patrick O'Connell

Chairman agrees with Mr. O'Connell

Palace

Book books in Glenamaddy.

Bournemouth Conference :-

Note J. Hoff by myself

Loughrea - Sweeping & cleaning Carelaker requires.

Estimates:-

Laughrea branch :-

Galway County Council Archives

Quarterly Meeting, Saturday, 26th April, 1952

Present:-

Ashes, Alderman Miss M.A., Co. L.			
Barty, M., Co. L.	Present	1	1
Bunningham, J.J., Co. L.	Present	2	not up
Donnellan, Sean	Present	3	1
Galvin, P.T.			
Glynn, Canon			
do, Sean, Co. L.	Present	4	1
Hahery, M.	Present	5	1
Hoban, J.	Present	6	1
King, T., Co. L.	Present	7	1
Kitt, M. F., Co. L.	Present	8	1
McDonough, Rev. M.			
McElhinney, J.			
Moraney, J.	Present	9	1
Mullan, F.	Present	10	
O'Connell, James A.			
O'Connor, James, Co. L.	Present	11	1
O'Connor, Thomas, Corporation			
O'Shea, T.	Present	12	
Ovens, J., Alderman	Present		
Quinn, M., Co. L.	Present	13	1
Ruane, J.J., Co. L.	Present	14	1

Apologies:

In Attendance:

256 Chairman of Meeting: - Tadhg O'Shea & Subsequent J. J. Cunningham, Co. L. Vice-Chairman

258 Minutes:- Signed

Donations:-

- The Library Council, Dublin
- The Central Catholic Library, Dublin
- Comms of the Holy Child Jesus, Dublin
- B.O. Sullivan, Esq., Secretary,
- Connemara Pony Breeders' Society
- U.S.A. Government Information Service, Dublin

Letter of Donation

- Annual Report, 1950-51
- 29th Annual Report, 1951-52
- The Lyle: a Missionary Magazine
- Study Books (various)
- New York Times - Paris Edition
- New York Herald Tribune - do
- Literature of the USA vol. 1
- Western Star, by Stephen Minors Best
- This is America
- Comptrol Reports - U.S.A.
- Steelmaking in America
- This America

Thanks

Reports:-

The County Manager has agreed to the establishment of a Branch Library at Ballygar.

The shelving and equipment for the Killemar and Carrage Branches are under construction, and it is expected to have them in operation within a month.

The Athlone Branch will be re-opened on Thursday next, the 1st May.

Premises offered in Healdford for use as a Branch Library are being considered by the County Manager.

The search for suitable premises in Clifden continues. Several places have been inspected and it is hoped to secure a place soon.

The troubles engendered through dampness and inadequate heating at the Loughrea Branch have been resolved.

Dampness has shown itself in the Tuam Branch where the heating has been found to be inadequate. As the fate of the Palace - recently acquired by the County Council - remains undecided it is to be presumed that nothing may be done to the Branch in the Town Hall until we hear from the County Council on the future of the Palace.

Lighting has been installed in the Spiddal Branch but so far no heating has been made available. The subject is, however, being kept in mind.

The Survey of the whole County Library Service for the Library Council will begin on the 9th June when the two Surveyors will visit the County Headquarters and Branches. The co-operation of the members of the Committee will be appreciated.

The figures, so far available, showing the issue of books for home reading are:-

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	9,201	14,679	4,226	28,106
Ballenestoe	992	2,247	237	3,476
Loughrea	589	2,014	232	2,835
Tuam	783	2,119	301	3,203
Glenamaddy	501	734	207	1,442
Spiddal	128	644	226	998
Portlanna	229	1,760	231	2,220
Drightford	91	599	135	825
Moyleough	57	521	97	675
Centres	917	15,369	5,253	21,539
Totals	13,488	40,686	11,145	65,319

Raise the standard

A tendency has shown itself, particularly in the larger centres, for a voracious demand for ephemeral fiction. On the other hand in the smaller ^{Branches} centres and in the rural centres in schools, clubs and village halls the standard of reading, especially of serious literature, remains comparatively high.

The Portlanna Branch readers have written, *inter alia*, congratulating this Committee (and incidentally myself) "for the provision of healthy and entertaining nourishment for the minds of the children of Portlanna... a wide range of the best available books, for the juvenile section, has been provided where the children of all ages will find reading, that will both instruct and amuse at the same time.

The importance of such a step cannot be over-emphasised, in view of the alarming increasing circulation of "comics." In these so-called children's papers, false and pagan values of life are set out, the hero is a kind of Superman, whose superiority consists in brute force and cunning; religion is ridiculed, and finally, perverted and lust are paraded as

here. . . We beg therefore, every librarian in our country to see to it, that in the juvenile department, children and teenagers are provided with an abundance of sound, educative and at the same time attractive books."

If the county librarian would be very pleased to recommend to his committee the purchase of any book for which there is a demand. The committee is helpful and ready to serve. Public libraries are meant to be used. That is their purpose; and a wealth of interest and amusement lies on the book shelves for those who care to seek it. In general, our books are only allowed out on loan to ratepayers but the reference books in the county Headquarters and Branches are open to readers. They are made welcome amongst the numerous encyclopaedias, the many volumes on Biography, directories, year-books, etc. A visit to the Headquarters or any of its Branches can be an education in itself. So when any reader wants information of any subject, whether it be home carpentry or wood affairs, he should go first to his local Branch. Before going any further afield in his search, he should ask the help of his librarian. All should feel encouraged to make full use of the facilities offered by the local public library.

Prof. Blarney
Sec. J. Morris

The Local Government Auditor has drawn your county librarian's attention to Regulation No. 6. This will require after the word "detained" on line 12 of page 2, the addition: "including the cost of the notice or notices and of the ^{cost of the} postage involved. County readers may be allowed to retain books for 4 weeks."

The services of the book selection committee may not be called on until the books purchased last financial year have been distributed. This work is hoped to have completed in about a month. Lists of new books and reprints are in course of preparation and will be supplied the members in due course.

Conf. Sec. on
Report to
County Lib. J. Morris

The Library Association of Ireland:

The Association is now a Chartered Body and as such is the only organization empowered to speak on behalf of the Library Profession. Today almost anyone can be a library member and there are few restrictions on the borrowing of books. Many of the changes which the public library has undergone are due to the yearly meetings held by the Library Association of Ireland. At these Conferences librarians and representatives of library authorities gather to exchange ideas on services being offered and those to be offered. Since its formation hundreds of ideas have been brought up at the Association for discussion, experimented with, and either discarded or used. The progress made in the libraries of Ireland attests to the value of the organization.

(1) Prop. W. Hitt Dept. Educ.
Sec. J. Hoban Hospital Trust

(2)

See University re Stokes who has done thesis on place names of Kilmarnock.
Father Keefhan, Maynooth

Quarterly Meeting, Saturday, 20th July, 1952

Present :-

Ashe, Alderman M.A.	P	
Barty, Michael, bob.	P	T.E. Complete
Birmingham, J.J. (Vice-Chairman), bob.	P	T.E. Complete
Donnellan, Sean	P	T.E. Complete
Edwin, P.T., bob.	P	T.E. Complete
Glynn, Canon	P	
Glynn, Sean, bob.	P	T.E. Complete
Gohery, Michael	P	T.E. Complete
Hoban, J.	P	T.E. Complete
King, T., bob.	P	T.E. Complete
Kitt, W.F., bob.	P	T.E. Complete
McDonough, Rev. M.	P	
McSherry, J.	A	
Murray, J.	A	
Mullen, F.	P	T.E. Complete
O'Connell, Jack	P	T.E. Complete
O'Connell, James, bob.	A	
O'Connell, Thomas, Galloway, Galloway	A	
O'Shea, T.	P	T.E. Complete
Owens, Alderman J.	A	
Quinn, M., bob.	P	T.E. Complete
Quinn, J.J., bob.	P	T.E. Complete

19

Absent :-

In Attendance:

Chairman 1951/53 Canon Glynn
 Prop. M. Quinn
 Sec. J. Hoban

Vice-Chairman J.J. Birmingham
 Prop. J. Hoban
 Sec. T. O'Shea

Minutes :-

- Donations :-
- (1) Donegal County Library
 - (2) J. Behington, Esq., Chief Librarian, Belfast
 - (3) U.S.A. Government Information Service, Dublin
- Annual Report, 1951-52
- The Northern Ireland Library Service
 - (1) New York Times
 - (2) New York Herald Tribune
 - (3) 12 copies of pamphlets: The Spens of '76
 - (4) The Vegetable Growing Business: book
 - (5) Diseases & Health of Parasites
 - (6) Study Guide for Vegetable Crops - pamphlet
 - (7) Mr. J.J. Waldron - copy of the Trianon Pioneers' Annals

Harkins

Reports:

Messrs. Wms Graf-Verlag, of Bern, who produced the facsimile edition of the Book of Kells are now producing, in the same careful manner, a collection of Irish manuscripts which, from early medieval times, have been in the possession of the Foundation Library in St. Gall, Switzerland. These miniatures have frequently been quoted in literature, but up till now have been reproduced only in black and very unsatisfactorily.

The famous Evangelist codex Langallensis No. 51 will be the central attraction of the edition. It is intended to reproduce in colour from this all 12 full-page miniature and initial pages, as well as characteristic text pages, also the 3 miniature pages from volume codex 1395 which combines the fragments of various Irish manuscripts, and 2 pages from codex 60. A number of black plates will provide further additions which, in fact, have never been published. Contrary to the edition of the Book of Kells it is not the intention to reproduce the whole of codex 51 text as its script is uniform.

The "libri sceltici scripti", a term applied to Irish manuscripts, dating back to the beginning of the 9th century, of the St. Gall monastery are of the greatest importance. They are not only important as historical documents but also because of their value as works of historical art. Somewhat less profuse than the Book of Kells, but endowed with far greater care, codex 51 contains portrayals which are not to be found in the Book of Kells - a miniature of the Crucifixion and the day of the last judgment. ^{On the other hand,} for the Book of Kells there are a portrayal of the Virgin ^{and} the Temptation and the seizure of Jesus Christ, and the canon plates, which are absent in the St. Gall codex.

The pages are excellent examples of pure Irish style, related to other insular manuscripts, and yet they have their own strong personal characteristics. It is not known whether they were made in Ireland and brought complete to St. Gall, or whether they were made by Irish monks themselves in St. Gall. The two pages from codex 60 are presumed to be continental work based on Irish originals.

Historical interest is no less great. Because of the Aleman immigration (a warlike confederacy of several German tribes which at one time extended their dominions from the Danube to the Alps) the neighbourhood round

the lake of Constance again became practically converted to paganism. This region was not reconverted to Christianity by Rome but by St. Columbanus and his 12 companions. In 590 the Irish saint landed in Brittany, ^{he moved across} ~~forward~~ across Europe ^{founding monasteries} to Italy, where he ^{established} ~~founded~~ the monastery of Bobbio. Gallus, one of his companions, remained behind as a hermit in the Steinach valley, known at that time as a wild district. ^(today) ~~where~~ ^{both} ~~the~~ ^{monastery and town are situated,} and which bear his name.

The St. Gall manuscripts do not date back to this mission, from which nothing has survived in Ireland itself, or in Luxeuil or Bobbio. They are, as a matter of fact, evidence of the fully-developed Irish style of the 8th century, a clear proof that relations between Aleman and Ireland still remained active for many generations. Actually, in the annals ^{of the} ~~of~~ St. Gall monastery, learned monks with Irish names are recorded up to the 10th century.

The introduction of the facsimile edition is by Dr. J. Duft, the librarian of the foundation, who gives an account of the history of the published manuscripts, as far as it can be traced back. The historical and artistic description, and the interpretation of the pages has been given to Professor Peter Meyer, who has already written the historical introduction to the Book of Kells.

A very full description, by Father Hogan, ~~of the~~ ^{the} ~~monastery and library of~~ St. Gall may be read in vol. 21 (1894) in The Irish Ecclesiastical Record.

The County Manager has made an order for the payment of £30 for the facsimile of the codices.

Your County Librarian attended the inaugural meeting on "An Tostal". You will have already read ^{of} the aims and object of the scheme. This is an opportunity which this library ^{thoroughly} ~~thoroughly~~ ^{should} ~~should~~ ^{be} ~~be~~ ^{available} ~~available~~ ^{to} ~~to~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{people} ~~people~~. These entertainments, distributions of films, the puppets and comics ^{all these} ~~all these~~ things make the reading of an honest book an act of extreme reaction. To combat "the heathen who would minimize books," An Tostal gives this authority an opportunity to recruit other "believers" and to participate fully in all phases of adult education. The committee should undertake a broad public relations programme of exhibitions and lectures during the 14 days of the Festival to acquaint the public with the aims and services of the Library, and should study further the library functions that could be carried out by the State and Local Government.

Approved

An Tostal
Adjuin

Rep. to the County Council

There is quite a demand for library services throughout the County. 10 branches are in operation at the moment; the Shelburne and equipment for branches at Carraroe, Abbeyknockmoy, Kilmor and Ballygar are under construction; requests for suitable premises at Blifden and Bawn have been advertised; and the Dunmore Town Development Committee have offered a large room in the Town Hall for use as a branch library provided that the scheme be put in operation for the coming winter.

See Charles's letter

See J J Cunningham's letter.

Headmaster O'Connell

All books are not capable of exerting any appreciable influence upon

those who read them, but some books can exercise some influence, however, intangible, however insubstantial.

It is the responsibility of librarians and library authorities to help to make books a living force in the world of today.

Librarians share the responsibility, also with teachers, writers, speakers, and all who are, in their varied spheres of influence, leaders of thought and action.

Unless these are themselves aware of books and communicate that awareness, their own endeavours are bound to be limited and often sterile.

The librarian, therefore, strives to provide the maximum variety of materials appropriate to the varying degrees of ability and willingness that will be found in any community.

In fine, he tries to give each man the best he is willing to take. Some books can help a man to be himself, others encourage him to avoid taking the necessary trouble.

It by no means follows that having formulated our standard attainment is immediate. The apathy and lack of understanding of a public not yet educated to expect, demand and use a full service, must be overcome.

June's

The question of fines is based on the idea of a period judge sufficient for the reading of a book - fourteen days. One must agree that such a period should be sufficient for the majority of readers and for the majority of books they borrow. Every encouragement is given students and readers of more serious works to renew their books. It must be maintained that we have a duty to the community to prevent the selfish use of libraries, to prevent readers taking out unlimited quantities of books (customers in America) and keeping them for unlimited periods of time. Clearly no library service could operate economically if such abuses were widespread. You will notice on

Passed

page 3 of the Minutes of the last meeting that, on the recommendation of the Local Government Auditor, that the cost of notices or notices sent of the cost of the stamps incurred, be added to the fine. This will work out at 5^d per week per book overdue. I now ask you to formally authorize this change.

Guarantee...

Ratepayers here complained to me that in no other public library have they been asked to obtain the guarantee of another ratepayer. (Regulation 1).

Here

Quote letter including name

Library Survey

The survey of the libraries was carried out by the Library Council's two surveyors - Messrs. T. Dowling and D. Foley. Branches and libraries were surveyed, readers and other interested in libraries were interviewed, and the survey, which opened on the 9th June was completed on the 21st June last.

Cost per Head of the population

Some comparative figures for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have come to hand on the cost per head of the population for library purposes:-

Northern Ireland		The Republic	
Antrim	1/8 ^d	Down	9.75 ^d
Armagh	1/5 ^d	Cork	1/0.7 ^d
Londonderry	1/8 ^{3/4} ^d	Galway	1/3.4 ^d
Carlow	1/1.7 ^d		
Down	8.2 ^d		
Waterford	2/3		
Lis	11 ^d		
Offaly	1/3.57		
Sligo	1/1		
Louth	1/1.7 ^d		
Meath	1/7.9 ^d		
Kildenny	1/1.5 ^d		
Caran	8.5 ^d		

Enter no numbers

E. Griffin (9)

The County Manager has asked for and has received a reply relative to Mr. E. Griffin's duties. He has asked that only those duties within his classification be carried out by him.

Ashe: Prop. Kitt
at Longford & Kesh
be early
Minned the Dept of the Minister

Defacing and cutting of books: It is with regret I have to report the cutting out of plates and other illustrations from books on boxing, soccer and rugby football - in fact, from practically all books on sports and pastimes.

Glenamaddy
Duchmanor + Irish Eye

To send on notice of motion

Co. Councillor Birmingham's (R) letter: I have received several ~~unpleasant~~ recommendations from Co. Councillor Birmingham, viz., that sanction be given for Branch libraries at:

- (1) Kesherrin - 4 1/2 miles from Glenamaddy; and
- (2) Breggs - 8 miles from Ballygry and Glenamaddy

(11) Statistics:-

Statistics:-	Non-fiction	Fiction	Periodicals	Total
Headquarters	9,295	14,836	4,269	28,400
Ballinacree	1,103	2,269	244	3,616
Loughrea	596	2,035	235	2,866
Tuam	792	2,142	310	3,244
Glenamaddy	511	743	215	1,469
Spiddal	137	651	233	1,021
Portlanna	236	1,783	244	2,263
Oughtrasna	101	605	146	852
Moylough	68	630	105	803
Ashenny	51	471	67	589
Westport	72	588	112	772
Centres	736	12,297	4,203	17,236
Totals	13,698	39,050	10,383	63,131

Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland. The County Manager has approved of the attendance of the County Librarian at the Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland to be held in Dublin from the 29th September to the 3rd October next.

Quarterly Meeting, Saturday, 13th September, 1952

Present:-

Aske,	Present
Bailey,	Present
Birmingham, J. J.	Present
Connellan,	Apology
Galvin,	Present
Glynn, Canon	Apology
Glynn, Sean	Present
Galvey,	Present
Hogan	Present
King	Present
Kitt	Present
McDonough	Apology
McDonogh	Present
Willa	Present
O'Connell	Present
O'Connor, James	
O'Connor, Thomas	
O'Shea	Apology
Owen	
Quinn	Present
Ryan	Present

Apologies:-

In attendance

Minutes:-

Read

Donations:-

Thanks

Galway County Council Archives

Reports:-

Comics

②

It is indeed almost a compliment to describe them as literature. Perhaps the horrid word comics is all they deserve. There is a considerable amount of sympathy with those who seek to stop the publication and circulation in this country of American-style comics. These papers are crude, amoral where not actually immoral, and thoroughly low-Irish. They glorify violence and appeal to the latent sadism which is more common among young people than is generally realised. The remedy should be a positive one and not a negative one. Children can and do appreciate what is appropriate to their age, exciting and colourful. Their attention can and should be directed to suitable reading matter.

The ideal children's library is not one which offers a full collection of books on this or that specialised subject, but one which covers the widest possible range of interests. It should be possible for a boy or a girl to find an authoritative yet readable treatment of any sphere of human activity in which he or she may be for the moment interested. The chances are that the interest in the more obscure and removed branches of study will be a passing one, but it must be met, for youth is a time of dipping, tasting, trying. And there is always the chance that what has begun as a passing fancy, stimulated by a documentary film seen or a radio programme heard or a book read may develop into a lasting hobby or even a life-long profession.

The chances are that the interest in the more obscure and removed branches of study will be a passing one, but it must be met, for youth is a time of dipping, tasting, trying. And there is always the chance that what has begun as a passing fancy, stimulated by a documentary film seen or a radio programme heard or a book read may develop into a lasting hobby or even a life-long profession.

Books bring new friends, new experiences, new horizons, but best of all - reading is fun. Learning to love books and enjoy them is an important part of childhood, and the development of the habit of reading can be an ever increasing source of happiness to boys and girls as they grow up. While educationalists today are recognizing more and more the value of books, it is to be regretted that there are few school and classroom library collections available for our children. The Galway County Library Service is willing to

provide such collections. These supplementary books could help teachers to intensify classroom work, and enlarge fields of study, and they would also give children a medium through which to carry their lessons into their everyday experiences and interests. Children nurtured by an early love of books have finer and more sensitive minds and imaginations, and their study in later years is always more rewarding.

People are reading more, but whether much of the reading done is of profit to readers is a most ~~serious~~ question. There is no doubt that a large proportion of the ^{huge} production of the books that pour from the publishers is of little quality, and is more a distraction than an inspiration, and certainly of no educational or informative value. The want of inspiration in our educational authorities, which lays so little emphasis on good reading, is to an extent responsible for the common uncritical attitude.

"A sound educational system must be based upon the great means of human intercourse - human speech in spoken and written word."

While such time as youngsters get a training in reading and in the art of using books and reference tools, we cannot hope to see anything but a general tendency towards mediocrity. A solution is to be found if the educational authorities would attach greater importance to libraries in schools. The time is ripe for the holding of a review of our educational system; the subject is one big enough for a State Commission to deal with. The powers that be, however, seem to be so strongly entrenched that only a revolution can shift them. We are up against the shockingly bad tradition of following the routine.

Introduction:

Miss Florence Horsburgh, British Minister of Education, in a foreword to The School Library (published by N.M.S.O.) writes: - "It may be said of books, even more truly than of films and broadcasts, that they are 'the golden key' that opens the enchanted door." The pamphlet continues: "Boys and girls want books of quality and substance to match the growths of their own powers and their own imagination. Homes and friends can be of help, and so can public and county libraries, but school libraries can help most of all. . . . The reading problem is confined to no particular kind of school and no school is exempt from the responsibility of facing it. The importance of books in our civilization is such that it is the duty of every school to make sure that, whatever else a pupil learns, he learns to make the fullest use of books to the extent that his age and abilities allow. . . . A start cannot be made too soon in order that children may grow up with the companionship of books as far back as they can remember. . . . While the teacher is glad to have every possible help from sources outside the school he cannot delegate to them an educational responsibility. He is concerned to turn his pupils into good readers; for this purpose he must have as his instruments a library in which the books are deliberately selected and include every kind of book that he believes will further his efforts."

Conclusions (1)

A child's taste tends to be crude and robust. There is need for good literary style and some attempt at characterization. Authors and publishers should be as careful of accuracy in children's books as they are in adult books. They should realize that children are interested in non-fiction without the addition of a story complete with plot and characters.

From observations made in Great Britain it has been found that films of the classics, and broadcast serializations, do lead more people to the books. Examples are: Oliver Twist, Voltaire's The English House at Arlington, Les Misérables, Sale of Sir John, Tom Brown's

Schoolboys, and The Ken Jeki Expedition. It is claimed that broadcasts seem to have more effect than films. Naturally, librarians take advantage of ^{such} publicity where they can.

Almost all the great novelists are long-undervalued by modern standards. The changed tempo of living threatens to make obsolete most of the books hitherto regarded as immortal.

Books are costing roughly 33 per cent more than they were two years ago. It appears to most librarians that many of the large increases are unjustified. There has been a falling off in standards. Cloth substitutes are used instead of cloth; sections are frequently bound in wrong order or duplicated; and books have been received with some pages or complete blank. The public librarian is a public servant and as such his first duty is to his public who are both readers and ratepayers. He expects in turn that readers and ratepayers will co-operate in preserving their own property, in as good a condition as they would their houses or their clothes. The physical life of a book today is short. If books, for example, in the children's department endure for a year they have done well. Rebinding might make them last for two years, but stacks of children's books require to be renewed every two years.

Enquiries relative to a section in the reference department - Local History - is small in its number of volumes in relation to the whole stock of the library, and in some ways outside its scope, readers may be assured that it contains many essential books for serious readers and is an integral part of the library.

③ Memorandum

Travelling
(Mobile) Librarians

Everyone has long held the view that the countryman is entitled to just as good a library service as the urban dweller, and to some librarians the only hope of giving it to him lies in considerable development of the use of mobile libraries jointly with state branch libraries.

Went & published

based on the region.

Having the size of three average counties,

Galway, a western county, is the second largest county in Ireland, and comprises an area of 1,510,592 acres of which 476,957 are bog and mountain, and 77,922 are under water. The population is Lough Corrib divides the county into two unequal parts, which differ very considerably from each other in several important points: the eastern is, for the most part fertile, and comparatively level; and the western is rugged, mountainous, and barren. The sparsely populated condition of the county, with its large tracts of lake, mountain and bog, and the agricultural pursuits of the bulk of the inhabitants, have dictated the nature and limitations of the library provisions in the area. Population groups are situated quite long distances apart and a route from headquarters to inspect the most distant branch involves a round trip of approximately 110 miles.

The history of the development of branch libraries is not complete or difficult to understand since as the County Galway library movement grew, ^{first-} branch libraries, an important part of the movement, also grew. Some areas, Ballinacree, Loughrea and Tuam, were in the van, others followed later and the rest are being brought into a communal service, as necessary as are schools, clinics or fire-services for common benefit. Unlike comparable regions, the time was not opportune for the building up and development of libraries, and neither was the degree of public recognition of libraries far enough advanced. The years from 1910 onward, however, have seen more growth of branch libraries in the county, than in all previous years.

Problems of administration and organization, already serious enough as a result of the sheer size of the area, now require review. A policy of providing part-time branch libraries (not to be confused with library centres) for areas of over 1,000 population are in operation at present in Ballinacree, Loughrea, Tuam, Moylough, Glencorkey, Agheny, Woodford, Portlanna, Oughterard and Spiddal.

(Continued on page 37)

Branches:

6

I have been informed by Mr. James Collins, B.E., Chief Assistant County Surveyor that he hopes to complete the equipment and furniture for the Carraroe Branch and the Killybegs Branch by the 30th and 16th September, respectively. He has supplied an estimate for furniture and equipment required at Aghacrossway Branch; and he is enquiring into the position as regards Ballygale.

The County Manager has authorized the establishment of a branch library in the Town Hall, Dunmore.

The following figures show the issue of books for home reading in the first 10 weeks:-

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	3,873	6,197	1,771	11,841
Ballinacree	122	381	47	550
Loughrea	75	342	28	444
Tuam	162	358	52	572
Glencorkey	84	127	34	245
Spiddal	33	108	40	171
Portlanna	41	297	47	385
Oughterard	16	111	24	151
Moylough	13	105	18	136
Agheny	11	81	13	105
Woodford	13	99	21	133
Centres	123	2,051	717	2,891
Total	4,555	10,257	2,812	17,624

4

Mr. Edward Griffin:-
Letter from the County Manager declining to increase Mr. Edward Griffin's remuneration. Mr. Cahill's remarks in matter for balance.

5

Galway Reader:-
The proofs of the Galway Reader have not yet been received from the printer.

~ 38 / over

Prop by Co. B. Pitt That all future publications by the Guild be on the new script and that a great issue of books be published on the Irish.

Sec. J. J. Cunningham

11

Admission of Club:

Admitted.

12

There has been a report that members of the club have been disappointed in the way the club has been treated.

See slip

Encyclopaedia Britannica

7

Suggest three sets for reference at Ballinacree, Longhena and Swan. 84 each.

Prop. Quinn
Sec. Galvin

9

Canon Cunningham

Mr. Kitt
Sec. Cunningham

It is with regret that we report the death of the Very Reverend Canon Cunningham, Parish Priest of Sligo. Nominated to the Council Library Committee in 1924, by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, Canon Cunningham continued to act on the committee for many years as an enthusiastic and faithful member. He had made innumerable contributions to the leading newspapers and periodicals over the last thirty years. His book reviews were well known and appreciated.

Reports:

8

As the accumulated stocks of last year will be cleared off by the end of the month I now submit lists of reports amounting to approximately £450. These are available at the lower price of last year. Prop. Mr. Hoban Sec. J. J. McManis

10

Conference J. Cunningham to accompany

Quarterly Meeting, 20th December, 1952.

Present:-

Ash, Alderman Miss M.A., Co. Co.		
Barty, Michael, Co. Co.	Present	1
Cunningham, J.J., Co. Co.	Present	1
Dunnellan, Sean, N.T.		
Galvin, P.T., Co. Co.		
Glynn, the Very Reverend P. Canon, B.A., V.F.		
Glynn, Sean, Co. Co.	Present	1
Gahery, Michael, N.T.	Present	1
Hoban, James, N.T.	Present	1
King, Thomas, Co. Co.	Present	1
Kitt, Michael F., Co. Co., N.T.	Present	1
McDonough, the Reverend M., M.A.		
Moroney, John, N.T.		
Mullan, Frank, N.T.	Present	1
O'Connell, Jarlath A., Town Commissioner		
O'Connor, James, U.S.C.	Present	1
O'Connor, Thomas, Galway Corporation		
O'Shea, Tadg		
Owens, J., Alderman		
Quinn, Mark, Co. Co.	Present	1
Ruane, James J., Co. Co.	Present	1

Apologies:-

In attendance:-

Minutes:- signed.

Donations:-

munster na Tire	Rural Ireland
(1) U.S.A. Government, Information Office, Dublin	New York Times, New York Herald Tribune
Prof. J. Mitchell, Sec. Reg. U.S.B.	Calendar and Syllabus, 1952-53
E.S.B., Dublin	Annual Report, 1952
The Librarian, Central Library, Wigan	" " 1951-52
(1A) U.S.A. Govt. Inform. Bureau	"Life's" Picture History of Western Man.
do	2x copies U.S. Presidential Election Pamphlets
Assocn. of Secretaries in Commerce, London	The Commercial Secretary
O.U. Press	Catalogue 1952-3.
munster na Tire	Rural Ireland 1952-53.
Mr. Frank Curran, Chesham	Agreements: John Kennedy, with Francis Shawe Taylor (representing the Kildalga Angling Club) for sole right of fishing on the Kildalga River. Dated 13th Sept, 1894.
Federation of British Industries	F.B.I. Directory, 1952-53.

Thanks

Thank Mr. Curran
Prop. J.A. O'Connell
see J.J.

Galway County Council

Reports:-

①

One cannot do better than to quote from the Scottish Advisory Council for Education Report on the whole library service for Scotland:-

(Par. 119). "The task of the reformer in libraries as elsewhere is never easy. He has to contend with people who have different visions and with others who have no vision at all. He has to contend with the suspicion and possibly the opposition of those who have already achieved something in the field and are very well content with the results of their labours. He has to try somehow to give his ideals practical shape, and fit them comfortably into the social structure. He is almost certain to cause resentment by interfering with vested interests. Above all he has an incurable habit of asking for more money."

(Par. 123). "We recommend accordingly, that so far as it is geographically possible an equal and full provision of library service be made throughout Scotland, and that this provision should be suited to all ages, capacities and interests."

(Par. 129). "Rapidly as the public library system has developed in this country, it has not taken such a hold nor played such a part in national life as its sponsors hoped and predicted. On the contrary, very many children leave school without any urge to continue their education or broaden their interests by the greatest single instrument open and available to every individual in the community, namely the public library service. We suggest that this points to some serious defect in library methods or in educational methods or in both. It is not good enough to teach children to read, to make books available, even to visit libraries and have library periods in schools, and then hope for the best."

(Par. 148). "We have suggested (above) that a special effort be made in the school to create a book interest and habit in pupils who leave school at the end of the compulsory period. The problem thereafter becomes one for the librarian, who will find all

his ingenuity and resources taxed in trying to preserve this habit and interest in that most difficult of all constituencies, the young workers from fifteen to eighteen years of age."

(Par. 173). "... Regarded as possessions, books belong far less to the legal owner who holds them as property than to the person who can use or profit by them. The reader most truly "possesses" the book who has mastered what the author has sought to convey. Therefore, the legal ownership of the book stock is of as little consequence as the title deeds of the library building."

Ad. printed and bound by Prop. J. J. G. & Co. Sec. J. J. G. & Co.

Branches

Branch libraries have, since the last meeting, been opened at Larroave, Killemore and Abbeyknockmoy.

A map, showing the location of the branches is available at this meeting. It is to be pointed out, however, that the Clifden and Stearnford branches are not yet in operation. The difficulty in obtaining suitable premises in Gort remains unresolved.

I would draw your attention to correspondence from the County Manager relative to new centres.

③

See Files

Making the Books more mobile.

The value to readers of the book stock can be greatly augmented by its mobility. A slow rate of stock turnover at branches and centres is likely to present a dull selection of books for the general reader and result in a lack of interest on the part of borrowers. The physical condition of stock is likely to deteriorate because of the non-return of books at the appropriate time for re-binding, repair or discard, and because of the tendency to overwork the popular choices.

Home Reading:-

The following figures show the books issued for home reading:-

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	4,047	18,573	2,883	25,503
Ballinasloe	3,301	3,032	603	6,936
Loughrea	2,914	2,893	466	6,273
Inam	1,369	2,328	588	4,285
Glenamaddy	277	1,401	113	1,791
Spiddal	240	756	147	1,143
Pontenna	129	1,398	675	2,202
Dughterard	96	1,419	162	1,677
Maybough	906	1,545	570	3,021
Alhenry	93	776	171	1,040
Woodford	251	660	211	1,122
Centres	399	3,669	1,939	6,007
Totals	14,022	38,450	8,528	61,000
Percentage	23%	63%	14%	100%

Average circulation per volume 8.5

Dispatches

7,174 volumes were delivered to branches and centres since the last meeting:- 624 to Ballinasloe; 354 to Loughrea; 280 to Inam; 157 to Glenamaddy; 210 to Spiddal; 326 to Pontenna; 212 to Dughterard; 335 to Maybough; 220 to Alhenry; 300 to Woodford; 900 to Kilmor; 719 to Carrara; 870 to Abbeyknockmoy; and 1,637 to Centres.

2,000 volumes are at the Bindery.

1,000 discarded books were supplied the Regional Sanatorium at Berlin Park.

Disinfection of Books.

The problem: Are books carriers of disease? has again cropped up. Our regulations require that a borrower in whose house there may be a case of infectious disease is required to notify

the fact to the Sub. Sanitary officer who in turn collects the book for disinfection. In Scotland, on the other hand, there is no legal necessity for disinfecting books that may have been in contact with an infectious disease. The Leicester Public Libraries have been investigating whether the disinfection of library books used by scarlet fever patients prevented the spread of ~~scarlet~~ ^{the} fever. The report categorically states that, it is possible for books from scarlet fever patients to spread infection and that, therefore, appropriate measures such as disinfection or destruction to deal with such infected books should be continued.

Explanation required. Minute No. 277 "The Galway Reader."

Refraction. The MS. of "The Galway Reader" is still in the hands of the printer. Letters asking to have the work completed have been of no avail, and no replies have been received.

(11)

Minute No. 278. Mr. Edward Griffin, Council member of Prof. Ruane }
Sec }
to Committee and book to committee

(5)

Minute No. 279. An Gum.

(6)

Minute No. 280. "Encyclopaedia Britannica"

⑦

Minute No. 781. Galway Dist. Club.

⑧

Information - Letter of Appreciation

⑨

Minute No. 783. Future developments.

⑩

Carrara Local Library Committee (Ba Letty)

The Rev A. Moran, P.P., Chairman
 Mrs. Keane, Branch Librarian, Secretary
 W. O'Carra
 Seán O'Shea
 Cate Brennan
 Mrs. O'Luain
 Michael Nolan, N.T.
 Mrs. Cunningham, N.T.
 Co. Librarian M. O'Donnell.