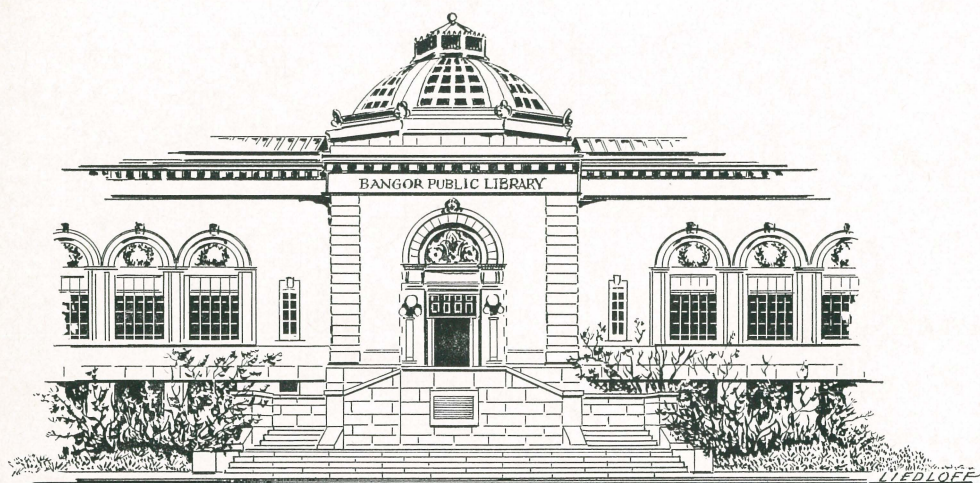




The Bangor Public Library

Annual
Reports
1955

Our Purpose

The purpose of the Bangor Public Library is to preserve and disseminate knowledge and thought as recorded in print; to provide recreation through print; and to provide a maximum of assistance to its clients in the use of its collections. We are a general library yet we are also a library of record. We aim to provide printed material on all subjects likely to be of concern or interest either to present or potential users of whatever age or education. We recognize the scholarly resources of our neighbor library of the University of Maine and are interested that each library shall complement the other. Within the library building the use of the collections of the Bangor Public Library is free to all comers. The home-use privileges are free to all residents of Bangor and to whoever, regardless of place of residence, works, goes to school, or pays taxes in Bangor. To others they are available for a fee.

Cover drawing by

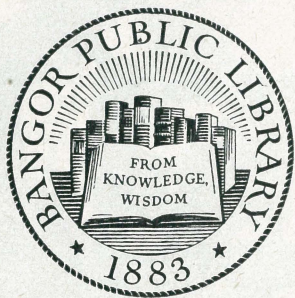
JIM LIEDLOFF

BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

JANUARY 1, 1955 - DECEMBER 31, 1955

PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION JANUARY 24, 1956



BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY
BANGOR, MAINE
1956



East side of the main reading room of the Bangor Public Library on a winter afternoon.—Photo by F. Norman Webb.

Endowment

of the

Bangor Public Library

Administered by the Trustees of the Bangor
Public Library

Frederick W. Hill and Marianne Hill Fund — Bequeathed in 1920 by Frederick W. Hill “for the purpose of purchasing books . . . and no part . . . for the erection or repair of any building.” Added to in subsequent years by reinvestment.	\$821,431.15
John F. Patten Fund —Bequeathed in 1900 by Grace D. Patten (Mrs. John F. Patten) in memory of her husband for “the purchase of books to make, or help make, entire, some important department of the Li- brary.”	\$4,000.00
Augmented by the	
Thomas Upham Coe Bequest —Bequeathed in 1927 by Thomas Upham Coe “to be added to the Patten Fund, so-called.”	2,000.00
Total of Patten Fund	\$6,000.00
Stodder Fund —To a nucleus of \$36,000.00 be- queathed in 1924 by George Tyler Stodder and added to in subsequent years by rein- vestment, the termination in 1942 of life trusts set up by George Tyler Stodder and James Chesterman Stodder for Anne E. Stodder added a balance received in 1942, 1943, and 1946. Of the income of this fund, designated as the “Stodder Fund,” one-half is for the purchase of books and the other half “may, if needed, be used by the Library for administration expenses.”	\$1,348,252.79

Trustees Fund consisting of:

Luther H. Peirce Fund —Bequeathed in 1915 by Luther H. Peirce, the income for “the purchase of books or for any other purpose within the walls of said Library building.” Added to in subsequent years by reinvestment.	\$198,458.57
Frances A. Stetson Fund —Bequeathed in 1918 by Frances A. Stetson “to be used as may seem to them (the Trustees) best.”	1,000.00
Ernestine Thompson Fund — Bequeathed in 1945 by Ernestine Thompson without conditions either as to use of principal or income.	1,000.00
Charles E. Adams Bequest without conditions either as to use of principal or income, received in 1949.	10,000.00
Clarence C. Stetson Fund —Bequeathed in 1950 by Clarence C. Stetson, the income “to be used for the general administration expenses of said Library.”	4,286.24
Other monies from unexpended gifts and reinvestment, upon which there is no restriction as to use.	63,300.80
Total of Trustees Fund	\$278,045.61
Louise Baldwin Thompson Fund —Bequeathed in 1944 by Louise de Hauteville Bell (Mrs. Jaffray de Hauteville Bell néé Louise Baldwin Thompson) in memory of her mother, Louise Baldwin Thompson (Mrs. Arad Thompson), “all books purchased with this fund to bear a bookplate in her name.”	\$2,000.00

Administered by the Trustees of the Hersey Fund

Hersey Fund—Bequeathed in 1875 by Samuel F. Hersey and its income now, by provision of the City Ordinances, unalterably fixed at \$4,000.00 and devoted “to the perpetual maintenance of the Bangor Public Library.” \$100,000.00

Administered by the City of Bangor

Bangor Mechanic Association Fund — Conveyed by the Bangor Mechanic Association (founded 1828) to the City of Bangor in various years, beginning in 1867 and continuing until 1883, and administered in accordance with an agreement with the Trustees of the Hersey Fund “for the purpose of establishing and perpetually maintaining a Public Library in the City of Bangor.” \$12,000.00

Administered by the Bangor Mechanic Association

Edward Ellison Fund—Bequeathed in 1918 by Mary Harris Ellison Curran (Mrs. Nicholas F. Curran), in memory of her father, Edward Ellison, “for the purchase of books, other than works of fiction” of which only one copy is to be bought and that “may never be taken from the Library.” \$10,000.00

Total Endowment (principal)	\$2,577,729.55
-----------------------------	----------------

Report of the Trustees of the Hersey Fund

Bangor, January 24, 1956

To the City Council of the City of Bangor:

The Trustees of the Hersey Fund submit their annual report. They have received from the City Treasurer the sum of four thousand (\$4,000.00) in quarterly payments, which have been paid to the treasurer of the Board of Managers of the Bangor Public Library.

They also submit, herewith, the annual reports of the librarian of the Bangor Public Library, the treasurer of the Trustees of the Bangor Public Library, and the treasurer of the Board of Managers of said library.

DONALD S. HIGGINS

W. P. NEWMAN

MARTYN A. VICKERS, M.D.

BOUTELLE SAVAGE

RALPH L. WAYMOUTH

Trustees of the Hersey Fund

Report of the Librarian

January 24, 1956

To the Board of Managers of the Bangor Public Library:

Our number one problem continues to be more space for books. A simple building addition to the book storage area is the answer to our need. When we can obtain \$100,000 for construction our difficulty will be solved.

On April 18, 1955 we told the City Council of this need. On June 21 we had the privilege of meeting with the council chairman and the city manager to discuss the problem, particularly in its financial aspects. The year 1955 did not bring solution of the problem. Solution in 1956 is, therefore, more than ever urgent.

The expedient of erecting shelves in the corridors has continued to be forced upon us. In 1954 we put in 66 running feet of such shelves; in 1955, 288 feet. Another increment of 288 feet is budgeted in 1956. This expedient is not satisfactory. It reduces the corridor space to an inadequate fifteen inches. It does not provide enough space for even the fraction of the new books that is not in use in homes, schools, or institutions. Shelves totalling 288 feet will hold, when full, only 2,304 books, and shelves ought not to be filled at once to capacity.

Every book that we buy is paid for from the income of our magnificent endowment for books; no city appropriation is required for any. In this respect we are uniquely fortunate among libraries. In a city of 31,558 population we now own 302,515 books, which is 9.59 per capita. The collection is alive and current.

As for a few other statistics: Resident borrowers number 14,324, or 45% of our population. There are, in addition, 1,774 non-resident borrowers who pay fees for the home use

privilege. In 1955 home use of books totalled 292,553, or 18.27 per registered borrower. This is a gain of 9,793 books over 1954. Adults read 1,085 fewer books than in the year before, but children read 10,878 more, which is a gain of nearly 11%. Thirty-eight per cent of the home reading of our library books is by children.

Our large endowment income designated by the donors to be used for books not only permitted, but even required, the acquisition of 11,050 books in 1955. It also permitted the re-binding of 2,309 worn books and the binding of 582 new magazine volumes. By these means it is possible to keep our collection in fine, attractive condition. As a further means to that end we began, in July, to use transparent plastic covers over the colorful jackets of all adult books. In our extension department, which serves schools and institutions, the fresh attractiveness of the books is long preserved through the acquisition of volumes already bound in picture-covers of colorful and very durable buckram.

Ninety-eight sets of children's encyclopedias have been placed by the Bangor Public Library in schools and institutions in Bangor. In the public schools of Bangor are 78 sets; in the parochial schools, 17, in the Bangor Children's Home, 2; and in the St. Michael's Home, 1. These sets are in addition to 159 schoolroom collections, quantities of books in the libraries of the two junior high schools and of Bangor High School and John Baptist High School, and 33 collections in summer camps, hospitals, homes for the aged, nursing homes, and other institutions. At our Music Branch at 166 Union Street are 19,271 pieces of printed music and 871 phonograph discs.

Initial orders for popular books run to from eight to fifteen copies. Added copies are obtained as demand requires. It is not unusual for there to be as many as fifty copies of an important children's book in the system at one time.

We are buying many important sets as fast as their volumes are issued. Among these are the new 55-volume set of

Martin Luther's Works in English; the *Interpreter's Bible* in 12 volumes; the *American Genealogical-Biographical Index*, likely to run to over 150 volumes; the *Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, to be 50 volumes; *Horace Walpole's Correspondence*, to be in 40 volumes; the *British Museum Catalogue*; the *Library of Congress Catalog*; and the newly begun microprint set *Early American Imprints, 1639-1800*.

During the first half of the year seven full-time employees resigned; four because of family obligations and three to take positions elsewhere. So large a loss was temporarily disturbing to our work but did not indicate dissatisfaction with employment conditions. The individuals who followed the seven who resigned have now, all but one, completed their probationary period of six months and have been appointed to the staff.

The staff was gratified by the one-step salary increase granted at the beginning of the year. The adoption, in October, of the State of Maine Retirement System group insurance plan was a benefit of which more than three quarters of our staff members availed themselves.

Injuries and severe illnesses have been numerous; 1,466 hours having been lost in this way and the work having been consequently retarded. It is not this, however, that is most important in such instances, but the suffering occasioned by the disabilities. Particularly distressing to all his friends is the continuing illness of Omer J. Nadeau, the superintendent of our building, who is always doing much to contribute to the attractiveness and utility of the building and the comfort of the staff.

Our employees number 31.25 in full-time equivalent. Forty-nine persons were on the payroll at one time or another during the year. Four staff members are to be congratulated on not having been absent from work at any time during the year.

Among innovations in the library service were the open-

ing of the children's room for two evenings weekly; the transfer of the children's story period from Saturday mornings to two afternoons for two different age groups; and the provision by the Junior League of Bangor of a book delivery service for shut-ins. An important repair job was the laying of a new concrete platform at the entrance of the children's room. Another increment of the exterior waterproofing job was accomplished. Among new equipment were six new staff lockers, twelve new book-return boxes at the Eastern Maine General Hospital, and a browsing table and benches for the children's room. The interior walls of the stack room were painted by the building superintendent.

Respectfully submitted,

L. FELIX RANLETT, *Librarian*

Report of the Treasurer

*To the Board of Trustees and the Board of Managers
of the Bangor Public Library:*

On the following seven pages are presented the financial statements of the Bangor Public Library. Copies of the detailed statements, which include a list of investments, are available for inspection at the library or at the office of the city clerk of the City of Bangor.

The report of Arthur Andersen & Co., independent public accountants, is shown on page 17.

ERWIN S. ANDERSON

Treasurer.

Bangor, Maine, January 24, 1956.

**Trustees of the Bangor Public Library
Statements of Income and Expenditures
General Operating and Book Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 1955**

	General Operating Fund	Book Fund
INCOME:		
Endowment income received from—		
Frederick W. Hill and Marianne Hill Fund.... \$	.....	\$34,104.61
Stodder Fund	33,243.60	33,243.59
Trustees Fund	4,540.00	....
Hersey Fund (Note 2)	4,000.00	....
Bangor Mechanic Association Fund (Note 2)..	600.00	....
Edward Ellison Fund (Note 2).....	....	362.97
Interest and dividends.....	....	5,393.78
City of Bangor appropriation, including \$200 of State Aid	39,200.00	200.00
Received from librarian—		
Registration fees, fines, etc.	5,334.57	....
Payments for lost and damaged books.....	....	313.53
Other .....	....	360.00
Miscellaneous .....	....	....
	<u>\$86,918.17</u>	<u>\$73,978.48</u>
EXPENDITURES:		
Salaries—		
Operating	\$66,552.12	\$
Acquiring and processing new books.....	....	20,001.00
Books and pamphlets .....	....	26,186.43
Periodicals .....	....	6,946.69
Maps, prints and music.....	....	1,300.57
Binding .....	....	7,460.68
Employees' retirement plan.....	5,441.99	....
Heat, electricity and water.....	5,111.92	....
Postage and stationery	1,639.38	....
Repairs and improvements	3,351.28	....
Furniture and furnishings.....	1,616.40	....
Printing and publicity	995.68	....
Janitor's supplies	703.20	....
Telephone	617.09	....
Library of Congress catalog cards.....	506.80	....
Transportation	304.08	75.38
Miscellaneous	58.49	....
	<u>\$86,898.43</u>	<u>\$61,970.75</u>
Excess of income over expenditures for the year \$	<u>19.74</u>	<u>\$12,007.73</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Trustees of the Bangor Public Library
Statements of Income and Expenditures
Endowment Funds
For the Year Ended December 31, 1955

	Trustees Fund	Frederick W. Hill and Marianne Hill Fund	Stodder Fund	John F. Patten Fund	Louise Baldwin Thompson Fund
INTEREST AND					
DIVIDEND INCOME...	\$12,757.89	\$34,104.61	\$66,487.19	\$242.25	\$62.70
EXPENDITURES:					
Transfers to other funds—					
General operating fund..	\$ 4,540.00	\$	\$33,243.60	\$	\$
Elevator fund	2,300.00	....	....	....	....
Book fund .....	....	34,104.61	33,243.59	....	....
Salaries	2,100.00	....	....	....	....
Auditing services.....	1,500.00	....	....	....	....
Insurance premiums.....	1,731.97	....	....	....	....
Conventions and travel....	339.96	....	....	....	....
Books purchased.....	....	....	....	267.62	62.96
Custody of securities.....	175.69	....	....	....	....
Miscellaneous	9.00	....	....	....	....
	<u>\$12,696.62</u>	<u>\$34,104.61</u>	<u>\$66,487.19</u>	<u>\$267.62</u>	<u>\$62.96</u>
Excess or deficiency* of in- come over expenditures for the year.....	\$ 61.27	\$	\$	\$ 25.37*	\$.26*

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Trustees of the Bangor Public Library

Statements of Changes in Fund Capital

For the Year Ended December 31, 1955

PRINCIPAL (see statements of changes in endowment fund capital):

	Combined Funds	General Operating Fund	Elevator Fund	Book Fund	Combined Endowment Funds
Gifts and bequests.....	\$1,676,205.12	\$	\$	\$	\$1,676,205.12
Net gains on sales of investments.....	779,524.43	.....	.....	.....	779,524.43
Total principal at December 31, 1955 (\$2,380,428.75 not expendable).....	\$2,455,729.55	\$	\$	\$	\$2,455,729.55

INCOME:

Expendable only for books—					
Balance at December 31, 1954.....	\$ 175,474.17	\$	\$	\$175,344.81	\$ 129.36
Add—					
Net gains on sales of investments in 1955.....	3,647.08	.....	.....	3,647.08	....
Add or deduct*—Excess or deficiency* of income over expenditures	11,982.10	.....	.....	12,007.73	25.63*
Balance at December 31, 1955.....	\$ 191,103.35	\$	\$	\$190,999.62	\$ 103.73
Appropriated for elevator—					
Balance at December 31, 1954.....	\$ 9,526.98	\$	\$ 9,526.98	\$ .....	....
Add—					
Transferred from Trustees Fund.....	2,300.00	.....	2,300.00	.....	....
Interest on savings account.....	225.17	.....	225.17	.....	....
Balance at December 31, 1955.....	\$ 12,052.15	\$	\$12,052.15	\$ .....	....
Not restricted—					
Balance at December 31, 1954	\$ 2,725.52	\$2,719.63	\$	\$	5.89
Add—Excess of income over expenditures.....	81.01	19.74	.....	.....	61.27
Balance at December 31, 1955.....	\$ 2,806.53	\$2,739.37	\$	\$	\$ 67.16
Total fund capital at December 31, 1955.....	\$2,661,691.58	\$2,739.37	\$12,052.15	\$190,999.62	\$2,455,900.44

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Trustees of the Bangor Public Library
Statements of Changes in Endowment Fund Capital
For the Year Ended December 31, 1955

	Trustees Fund							
	Combined Endowment Funds	Luther H. Peirce Fund	Clarence C. Stetson Fund	General Trustees Fund (Not Restricted)	Frederick W. Hill and Marianne Hill Fund	Stodder Fund	John F. Patten Fund	Louise Baldwin Thompson Fund
PRINCIPAL:								
Gifts and bequests (no change during the year).....	\$1,676,205.12	\$ 75,000.00	\$4,286.24	\$27,303.03	\$543,010.90	\$1,018,604.95	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00
Net gains on sales of investments—								
Balance at December 31, 1954.....	\$ 653,775.44	\$114,932.47	\$	\$46,272.48	\$245,406.87	\$ 247,163.62	\$	\$
Add—Net gains during 1955.....	125,748.99	8,526.10	....	1,725.29	33,013.38	82,484.22	....	....
Balance at December 31, 1955.....	\$ 779,524.43	\$123,458.57	\$	\$47,997.77	\$278,420.25	\$ 329,647.84	\$	\$
Total principal at December 31, 1955 (\$2,380,428.75 not expendable)	\$2,455,729.55	\$198,458.57	\$4,286.24	\$75,300.80	\$821,431.15	\$1,348,252.79	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00
INCOME:								
Expendable only for books—								
Balance at December 31, 1954	\$ 129.36	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 128.83	\$.53
Deduct—Excess of expenditures over income.....	25.63	....	\$ ....	\$ ....	\$ ....	\$ ....	25.37	.26
Balance at December 31, 1955.....	\$ 103.73	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 103.46	\$.27
Not restricted—								
Balance at December 31, 1954.....	\$ 5.89	\$	\$	\$ 5.89	\$	\$	\$	\$
Add—Excess of income over expenditures.....	61.27	....	....	61.27	....	....	....	....
Balance at December 31, 1955	\$ 67.16	\$	\$	\$ 67.16	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total endowment fund capital at December 31, 1955.....	\$2,455,900.44	\$198,458.57	\$4,286.24	\$75,367.96	\$821,431.15	\$1,348,252.79	\$6,103.46	\$2,000.27

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Trustees of the Bangor Public Library Statements of Cash, Investments and Fund Capital December 31, 1955

ASSETS		General Operating Fund	Elevator Fund	Book Fund	Combined Endowment Funds
CASH:					
Principal		\$ 111,812.53	\$	\$	\$ 111,812.53
Expendable only for books.....		69,170.70	....	69,066.97	103.73
Not restricted		2,806.53	2,739.37	....	67.16
INVESTMENTS (Note 1):					
Not expendable (market value \$3,006,470)		2,283,518.52	....	....	2,283,518.52
Expendable only for books (market value \$154,147)		121,932.65	....	121,932.65	....
Appropriated for elevator—Cash in savings account.....		12,052.15	....	....	....
Not restricted (market value \$69,514)		60,398.50	....	....	60,398.50
		<u>\$2,661,691.58</u>	<u>\$2,739.37</u>	<u>\$190,999.62</u>	<u>\$2,455,900.44</u>
FUND CAPITAL					
PRINCIPAL:					
Gifts and bequests		\$ 1,676,205.12	\$	\$	\$1,676,205.12
Net gains on sales of investments.....		779,524.43	....	....	779,524.43
Total principal (\$2,380,428.75 not expendable)		<u>\$2,455,729.55</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$2,455,729.55</u>
INCOME:					
Expendable only for books.....		191,103.35	....	190,999.62	103.73
Appropriated for elevator.....		12,052.15	....	....	....
Not restricted		2,806.53	2,739.37	....	67.16
		<u>\$2,661,691.58</u>	<u>\$2,739.37</u>	<u>\$190,999.62</u>	<u>\$2,455,900.44</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

Trustees of the Bangor Public Library
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1955

- (1) Investments are carried at cost or, in the case of gifts or bequests, at the market value at the date received.
- (2) In addition to the funds administered by the Trustees, the Library is beneficiary of the income of the following funds:

Income not restricted—

Hersey Fund, administered by the Trustees of the Hersey Fund, principal \$100,000, income fixed at \$4,000 per annum by contractual agreement with the City of Bangor which holds the principal.

Bangor Mechanic Association Fund, administered by the City of Bangor, principal \$12,000.

Income expendable only for books—

Edward Ellison Fund, administered by the Bangor Mechanic Association, principal \$10,000.

Report of the Independent Public
Accountants

*To the Board of Trustees and the Board of Managers
of the Bangor Public Library:*

We have examined the statements of cash, investments and fund capital of the funds administered by the TRUSTEES OF THE BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY (a Maine corporation) as of December 31, 1955, and the related statements of income and expenditures and changes in fund capital for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying statements present fairly the cash, investments and fund capital of the funds administered by the Trustees of the Bangor Public Library as of December 31, 1955, and the income and expenditures and changes in fund capital for the year then ended.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN & Co.

Boston, Massachusetts,
January 10, 1956.

1955 Organization
Board of Managers and Trustees
 of the
Bangor Public Library
 Consisting of the

Trustees of the Hersey Fund

William P. Newman, term expires January 1961
 Donald S. Higgins, term expires January 1957
 Boutelle Savage, term expires January 1959
 Martyn A. Vickers, M.D., term expires January 1961
 Ralph L. Waymouth, *ex officio* as City Treasurer
 and the

Officers of the Bangor Mechanic Association

George F. Eaton
 Charles F. Bragg, 2nd
 Erwin S. Anderson
 Horace S. Stewart

Officers

President, Donald S. Higgins
 Vice-President, George F. Eaton
 Treasurer, Erwin S. Anderson
 Secretary and Clerk, L. Felix Ranlett

Standing Committees

Auditing, Mr. Higgins
Finance, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Stewart, and *ex-officio*, Mr. Anderson
Purchasing, Mr. Bragg, Mr. Savage, and Mr. Waymouth
Building and Grounds, Mr. Newman, Mr. Higgins, and Dr. Vickers
Insurance and Property Values, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Savage, and Dr. Vickers

1955 Organization

Library Personnel

(Who worked at any time during 1955)

Librarian and Staff

(In order of first appointment to staff)

- Olive M. Smythe, *Reference Librarian*
 Pauline E. Tartre, *Chief, Accessions and Classification Department*
 H. Eola Mayo, *Librarian's Secretary*
 Marion C. Cluff, *Chief, Catalog Department*
 L. Felix Ranlett, *Librarian*
 Ruth E. Dole, *Chief, Extension Department*
 Freda M. Wilks, *First Assistant, Catalog Department*
 Charlotte C. Bowler, *Chief, Circulation Department*
 Rossa W. Giberson, *First Assistant, Accessions and Classification Department*
 Thelma A. Rebstock, *Assistant, Catalog Department*
 Helen H. Wheeler, *Children's Librarian*
 Dorothy H. Foley, *Assistant, Accessions and Classification Department*
 *Dorrice M. Wetzler, *Chief, Periodicals and Binding Department*
 Jeanette Staples, *First Assistant, Reference Department*
 *Dolores C. Toothaker, *First Assistant, Extension Department*
 Joan M. Tesseo, *Assistant, Children's Department*
 Doris M. Lichtenstein, *Assistant, Children's Department*
 Lillian Y. Marquis, *Chief, Periodicals and Binding Department*
 Virginia M. Lane, *First Assistant, Office*
 *Martha B. Barrett, *Assistant, Children's Department*
 Barbara B. Byrnes, *First Assistant, Circulation Department*
 Marjorie A. Moore, *Assistant, Circulation Department*
 Marie McDonough, *Assistant, Extension Department*
 Joanne A. Brown, *Assistant, Office*
 Helen A. Remington, *Assistant, Reference Department*
 Kay J. Doebener, *Assistant, Circulation Department*
 Alice A. Grant, *Assistant, Periodicals and Binding Department*
 Evelyn K. Jordan, *Assistant, Children's Department*
 Dorothea Q. Flagg, *Assistant, Circulation Department*

Part-time and Probationary Assistants

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| *Aleck S. Carver | *Wilda Fox | *Bette J. Ricker |
| Ardene R. Delano | Vivian M. Harriman | C. Louise Snyder |
| Benita J. Dorsky | *Betty B. May | Louise C. Tardiff |
| M. Evelyn Fall | Mary J. Murray | Dorrice M. Wetzler |
| | *Susan H. Paine | |

Care of Building

- Omer J. Nadeau, *Superintendent of the Building*
 Elmer W. Gibbs, *Janitor*
 C. S. Barchard, *Engineer*
 Cornelius Golden, *Asst. Jan.*
 Edward L. McCann, *Asst. Jan.*
 Shenton A. Peters, *Asst. Jan.*

*Resigned



Main desk, lobby, and issue desk of Bangor Public Library at 2:30 on a February afternoon. Over the office door is a painting of Gen. Samuel F. Hersey, first benefactor of the library.—Photo by F. Norman Webb.

Statistics of the Library

TABLE A

Books in the Library, 1955

By Class

Class and Class Number	In Library Jan. 1, 1955	Net Additions	In Library Dec. 31, 1955
General works 000-099.....	18,675	650	19,325
Philosophy 100-199	4,132	37	4,169
Religion 200-299	8,017	153	8,170
Social sciences 300-399	56,467	1,330	57,797
Language 400-499	1,470	26	1,496
Pure science 500-599.....	10,810	259	11,069
Useful arts 600-699.....	27,515	561	28,076
Fine arts 700-799.....	38,074	494	38,568
Literature 800-899	20,731	321	21,052
Description 910-919	9,122	64	9,186
History 900-909, 930-999.....	24,371	156	24,527
Biography 920, 929 & B.....	18,836	346	19,182
Fiction	59,568	330	59,898
Totals	297,788	4,727	302,515
Gross additions were	11,050		
Removals	6,323		
Making net additions	4,727		

By Location and Kind, December 31, 1955

Location	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Central Library	223,952	26,711	250,663
Music Branch	20,142	.....	20,142
Extension	13,557	18,153	31,710
Totals	257,651	44,864	302,515
Kind	Number	Percent	
Adult non-fiction	216,330	71%	
Adult fiction	41,321	14%	
Juvenile	44,864	15%	
	302,515	100%	

Volumes per capita..... 9.59

TABLE B

Additions and Removals, 1955

<i>Sources of Additions</i>					
	New Titles	Added Copies	Replace- ments	Binding Serials	Totals
Purchase	4,163	5,115	317	459	10,054
Gift	358	521	18	66	963
Return after loss.....	..	..	33	..	33
Totals	4,521	5,636	368	525	11,050
<i>Causes of Removals</i>					
Withdrawn:					
Worn out				4,220	
Duplicate				1	
Obsolete				1,079	
Sold				4	
Given away				474	
Damaged				16	
Total withdrawn					5,794
Lost:					
Charged out and not returned.....				288	
Missing in inventories				24	
Missing from classes not inventoried.....				55	
Lost and paid for.....				149	
Contagion				4	
Burned				9	
Total lost					529
Total removed					6,323
Net additions (additions less removals).....					4,727

TABLE C

Binding and Repair, 1955

Sent to bindery:		
Previously unbound:		
Volumes of serials	582	
Volumes not serials	..	
Previously bound:		
Volumes to be rebound	2,309	
Volumes to be repaired	..	
		2,891

TABLE D

Registration, 1955

(Principal registration period is three years)

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
Card holders Jan. 1, 1955.....	13,030	2,252	15,282
Registrations removed because of failure to renew, change of address, death, etc.	2,064	621	2,685
	10,966	1,631	12,597
New registrations, 1955.....	2,281	902	3,183
Theoretical total of card holders Dec. 31, 1955	13,247	2,533	15,780
Plus discrepancy discovered by actual count of registrations in force Dec. 31, 1955	228	..	228
Card holders Dec. 31, 1955.....	13,475	2,533	16,008
Including registrations renewed in 1955	1,543	182	1,725

TABLE E

Class of Borrowers, 1955

	Adult	Juvenile 3rd-8th Grade	Juvenile (Total Parent's Cards	Juvenile (Total Juve- nile)	Total
A. Bangor residents	10,724	1,890	581	(2,471)	13,195
AS. Army service	869	....	....	....	869
B. Business cards	170	....	....	....	170
C. Non-resident individuals who pay \$1.00 a year (juvenile \$0.50) for over-the-desk service, or \$3.00 a year (juvenile \$1.50) plus postage for mail service	1,569	58	4	(62)	1,631
D. Special borrowers who make a deposit.....	34	....	....	....	34
E. Libraries outside of Bangor	76	....	....	....	76
I. Visitors who make a de- posit of \$2.00.....	23	5	....	(5)	28
J. Non-resident groups	5	....	....	....	5
	13,470	1,953	585	(2,538)	16,008

Percent of population registered, counting all classes..... 49%

Percent of population registered, counting only classes A, AS, and B... 45%

TABLE F

Circulation, 1955 Entire Library

	Adult Non- Fiction	Adult Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Central Library				
General works, 000-099.....	684	.....	785	1,469
Philosophy 100-199	2,420	.....	32	2,452
Religion 200-299	3,047	.....	474	3,521
Social sciences 300-399.....	5,799	.....	20,654	26,453
Languages 400-499	502	.....	42	544
Pure science 500-599.....	2,726	.....	1,998	4,724
Useful arts 600-699.....	8,996	.....	2,926	11,922
Fine arts 700-799.....	6,786	.....	1,295	8,081
Literature 800-899	8,425	.....	1,018	9,443
Description 910-919	2,733	.....	1,373	4,106
History 900-909, 930-999.....	6,295	.....	1,226	7,521
Biography 920-929 and B.....	6,970	.....	3,763	10,733
Current periodicals 000.....	16,633	.....	772	17,405
Fiction .....	.....	86,692	20,868	107,560
Total Central Library.....	72,016	86,692	57,226	215,934
Music Branch—records	1,945	.....	.....	1,945
Music Branch—music	4,306	.....	.....	4,306
Total Music Branch.....	6,251	.....	.....	6,251
Total, Central Library and Music Branch.....	78,267	86,692	57,226	222,185
Extension Department	4,757	11,663	53,948	70,368
Total entire library.....	83,024	98,355	111,174	292,553
Percent	28%	34%	38%	100%
Circulation per capita.....				9.27
Circulation per registered borrower.....				18.27

Extension Department, 1955

	Adult Fiction	Adult Non- Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Bangor grade schools (public, grades I-VI and parochial, grades I-VIII .....	.....	.....	17,578	17,578
Bangor High School.....	3,798	1,242	.....	5,040
John Bapst High School.....	764	141	.....	905
Fifth Street Jr. High.....	.....	.....	13,907	13,907
Garland Street Jr. High.....	.....	.....	14,602	14,602
Holden Schools (Jan.-June).....	.....	.....	204	204
Orrington Schools .....	.....	.....	2,400	2,400

Veazie Schools .....	.....	1,209	1,209
Bangor Sanatorium (Jan.-May)....	20	.....	20
Bangor Children's Home.....	.....	10	10
Bangor City Hospital.....	170	2	172
Bangor Osteopathic Hospital.....	15	2	17
Bangor Theological Seminary.....	42	893	935
Burrill's Convalescent Home.....	31	4	35
E.M.G.H. Doctors' Medical.....	.....	250	250
E.M.G.H. Nurses' Professional.....	.....	200	200
E.M.G.H. Patients' Library.....	5,737	1,893	3,527
Hammond Street Church.....	63	89	152
Home for Aged Men.....	30	5	35
Home for Aged Women.....	678	5	683
King's Daughters Home.....	2	1	3
Prescott's Convalescent Home.....	84	5	89
St. Joseph's Hospital (Nov.-Dec.)..	23	4	27
St. Michael's Home (Nov.-Dec.)...	.....	48	48
Summer Camps	5	463	468
Teachers' Sets	201	21	222
Totals	11,663	4,757	53,948
			70,368

Deposits as follows, were also maintained, where books were used for reference only: Bangor Osteopathic Hospital Doctors' Medical Library, City Clerk's Office, City Manager's Office, City Planner's Office, City Purchasing Agent's Office, Community Chest Office, Penobscot Bar Library, Police Headquarters, Public Welfare Department Office, Public Works Department Office, Water Board Office. 98 sets of encyclopedias are on deposit in school rooms or principals' offices.

TABLE G

Books in Library and Circulation, Twenty Years

Year	Books in Library		Circulation
	Dec. 31		
1936.....	180,397.....	389,363	
1937.....	186,914.....	384,801	
1938.....	195,726.....	389,785	
1939.....	204,928.....	415,723	
1940.....	212,193.....	416,029	
1941.....	218,181.....	405,323	
1942.....	222,249.....	358,740	
1943.....	228,236.....	310,535	
1944.....	230,968.....	314,317	
1945.....	236,562.....	316,655	
1946.....	243,812.....	310,699	
1947.....	251,116.....	308,058	
1948.....	257,860.....	310,727	
1949.....	264,657.....	308,181	
1950.....	271,168.....	303,096	
1951.....	276,144.....	309,180	
1952.....	283,405.....	297,979	
1953.....	290,669.....	289,062	
1954.....	297,788.....	282,760	
1955.....	302,515.....	292,553	

TABLE H

Miscellaneous Statistics, 1955

Postal card notices for overdue books.....	11,605
Second notices for overdue books.....	1,549
Reference questions answered, adult (general 12,173; Tello-Test 13,955)	26,128
Reference questions answered, juvenile.....	1,024
Reserves for home use.....	11,346
Discarded books given away.....	2,439
Lectures outside library.....	6
Television appearances	29
Exhibits in lecture hall:	
Offered or invited	16
Public meetings (by 35 organizations).....	207
Mail service to 507 individuals and 44 libraries in 161 cities or towns, total books	7,036
Borrowed from 2 libraries, books.....	22
Lent to 44 libraries, books.....	870
Newspapers currently received:	
Titles	17
Duplicates	7
Other periodicals currently received:	
Titles	952
Duplicates	392
New cards filed in all catalogs and shelf lists.....	21,746
Staff hours lost from illness, funerals, etc.	1,466

U. S. Office of Education, Public Library Statistical Report, 1955

Report for fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 1955

City of Bangor, Penobscot County, Maine

1. Name of Library, Bangor Public Library. Date of founding, 1883.
2. Name of Librarian, L. Felix Ranlett. Date appointment, January 1, 1937.
3. Chief Librarian appointed by, The Board of Managers of the Bangor Public Library.
4. Governmental unit of support, City. Population served, 31,558 (1950 U. S. Census, final)
5. Terms of use: a. Free for lending to residents of Bangor. Lends to others for a fee or deposit.
6. Central Library is housed in a building owned by the Library and erected in 1913.

Daily Schedule (Central Library)

7. Open for circulation, reading and study:
 - Jan. 1-June 11, Sept. 4-Dec. 31. Daily, except Sundays, 9 A. M. to 9 P. M., total 72 hours a week.
 - June 12-Sept. 3. Daily, Mon.-Fri. 9 A. M. to 7 P. M., Sat. 9 A. M. to 1 P. M., total 54 hours a week.

8. Number of days open during year, 304. Entirely closed on holidays, Jan. 1, Feb. 22, April 19, May 30, July 4, Sept. 5, Nov. 11, Nov. 24, Dec. 26.

Agencies

9. Central Library	1
10. Number of branches and sub-branches:	
c. In other than library buildings or schools.....	1
11. Number of stations: a. In schools.....	163
b. Other	21
12. Other agencies	11
13. Total agencies	197

Circulation and Use

	Volumes	Percentage of Total Circulation
15. Number of volumes of adult non-fiction lent for home use	83,024	28%
16. Number of volumes of adult fiction lent for home use	98,355	34%
17. Number of books for children lent for home use	111,174	38%
18. Total number of volumes lent for home use...	292,553	100%
19. Period of loan for the majority of adult book stock is 28 days.		
20. Number of interlibrary loans:		
Volumes lent		870
Volumes borrowed		22
21. Number of reference questions answered (adult).....		26,128

Registration

	Adult	Juvenile	Total
22. Total number of registered borrowers.....	13,475	2,533	16,008
23. Borrowers registered or reregistered.....	3,824	1,084	4,908
24. Number of non-resident borrowers (included above)	1,707	67	1,774
25. Annual fee for non-resident borrowers			
a. Over the desk	\$1.00	\$0.50	
b. By mail	3.00	\$1.50	
26. The length of the registration period is 3 years for residents and 1 year for non-residents or service personnel on duty in Bangor.			

Book Stock

27. Number of volumes at beginning of year....	254,233	43,555	297,788
28. Number of volumes added during year.....	7,237	3,813	11,050
Total	261,470	47,368	308,838
29. Number of volumes withdrawn from record during year	3,819	2,504	6,323
30. Total number of volumes at end of year....	257,651	44,864	302,515

31.	Number of newspapers currently received excluding duplicates	17
32.	Number of periodicals currently received excluding duplicates	952

Personnel

47.	Full-time equivalent of all employees.....	31.25
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Finance

48.	Assessed valuation of city, April 1, 1955....	\$40,227,790.00
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Receipts

52.	City Appropriation (includes state grant of \$200.00).....	\$ 39,400.00
58.	Incomes from endowment, trust and invested funds.....	127,883.64
60.	Petty Cash: Fines, fees, memberships, etc.....	6,008.10
63.	Total	\$173,291.74
64.	Unexpended balance from previous year.....	187,726.67
		<u>\$361,018.41</u>

Expenditures

65.	Salaries: Library staff	\$ 57,826.15
66.	Salaries: Building staff	8,725.97
67.	Books: Price	27,892.96
	Books: Processing	20,001.00
68.	Periodicals	6,946.69
69.	Binding, repairing and mending.....	7,460.68
71.	Heat, light, power, water	5,111.92
72.	Insurance (all types)	1,731.97
73.	Other operating expenses	19,359.04
74.	Total ordinary operating expenses.....	\$155,056.38
75.	Major improvements .....	....
76.	Grand total operating expenses.....	\$155,056.38
77.	Balance on hand at end of fiscal year (including \$191,103.35 restricted to purchase of books and \$12,052.15 appropriated for Elevator Fund).....	205,962.03
	Total	<u>\$361,018.41</u>

Total endowment principal—Administered by Trustees

(\$2,380,428.75 not expendable).....	\$2,455,729.55
Administered by others (not expendable).....	122,000.00

\$2,577,729.55

The City of Bangor and The Bangor Public Library

In 1955, 71% of the entire ordinary cost of the library was met by the income of the trust funds described on pages 3-5 of this report, 4% was met by fees and fines, and the remaining 25% was supplied by appropriation by the City of Bangor under the provisions of section 6 of chapter 19 of the city ordinances: "For the purpose of maintaining a free public library and hereafter provide for the necessary expense of such maintenance, there shall be annually appropriated by the city council under the title of 'Library Fund' a sum sufficient to meet the estimated current expense of maintaining such library for the benefit of the public; such appropriation to be in charge of and expended under the direction of the trustees of the Hersey Fund." These provisions are the result of the contractual relationship between the city and the library set up in (1) the agreement of the city and the Bangor Mechanic Association ratified June 5, 1883 and (2) the action in 1904 under which the library discontinued membership charges to borrowers to become a free public library and the city assumed the necessary expense of maintaining such a library for the benefit of the public.

1000 copies

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