

THE HISTORY OF THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF TEANECK, NEW JERSEY

by

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PREFACE

The origin and growth of the Free Public Library of Teaneck, New Jersey, are of special interest to me, as a resident of Teaneck. When I learned from Miss Agnes C. Norton, the Librarian, that no formal history had been written, I welcomed the opportunity to do research on a subject which holds more than academic interest for me.

In gathering material for the history of the Library, I have consulted correspondence, photographs, the annual reports of the Library, minutes of the Board of Trustees, the Library scrapbooks, and the files of local newspapers. In addition, I have been able to interview a number of persons intimately connected with the inception of the Library.

I have attempted to verify all data through printed sources, but the informality of the Library's beginnings under private auspices has made some information difficult to document. Whenever possible, I have given exact citations for information found through the Library scrapbooks, but when the scrapbooks themselves gave no clue to the original source, the dates on the scrapbooks had to be used. Fortunately I was able to consult Mrs. Louise S. Jordan, the founder of what is now the Free Public Library of Teaneck, for much of the early history which has not appeared in print.

Some material, mostly in the form of statistics and lists of names, is given in the appendixes.

I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Jordan for the invaluable information she so patiently supplied through many long interviews, and to Archibald W. Jordan, her husband, whose interest in this work impelled him to search carefully and painstakingly through old records in an attempt to supply the answers to my persistent questions.

I am especially indebted to Miss Agnes C. Norton, the Librarian, for her unfailing help in supplying materials, for her limitless patience in answering questions, and for her constant encouragement.

I also wish to thank Mrs. Alice Cotter, Mrs. Jarmila Friedrich, Miss Marie Ponso, and Miss Olive Tamborelle, members of the staff of the Teaneck Library, who were ever alert to help with suggestions. I am also grateful to Miss Clara Christensen, Township Clerk of Teaneck, for her help in locating important data. The aid of all these people, who gave so freely of their time and efforts, made the writing of this paper possible.

Brooklyn, New York
May 1954

Estelle F. Gallant



AGNES C. NORTON, LIBRARIAN

MARCH 4, 1929 - date

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I

TEANECK, THE MODEL COMMUNITY

Teaneck, New Jersey, is a residential suburb of New York, four miles from the New Jersey end of the George Washington Bridge. Teaneck has been described as the fastest growing residential community in Bergen County, having grown from a population of 768 in 1900 to 34,000 in 1954.¹ New transportation facilities such as the Bridge, the West Side Highway, the Holland and Lincoln Tunnels, and the establishment of many bus lines serving the area, have contributed to Teaneck's phenomenal growth.

Teaneck has also developed a remarkable community spirit, as shown by its concern with good local government and its willingness to support worthy cultural activities such as a symphony orchestra, a fine school system, and a library that is a real social force in the town. In August 1949 the Army chose Teaneck from a list of 10,000 towns, to serve as a "model of democracy" for its re-education program in the occupied countries in Europe and Asia. For three days photographer Victor De Palma photographed Teaneck citizens and officials participating in various aspects of community life. There were some sixty-six photographs taken showing the Township Council in action, citizens expressing their views in

1. Writers' Program, New Jersey. Bergen County panorama. Hackensack, N. J., The Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, 1941. p. 113.

public budget hearings, and young people using library, school, and recreation facilities. The resulting exhibit of photographs, with text and captions, was later displayed in Japan, the Ryuku Islands, and Austria by the Civil Affairs Division of the Army.¹

In explaining the choice of Teaneck for its project in political re-education abroad, the Army lauded the town "for its fine municipal spirit and the high quality of its governmental service".² At the heart of this service is the Township Council, elected every year by the town's residents. The Council names one of its five members Mayor and hires the Municipal Manager, who, as the chief executive, keeps the various departments running efficiently.

The publicity given public affairs helps to keep the quality of the government high. The Municipal Manager publishes an annual report which is combined with the proposed budget for the coming year. This report is distributed to every township resident. Before the budget is passed upon by the Council there is widespread discussion, in the local press and at the public budget hearing.

A good index of Teaneck's attitude toward cultural matters is the amount spent for education. Over fifty-three per cent of the town budget goes for schools. This practical evidence of

1. Young, Howard. "Democracy for export." This week magazine (New York) p. 7 November 6, 1949.

2. Siegel, Kalman. "Teaneck on film as model town." The New York Times September 22, 1949 p. 28, col. 2.

interest in education is entirely compatible with the spirit shown by a group of Teaneck women who worked in the free lending library which one of them started in her own home in 1912. This was the first phase of what later became the Free Public Library of Teaneck, New Jersey.

II

VOLUNTEER PHASE

The history of the Free Public Library of Teaneck goes back to an unusual group of women volunteers, a small private collection of books in a lady's sun parlor, and an unused slave cabin. It is an account of private initiative, public spirit, and rising real estate values.

It all started in October 1912, when Vincent R. Jordan, on moving to California, gave his collection of about two hundred books to his sister-in-law, Mrs. Archibald N. Jordan. These books, housed in Mrs. Jordan's sun parlor,¹ became the nucleus of a small lending library, because six-year-old Johnny Imhoff, who lived nearby on Elm Terrace,² visited Mrs. Jordan often. She would read to him from the story books that had been her own childhood favorites. Soon Johnny borrowed books from Mrs. Jordan, and then brought his friends to borrow them too. Finally Mrs. Jordan decided to lend her books to the parents of the neighborhood children as well.

Mrs. Jordan soon found that her collection was inadequate to meet the growing needs of her reading neighbors. She wrote to Miss Sarah Askew of the New Jersey State Library Commission in Trenton,

1. Mrs. Jordan lived at 125 West Englewood Avenue.

2. His address was 1352 Elm Terrace. In 1922 the name of the street was changed to Laurel Terrace.

asking for information on how to secure books on loan from the State Library. From Miss Askew she learned the details of the procedure for setting up a deposit station in her own home. This involved getting the endorsement of ten property owners. She obtained these ten signatures and was thereupon named trustee of the books on loan from the State Library.

Miss Askew sent, prepaid, fifty books at a time, which could be kept for six weeks and then returned in exchange for a new shipment. As the books had to be hauled back and forth between the railroad station and Mrs. Jordan's home, Harry McEntee, a local drayman, used his spring wagon to make these deliveries regularly. He continued this voluntary service for over five years, ceasing only when total blindness finally disabled him.

As the sun parlor became too small for the growing number of readers, the collection was moved in 1915 to a candy store on the corner of West Englewood Avenue and Station Street, now Palisade Avenue. Larger shipments of books from Trenton for the increasing circulation made more help necessary. Mrs. John Holder, Mrs. Fanny Schultz, Mrs. Hattie Quackenbush, Mrs. John Caddy, and other interested neighbors helped Mrs. Jordan circulate the books. Later, other women, recruited by Mrs. Jordan from the membership of the Women's Political Union, a local organization fighting for women's suffrage, contributed their services. In the time the lending library functioned, it set a remarkable record for borrower

responsibility -- number of books lost: one.

Mrs. Jordan's personal collection, which was still circulating, was rapidly wearing out and the need for new books was becoming apparent. The civic-minded women, the friends of the library, undertook to raise money for books by giving cake and food sales. As their collection grew, the need for a building became increasingly apparent. The ladies had been considering the purchase of the property at 1279 Teaneck Road, on which stood an old cabin known locally as "the old slave house", because it was supposed to have housed the slaves serving the mansion across the street at 1270 Teaneck Road.

In order to own property, the "library ladies", as they were called, had to incorporate. On June 22, 1922, they formed the Teaneck Library Association.¹ In March 1923, Mr. Archibald W. Jordan secured, on his personal note, a three-month loan of \$3000 from the Palisade Trust Company of Englewood. This sum was put down as a binder on the Teaneck Road property, which included the slave house. The \$500 was to apply to the full price of the property, \$2,000, and was necessary at this time to prevent its sale to other interested buyers. Meanwhile the ladies had three months to secure a mortgage loan to buy the property.

1. Taylor, Mildred Keogh. The history of Teaneck. Teaneck, N. J., The Town, 1951. p. 203. Typed.

On April 17, 1923, the Association applied to the Franklin Society of New York, for the mortgage loan, which was secured by the endorsement of three members' husbands, Messrs. Greenlaw, Jordan, and Sample. Even before they took title they were allowed to make full use of the building. Accordingly the ladies went ahead to make the building ready for library service. In the spirit of the volunteer work which had characterized the library enterprise from its inception, Carl Francke, local carpenter, volunteered to repair the cabin, and gave the Association unlimited time to pay for the materials. When the repairs were finished, the ladies spent three days thoroughly cleaning the premises, and opened the building for library service on Decoration Day, 1923.

The Teaneck Library Association took title to the property at 1279 Teaneck Road on July 22, 1923. The property was deeded to Miss Matte Scott, one of the members, who held it in trust for the Association. To meet the monthly payments of \$18 on the building loan, the ladies of the Library Association redoubled their baking and cooking activities, toured the town on occasion in a decorated wagon, and sold their pies, cakes, and bread. Mrs. Ella Schumann and Miss Scott lent their homes for fund-raising thés dansants, a fashionable diversion of the twenties.

While the library was operating in the renovated slave cabin, real estate values were rising, because of improved transportation

facilities and what has been called "the suburban trend".¹ As a result, the ladies sold the property, after three years, for \$17,500. to Edward Raque, who built a filling station on it, which still occupies the site. The sale, which was completed on July 24, 1926, gave the ladies the enormous profit of \$15,000 with which to realize their dream of a free public library under the township's auspices. The directors of the Library Association, Incorporated, offered the \$15,000 to the Teaneck Township Committee, to be used for the erection of a municipally supported free public library.

Since public maintenance of the library was involved, the township itself was polled by referendum, on February 14, 1927, when the electorate accepted the gift and the civic responsibility that went with it.² The Free Public Library of Teaneck was organized under municipal control on March 8, 1927.³

The referendum authorized the township specifically: 1) to erect a \$20,000 building on the seven-acre municipal plot, and 2) to allot an additional \$5,000 annually for maintenance.⁴ The

1. Encyclopedia of the social sciences. New York, The Macmillan Co., 1930-1936. v. 14 Suburbs.

2. Taylor. op. cit. p. 206.

3. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Board of trustees. Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library in Teaneck. 1927-1929. p. 1. Typed.

4. "Teaneck votes in favor of library." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936] p. [104])

referendum further provided that although the building was to be municipally owned, a Board of Managers consisting of eleven members should be responsible for the library. This Board of Managers was to consist of five trustees, to be named by the Library Association, plus the five members of the Township Committee and one member of the local Board of Education.¹

1. Ibid.

III

MUNICIPAL CONTROL

The five original members of the Board of Trustees were appointed for terms varying from one to five years. This device made it possible to preserve the continuity of the Board, so that as one member's term expired a new person was appointed in her place to serve a full five-year term. The five ladies were: Miss Matte Scott, one year; Mrs. Irene Thackwell, two years; Mrs. Georgianna H. Greenlaw, three years; Mrs. Louise S. Jordan, four years; and Mrs. Margaret Hawkey, five years. Mrs. Jordan was elected president, Mrs. Greenlaw secretary, and Mrs. Hawkey treasurer.¹

Among its first acts at the organization meeting on March 8, 1927, was the turning over to the Township of the \$15,000 profit from the sale of the slave house property--\$5,000 in cash and a \$10,000 mortgage.² An account was opened in the Palisades Trust and Guaranty Company in Englewood, in the name of the "Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Township of Teaneck in the County of Bergen".³

The method of handling library funds illustrates the genuine

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1927. p. [1] Typed.

2. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Board of trustees. Minutes ... op. cit. 1927-1929. p. 2.

3. Ibid. p. 1.

control the Board of Trustees was intended to exercise over library affairs. The treasurer of the Board was bonded and the Board budget limited to the amount of the annual appropriation by the township for library purposes. Disbursements from the Trustees' account were to be made on resolution of the Board of Trustees by check signed by the treasurer and the president. The Township Treasurer kept a duplicate set of records.¹

Present practice is somewhat different and more centralized. Bills are signed by the Librarian and the Library Board treasurer, and sent to the Township Treasurer, who pays them. Each month a report of expenditures is presented to the Library Board. The only money handled directly by the Librarian or Library Board comes from fines, which are turned over to the township. The State Auditor audits the Library account as part of the municipal accounts.

The Librarian submits the budget appropriation through the Library Board to the Township Council, which must approve it. Every year the proposed budget for the entire township is published in full with the Municipal Manager's Report and distributed to every resident in ample time for consideration and public discussion at a well-advertised public budget hearing.

The budgetary requirements for the library have grown with

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Board of trustees. By-laws of the trustees of the Free Public Library of the Township of Teaneck in the County of Bergen. [1927] p. [4] Typed.

the development of Teaneck, of course. The modest budget of \$5,000 in 1927 is insignificant compared with the one for 1954:

Committee Meeting on Budget. June 14th 1927¹

Coal 15 tons, approx.	\$	210
Librarian		2,000
Janitor		100
Catalogue, cards & [sic]		1,000
Books		1,000
General expenses		750
TOTAL	\$	<u>5,000</u>

1954 APPROPRIATIONS²

	<u>Salaries and Wages</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
D. LIBRARY			
1. Librarians and Clerks	68,206		
2. Janitors	8,660		
3. Books, Periodicals, Victrola Records & Binding		12,300	
4. Heat, Light, Telephone, Water		4,650	
5. Supplies, Postage, Convention		3,150	
6. Repairs & Equipment		4,000	
7. Other Expenses		400	
	<u>76,866</u>	<u>24,500</u>	<u>101,366</u>

It is no understatement to say that library costs have changed!

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Board of trustees. Minutes ... op. cit. 1927-1929. p. 13.

2. Teaneck, N. J. The proposed 1954 budget together with the Municipal Manager's report. Teaneck, N. J., The Town, 1954. p. 28.

IV

THE BUILDING

ERECTING, EQUIPPING, AND STAFFING THE NEW LIBRARY

Even before the Township accepted responsibility for the financial support of the library, the women interested in the expansion of library services had asked Mr. Frederick T. Warner, architect, to draw up, at his regular fee, plans for a library building to cost \$20,000. This was in anticipation of the Township's acceptance of the Library Association's proposal. When the Township did accept and the referendum was held, Mr. Warner offered to donate the plans for this worthy community project. Mr. Warner further offered the donation of his professional services in the supervision of the construction of the building. Both offers were gratefully accepted.¹

The plans called for a two-story brick building, to be erected on a plot 20' x 32'.² The Colonial style of architecture blended very well with the nearby municipal buildings.

The \$20,000 fund for this building was set up under Ordinance 366 on March 29, 1927. Following the usual procedure, the township called for construction bids through advertisements in

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report, 1927. p. [3]

2. See Appendix E. 1. Original building, 1927.

the local newspapers. Contracts were signed on April 28, 1927 and ground was broken early in May.

While the building was going up, the library ladies were not idle; they were attending to the details of equipping and staffing the library. During August they were shopping for library furniture, and their correspondence attests to their carefulness in selecting the highest quality and the most appropriate in furnishings. The selection of a Librarian was the next task. Miss May Garton, formerly of the library at Bridgeton, New Jersey, was engaged, with Mrs. Ethel Ward, who is still with the library, to help on a part-time basis.

In November 1927, though there was still plastering, painting, and the installing of fixtures going on, Miss Garton began working in the building to complete the preparations for library service. Finally, on Sunday, November 20, the new library building was formally dedicated.

The program for the dedication ceremonies was indicative of the pride the township had in its new library. The members of the Board of Trustees and of the Library Association were the hostesses to several hundred people, who were treated to music and refreshments. Mrs. Franklin Gaylord, wife of a prominent Teaneck minister, was the principal speaker. She recounted the entire history of the library movement in Teaneck up to the moment of the dedication.

Mrs. Jordan presided.¹

Soon after the dedication of the building the Trustees and the Librarian arranged and shelved the books in anticipation of the opening day. The circulation of books began on December 15, 1927.² In less than nine months after the Board of Trustees was organized, the newly erected building was opened for service to the public. This fact alone underscores the practical business ability of the group that had been known as the Library Association.

The public response was so eager that immediately the Library Board asked for a special appropriation of \$20,000 to buy 5,000 books. The Township felt, however, that it could grant only \$5,000. To their formal acceptance of this amount, the trustees added these prophetic words:

We trust that as each year passes the Township will realize more and more the benefits derived from a fine library in the Town and will as rapidly as possible appropriate funds sufficient to make it possible to attain a library that will compare favorably with or be superior to those of adjacent towns.³

1. "Impressive program at opening of the new library."
(In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936]
p. [103])

2. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report.
1927. p. 4.

3. Ibid. p. 5.

AN ENLARGED LIBRARY

As circulation figures continued to grow and the number of borrowers increased, the need for enlarging the library's plant became evident to the Board of Trustees, who communicated the need to the Township Committee. The public was informed through good publicity in the town's newspapers. The publicity was gentle in tone yet convincing. That there was no overstating of the need is shown in a newspaper clipping of July 1930:

The Library is now comfortably--cozily--housed in a strikingly impressive building near the Municipal Building. This structure can be 'winged' at any time; there is ample room for it. It would seem from Miss Norton's report that the cramped quarters are now bulging, that the Library is experiencing growing pains with demands that it have more room in which to stretch itself. No hint of that is given in the report itself; the conclusion comes merely after reading the figures and noting the growth in the use of the Library.¹

Even more convincing to the residents than verbal appeals were their own experiences within the library. They were crowded by other readers as they selected their books and they queued up in a long line to have their books charged. The measures taken to alleviate the situation were eloquent. In an attempt to remedy the crowded conditions, the library hours were increased, first from twenty-seven to twenty-nine. Two years later, in September 1932,

1. "Growth in library use." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936] p. [21])

twelve more morning hours were added to the library's weekly schedule in the hope that some adult readers would use the library in the mornings and thus relieve the overcrowding in the afternoons and evenings. The installation of more bookstacks partially provided the additional book space needed.

In making her annual reports, the librarian constantly compared the local library statistics with the American Library Association standards for libraries in similar communities. These comparisons highlighted the fact that although the Teaneck library had only from one-fourth to one-half the book stock described as reasonably adequate, the circulation was very close to the ideal figure.

As early as 1930 Mr. Warner, the architect, was encouraged by the Library Board to draw plans for additional wings which would provide an adults' reading room, children's room, and a reference room.¹ It was not until 1932, however, that the first concrete proposal for new building was presented when Mrs. Jordan, president of the Emerson School Parent Teachers' Association, requested that these wings be built.²

1. "Charging politics, library trustees file resignations." Bergen Evening Record (Hackensack, N. J.) March 19, 1930 p. 12, col. 1.

2. "Council considers plea for addition to public library." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936] p. [46])

In May 1932 it was reported that the Township Council had passed a resolution endorsing this addition. The resolution asked the State Director of Unemployment Relief for \$10,000 in relief funds to finance the library building program.¹ Another PTA group, from the Whittier School, began an opposition movement, on the grounds that additions to the existing elementary schools were more necessary.² An interested parent from the Emerson School group countered that without the additions the Library could not function even if more money were appropriated for books. She further advanced the argument that now materials and labor were cheap; and that Mr. Warner's plans, offered free, constituted a great saving to the township.³

At this point the plans for expansion were checked in a manner which ultimately proved very fortunate. The unemployment relief funds of \$7,000 which might have been applied to the library addition were exhausted in constructing a high school stadium.

A little more than a year later, in July 1933, it was announced that the Township Council had endorsed new and much more

1. "Library addition is endorsed by council." Bergen Evening Record (Hackensack, N. J.) May 4, 1932 p. 9, col. 2.

2. "Parent-teacher group opposes library wing." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936] p. [48])

3. "Flays employee of library for wing criticisms." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936] p. [48])

ambitious plans drawn up by Mr. George M. Cady, a West Englewood architect. The original plans of Mr. Warner, drawn up on a more modest scale, had called for two wings built out from the sides of the original building. The new plans called for two additions, one in front of the existing building, and one at the rear, which would increase the library's area fourfold. The rear addition provided for a children's room, isolated from the adult section, with large windows, interesting seating arrangements, a fireplace, and a separate entrance. In addition, space was allotted for a repair shop, a staff rest room, and a large document vault for township records. The front addition provided for adult reading room, reference space, and bookshelves all around the walls. The original building was to become an open stack room.¹

The application for a \$50,000 loan from the Federal government, \$40,000 for the building itself and \$10,000 to equip it, was made in September 1933. Formal approval was not received until January 1936. The interim period of waiting was a time of rumor, uncertainty, conflicting claims, and counterproposals. Several groups in the town opposed the library improvement because they felt it would interfere with other town projects. There was a loan application pending for a \$635,000 addition to the high school, and another for a new elementary school, to cost \$215,000. The sponsors

1. See Appendix D. Floor plans of the library building.

of these two projects seemed to feel that the Federal government might approve the library loan and turn down the others.

In the event that the library loan was denied, an alternative plan was proposed by Mrs. Jordan. She suggested that the town appropriate \$2,000 to establish a reference department in the high school library, and keep that open evening hours and Saturdays for adults. The Board of Education heartily approved this plan.¹

The library loan, therefore, was not pushed until the school loans had been approved. On August 30, 1934, with the James Russell Lowell School under construction and the high school grant unofficially approved, the Township Manager, Paul Volcker, left for Washington with Mr. Greenlaw, a member of the Library Board, to confer with FWA officials.²

There followed another period of waiting. Three months later, when it seemed unlikely that the loan would be approved, the Library Board suggested an alternate plan, for a non-permanent addition, to cost \$10,000. The plan proposed adding two temporary frame wings, to the right and left of the present building, to be removed at some time in the future, when a permanent structure

1. "Library remedy would use H. S. for research." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936] p. [71])

2. "Library appeal takes Volcker to Washington." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936] p. [79])

could be added.

Mrs. Jordan felt that the \$10,000 should be spent on reference books for the high school library, where the children would benefit. The Municipal Manager was noncommittal. While he would not say that hope for the loan was dead, nor approve the proposals for either the temporary wings for the library or the high school reference library, he did point out that the difference in maintenance of a temporary building would be only \$5,000 less than for a permanent one. He concluded that the wisest course might be to erect the entire building as originally planned, even if Government aid were not available. A month later he came out even more strongly for the last course, but advised waiting until July 1 to see if the loan came through.²

In July Mr. Volcker went to Washington again. This time there was hope. The loan application was reopened, on the basis of a forty-five per cent grant and a fifty-five per cent loan. Much of the credit for this latest development was due to the intervention of Congressman Edward A. Kenney, Democrat. Bergen County, like the rest of Bergen County, is predominantly Republican, and the community appreciated the Congressman's interest. Grateful

1. "Increase in readers make more rooms at library a necessity." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936] p. [84])

2. "Volcker scans library situation but does not reach a conclusion." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936] p. [87])

acknowledgment for his non-partisan support was made in the Republican press.¹

On January 30, 1936, the Federal government gave formal approval for a \$22,909 grant and a \$28,000 loan. The funds for the construction were set up by the township under Ordinance 692. The township decided to include, at its own expense, the additional feature of a \$9,000 auditorium, seating 250, in the basement of the new front wing.²

The laying of the cornerstone for the library additions was an important part of the township's July Fourth celebration that year³ and the dedication ceremonies for the enlarged library took place on December 4, 1936 in the new basement auditorium.⁴

The new red brick building with white trim harmonized with the architecture of the Town Hall, combining the best features of fine Colonial design with the early Dutch influence to be found in the vicinity.

1. "To Congressman Kenney." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1927-1936] p. [96])

2. "Township Council decides Teaneck library building will include auditorium." Bergen Evening Record (Hackensack, N. J.) January 8, 1936 p. 10, col. 2.

3. "Cornerstone laid at new Teaneck public library." Bergen Evening Record (Hackensack, N. J.) July 7, 1936 p. 10, col. 2.

4. "200 attend as Teaneck dedicates new library." Bergen Evening Record (Hackensack, N. J.) December 5, 1936 p. 6, col. 4.

CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL WINGS

Within a few years of the erection of the 1936 addition, the growth of the town's population and the consequent greater demands on the library's services created the need for still further expansion. Several important factors made other additions to the library possible. First, the Annual reports of the Librarian and a constant barrage of good publicity releases to the press had consistently and honestly informed the public of the problems facing the library. Second, excellent library service had educated the residents of the township concerning the value of a good library. Finally, when the library became so crowded with high school students that there was literally no room for the adults to read and work quietly, the need for a separate reference room and for a special place for the young people, became painfully apparent. In the Junior Room, too, which was used by children from the first through the eighth grade, books were jammed tightly into shelves and overflowed onto window sills. The library was almost bursting its seams.

During World War II, even though she realized that building was not possible, Miss Norton, the Librarian, constantly kept the need for expansion before the public. Finally, in 1948, the first plans for additional wings were actually drawn up, by George M. Cady, and approved by the Trustees. At the suggestion of Miss Norton, the Library Board called in Mr. James E. Bryan, Assistant Librarian of Newark and specialist in library buildings, as a

consultant.¹ He suggested several modifications in the plans, some of which were followed. Fulfillment of the plans now awaited the allocation of funds by the Township Council.

Consequently, the Annual reports for 1949, 1950, and 1951 continued to speak, with increasing emphasis, of the overcrowded conditions. In the 1949 report the Librarian stated that the collection of 41,000 books was overflowing the shelves.² In 1950 the situation was still more critical. It was pointed out that since the last expansion, in 1936, the population of the town had increased more than 12,000. By 1951, the Librarian was forced to observe that unless relief came within the year, no more books could be added to the collection. The book stock of 42,484 volumes was placing an even greater strain on library facilities, yet the American Library Association's standard of two-and-a-half books per capita was not being met.³ To cease buying books would mean the stagnation of the library, as Teaneck had not reached its maximum population.

On May 6, 1952, under Ordinance 956, the Township Council appropriated \$237,000 for the two new wings. Bids were opened on

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1948. p. [5]

2. Ibid. 1949. p. [1]

3. Ibid. 1951. p. [1]

May 27, and contracts were let within a month. Ground was broken in June, and within a year, in the summer of 1953, the construction was completed.¹

The new library additions consist of two one-story wings, each ²⁴46' x ⁸⁵89', connected to the north and south ends of the existing buildings. The new wings, like the rest of the library, conform to the same attractive Colonial style of architecture as the other municipal buildings at Teaneck Road and Cedar Lane.

The south wing contains the new Junior Room, for children from pre-school age through the eighth grade. A foyer leads directly to the downstairs auditorium and a small kitchen under the children's wing. The old Junior Room was renovated to provide the Librarian's office, several other offices, and work space.

The north wing contains the Reading and Reference Room, Music Room, with sound booths, and a new Stack Room immediately below the new Reading and Reference Room. The old Stack Room was converted into the Young Adult Room, where young people may read, study, even converse, without disturbing their elders. The two courts formed by the new additions were landscaped and serve as outdoor reading rooms during pleasant weather, and the site for children's story hours in the summer.²

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1953. p. [1]

2. See Appendix D. Floor plans of the library building.

The Junior Room and Cataloging Room were the first to be opened, on July 1, 1953. For two weeks, between August 24 and September 9, the adult section was closed while 40,000 books were moved from the old Stack Room, the new Young Adult Room furnished and redecorated, and the office space reorganized. Additional furniture and equipment for the Music Room arrived and were installed during the next three months. Open House for the completely renovated library was held December 5, 1953.¹

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1953. p. [4]

V

DEPARTMENTS OF THE LIBRARY

In growing from its humble beginnings in a sun parlor with two hundred books to its present physical plant housing 50,922 books,¹ the Library has grown in the complexity of its organization. The several functions of a library tend to become departments, each contributing to a specific usefulness either to a type of reader or to a reader's special purpose. Especially is this true when the library is large enough to have a separate Junior Room, Young Adult Room, Reading and Reference Room, and Music Room, as the Teaneck Free Public Library has.

THE ADULT DEPARTMENT

The Main Reading Room and the new Stack Room contain all the books that comprise the circulating collection for adults. Since the Main Reading Room is the first room one enters, it sets the atmosphere for the rest of the library. The immediate effect is one of great charm, dignity, and cheerfulness. It is a large two-storied room, measuring 68' x 32', lit by many high semi-circular headed windows. The Colonial buff-colored walls and ivory woodwork

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1953. p. [10]

make an excellent background for the four colorful murals running the same height as the windows, on the north, west, and south walls.

These murals, painted in 1938 by Mr. Robert Martin, who was employed by the Federal Art Project, depict the evolution of printing.¹ They consist of four panels showing the early manuscript writing done by the monks, the Gutenberg press, early Colonial printing, and modern printing.

Bookstacks line the walls and are flush with them. The large circulating desk, with its Gaylord charging machine, is in the center of the room. At the south end of the room is a handsome marble-faced fireplace before which there is an informal grouping of red leather chairs and mahogany tables. This area is set off from the charging desk by a low ivory-painted bookstack containing periodicals. Near the door is a large display area, whose colorful and timely exhibits are changed frequently.

On the other side of the desk there is the catalog, another fireplace, more mahogany tables and Chippendale chairs. There are usually vases of fresh flowers, that contribute to the general atmosphere, which is a successful blend of dignity, charm, and friendly warmth.

The Main Reading Room houses the complete collection of fine

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1938. p. [4]

arts and travel. There is a New Books section, including recently published fiction and non-fiction, which is also in this room. The basement Stack Room contains the remainder of the Adult Circulating Collection, which consists of all the fiction, all the non-fiction except fine arts and travel, and a group of approximately two hundred foreign books.

The excellent Adult Circulating Collection represents a wide variety of interests and is well suited to the character and needs of the community. The tastes of a large group of serious readers are reflected in the more than adequate representation of books on literary and cultural subjects. There are also well stocked sections on insurance, salesmanship, antiques, art, child psychology, home repair, mechanical drawing, and civil engineering. These categories are indicative of the interests of the composite Teaneck resident, who is a fairly prosperous home owner, proud of home and lawn, intelligently curious about practical matters, and with enough leisure to read good books and to follow one or more hobbies.

As times have changed, the character of the collection has changed, to meet the varying needs of the community. During World War II there was a great demand for technical books, to help untrained people qualify for work in defense industry. There were many calls for books on foreign affairs, and for those giving personal war experiences. The library was trying to help people in their effort to understand the problems involved in permanent world

peace. As demands in the post-war period shifted to books on vocations, home decoration, post-war planning, and books on business, the library always responded by the selection of suitable books.

The circulating collection's strength in literature, history, and economics is particularly helpful to the many college students who live in Teaneck. They attend such colleges as Rutgers University, Columbia University, The College of the City of New York, Fordham University, and Fairleigh-Dickinson College. It speaks well for the collection's adequacy that these students find many of the basic books and assigned readings which they need in the library.

THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The new Reading and Reference Room now provides a separate place for reference service and for those people who wish to study or read in a quiet atmosphere. This room, which is in the north wing, is 28' x 85'. One enters it through a small attractive corridor leading from the Main Reading Room. Again, the décor here emphasizes dignity and brightness. The walls are painted a pale yellow; bookstacks and woodwork are elephant gray. There are large mahogany reading tables and comfortable Chippendale chairs. Gold colored lamps on the tables provide excellent reading light.

At each end of the room is a large bay window, in front of which is a turquoise leather sofa, flanked by shrimp-colored leather

chairs. There is a handsome mahogany desk for the Reference Librarian in the middle of the room. In the southeast corner of the Reading and Reference Room stand the steel filing cabinets that hold the Pamphlet File.

The Reference Collection is good, containing practically all the materials that might be required of a library this size. It has proved adequate for the reference needs of a large, intellectually curious body of readers. There is an excellent collection of business books for reference. The Teaneck Public Library is the only one in Bergen County that subscribes to Moody's, a business service that supplies valuable information to business men on investments, banking, industry, and agriculture. Thomas' register of American manufacturers, and the New Jersey industrial directory, also supply business information. The library, by providing these valuable business reference materials, serves the business people not only of Teaneck, but of the entire county as well.

THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

One of the most active and lively places in the library is the Junior Room. It occupies the entire south wing, 22' x 85', and houses children's books to suit the tastes of youngsters from pre-school age through the eighth grade. It is a gay, informal room, with knotty pine woodwork, apple green walls, and Colonial furnishings. It is divided into two large sections, the east end of the

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room serving the children from pre-school age through the sixth grade, and the west catering to the seventh and eighth graders. Tables and chairs vary in size to suit the different age levels. Low book stacks line the walls, which are decorated with many colorful pictures and posters. There is a magazine rack containing children's periodicals and a steel filing cabinet for pamphlet material. The knotty pine charging desk facing the entrance has an unobstructed view of the room. A Gaylord charging machine is used.

The collection has grown from its slight beginnings in 1927 to its present size, 10,000 books. The 1927 appropriation was \$200; the present appropriation is \$2,500. Since 1938, when the Junior Room was established as a separate department, there has been an appointed Junior Librarian and assistants. Book selection for this department, which had previously been done by the Librarian, was then taken over by the Junior Librarian.

The collection is divided into three parts: books for the pre-school children and grades 1, 2, and 3; books for grades 4, 5, and 6; and books for the Junior High students, grades 7-8. The first group contains suitable books chosen from the Children's catalog and the ALA booklist. Most of these books are in approved library binding, since they receive the hardest kind of use. This collection is in good condition and attractively bound.

The second group contains titles in fiction, history, biography, and science suitable for this group of readers. In this

group as in the third group books are covered with Plasti-Kleer jackets. The more durable library binding is not considered necessary or desirable, since these young people prefer to carry books that look as if they came from a book store.

In the section for seventh and eighth graders, such adult titles as Anne Morrow Lindbergh's North to the Orient, Maurice Herzog's Annapurna, and Charlette Bronts's Jane Eyre are added to give these children an interest in good adult literature. This section has had its own pamphlet file since December 1953. This file contains material from the Scout organizations, and pamphlets on travel, hobbies, and recreation. It has proved a valuable source of additional reference material.

In addition to the actual collections, the Junior Department has provided many extra, valuable services. Every summer there is a vacation reading club with an attractive title such as Treasure Hunt Reading Club, Robin Hood Reading Club, or Junior Cadet Reading Club. The Junior Librarian visits the schools each spring and advertises these clubs. For those children who complete their allotted reading of ten books per summer, there is a party with refreshments and entertainment, in the library auditorium. This is only one of the many activities that the Junior Department sponsors.

Story hours for the younger children have been a feature of the Junior Department since 1938. There are two programs. Story Time is held in the auditorium, for children in the elementary

schools. Stories are told and films shown. For the very young pre-school child there is Picture Book Time every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 11:00.

The Junior Department also offers service to the schools and to organized groups such as the Girl Scouts. Classes visit the library for orientation tours. Girl Scout troops may receive a special talk, on mending books, for example. These activities, plus the constant output of attractive booklists, draw large numbers of young people to the Junior Room and keep it a very busy place.

THE YOUNG ADULT DEPARTMENT

In 1938 a group of books selected from all sections of the library as specially suitable for young people was assembled and placed in a low bookcase in the Main Reading Room. Here they remained until the 1953 additions made a separate Young Adult Room possible. The former Stack Room¹ was cleared of books, which were moved to the new basement stacks. The room was redecorated and refurnished, and the Young Adult Collection was placed there.

It is an attractive room and most suitably furnished to appeal to the tastes and comfort of young people. The focal point of the room is the fireplace. Set into the wall above the fireplace is a colored plaster fresco, done in 1927 by Mrs. A. da Loria

1. See Appendix D. Floor plans of the library building.

Norman, a local artist. This was donated by Miss Matte Scott, one of the charter members of the Library Association, in memory of her aunt, Mrs. Eveline Dykeman Caddy, another member. There are green leather armchairs on either side of the fireplace with maple end tables holding current magazines. Two large round maple tables are in the center of the room. There are also tan leather armchairs and a comfortable green leather settee. The Young Adult Librarian has a Colonial maple desk in front of the windows on the south wall.

Bookstacks painted dark green line the light green walls and hold a collection of books colorful in Plasti-Kleer book jackets. One wall is devoted to a large collection of college catalogs. Attractively bound pamphlets are set out on the shelves. There is also one encyclopedia, Collier's.

This spacious room, two stories high, is only partially filled with the 847 books it now holds. The balcony stacks are completely empty, awaiting the growth of this collection, which now consists largely of recreational and vocational reading.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

In June 1949 a lending collection of ninety phonograph record albums was added to the library's resources.¹ This collection

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1949. p. 7.

was originally housed in the work room above the Librarian's office. Borrowers were not admitted to the collection but made their selections from a card catalog. A page would then procure the album from the stacks.

The collection, which comprises 501 albums, is now housed in open stacks in a small room off the southwest wall of the Reading and Reference Room, called the Music Room. Besides the records, there are librettos, books and periodicals on music, operas, symphonies, and instrumental music, with some operettas and folk music. The library's statistics for 1953 show a circulation of 4,707 records, ample evidence of the collection's popularity.

The furnishing of the Music Room owes something to the original Library Association. After the Association was dissolved, a small fund remained on hand to be used in the future for some library purpose. In 1953 this money, which had been invested in bonds, amounted to \$488.50. Miss Norton suggested to the Library Trustees that these funds be used to furnish the new Music Room. As a result a record player, table, and some chairs were purchased. There are also several mahogany tables and comfortable red leather chairs. The walls are a light gray; woodwork and stacks are dark gray. The room, though small, is attractive. On the south wall hangs a commemorative plaque listing the members of the Library

Association.¹

1. See Appendix B. Text of a plaque listing the members of the Library Association.

VI

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The collections discussed below are special in the sense that they have an individual character but are not extensive enough to comprise a department. That they are valuable in filling a specific need is shown by the constant use made of them by the community.

NEW JERSEY COLLECTION

This group of approximately two hundred and fifty books is a collection of volumes about New Jersey history, laws, industry, geography, education, and folklore, occupying a bookstack placed directly in back of the Reference Librarian's desk, for quick and easily available reference. A sizable addition to this group came from the estate of the late Frank Morrison, a local attorney and student of New Jersey history.

TEANECK COLLECTION

Information on Teaneck—its government, geography, history, ordinances, schools, can be supplied from the "Teaneck Collection". This material consists of pamphlets, books, newspaper clippings, and mimeographed matter. Although it is small enough to be contained in a large drawer of the Reference Librarian's desk, it is

complete enough to meet those questions that are most frequently asked about Teaneck.

PAMPHLET FILE

Pamphlets, which are kept in a series of modern steel cabinets in the Reading and Reference Room, are an important resource of the library. The Pamphlet File now contains approximately 2,000 pamphlets on 700 subjects. The Annual reports, since 1937, when the Pamphlet File was first mentioned, show the steady growth of this collection and an awareness of its value. It is constantly pointed out that often the only available information on a subject is in pamphlet form.¹

The folders containing this material are new, with neatly typed labels bearing appropriate subject headings. There are many pamphlets from such authoritative series as the Life adjustment booklets, Public affairs pamphlets, and Editorial research reports.

Recently the Pamphlet File was completely revised, much outdated material discarded, and newer, more timely literature added. Like the other collections, it has always been influenced by the changing needs of the community.

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1937. p. 3.

PICTURE FILE

There are 6,800 pictures, kept in steel filing cabinets in a room above the Librarian's office. They are neatly mounted, on lightweight cardboard, with typed subject headings. The collection contains a wide variety of illustrative material, which the community has found most useful. As many as 1,100 pictures have been circulated in one year.

VII

SPECIAL SERVICES

The services discussed below are special in the sense that they go beyond what might be considered the usual functions of a library. The School Library Branches are a means of making books more easily available to young readers. The other three services, the Lecture Series, the Children's Theatre, and the use of the Auditorium, are instances of the library's willingness to contribute in new ways to the community's cultural development.

SCHOOL LIBRARY BRANCHES

School library branches, operated as deposit stations of the Teaneck Library, provide recreational reading, mostly fiction, for second to sixth graders. They were started in 1930 so that elementary school children need not travel to the main library building in the center of town. Mrs. Josephine Gabel was appointed in 1935 to take care of the school branches, succeeding Mrs. Sam Tour, who was the first staff member assigned to this work.

Mrs. Gabel visits each of the seven elementary schools each week. On the day that she comes to the school each class is programmed for a twenty-minute period with her in the classroom where the books are kept. This period is used only for book circulation.

The 1953 figures show a book stock of 5,197 and a circulation of 61,788.

LECTURE SERIES

In 1937-1938 a series of four lectures was given in the Library auditorium. The subscriptions were limited in number to 250, the seating capacity of the auditorium, and the price of each subscription, \$2.00, was intended to cover the cost of the speakers. The speakers were Dr. Henry C. Link, psychologist; William La Varre, explorer; Gordon B. Endera, foreign adviser to the Grand Lama of Tibet; and Clifton Fadiman, book critic. Each man spoke on a topic related to his specialty.¹

A second series of four lectures was given in 1938-1939 under the same non-profit arrangement. This time the speakers were S. Miles Bouton, European news correspondent; Carveth Wells, explorer; George Daingerfield, literary critic and author; and Gerald Wendt, scientist.²

A third series, for 1939-1940, was cancelled when the main speaker was prevented from appearing because of illness. Difficulties in getting good lecturers during the war years caused the

1. "Dr. Link to open lecture series." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1929-1936] p. [14])

2. "Bouton to open library series." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1929-1936] p. [20])

abandonment of this program and it was never revived.¹

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

For six years, starting in 1944, the library's auditorium was used to provide the town's children with a series of programs known as the "Children's Theatre". For the first two years of its operation the Children's Theatre was jointly sponsored by the Library and the Parent-Teachers' Council. After that the Library managed the program alone.

Each series consisted of from six to eight performances. Animal acts, puppeteers, and entertainers from children's radio and television programs were provided for the children at a nominal fee. For the last two years of its existence the program operated at a deficit. It was finally abandoned in 1950, possibly because of competition from television.

THE AUDITORIUM

This pleasant gray-painted room is in the basement, directly under the Main Reading Room. There is a stage curtained in gray, a piano, and 250 folding chairs. Nearby are kitchen facilities,

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1939. p. [4]

much used by the library and the community.

Since the auditorium was built in 1936, it has been in constant use. It has been the scene of such library-sponsored events as Children's Theatre, the Lecture Series, Story Hours, and many community activities as well. Civic and cultural organizations such as the Teaneck Symphony Orchestra, the Teaneck Woman's Club, and the Garden Club, have used the auditorium on an average of five nights a week as well as on occasional afternoons. The purchase of a projector and screen in 1952 proved an attractive adjunct to the story hours and reading club activities.

VIII

THE LIBRARY STAFF

As the building, collections, and services grew, so did the staff gradually grow from one librarian, one assistant, and one janitor, to its present complement of twenty-nine library staff members and three janitorial helpers. When Miss Garton left in December 1928, Mrs. Ethel Ward, her assistant, conducted the affairs of the library until Miss Agnes C. Norton arrived on March 4, 1929. Mrs. Ward has rendered capable and devoted service ever since. Miss Alice Rust, another faithful and highly valued worker, joined the staff in July 1929 and resigned in October 1944.

With the growing demands on the library's services, the need for additional trained personnel became acute. The situation was somewhat alleviated during the Depression years, when several WPA clerical workers were assigned to the library. They took care of much clerical routine. After April 1, 1941, however, the library, which had received assistance under the WPA for more than five years, was unable to procure more workers.

Frequent changes in personnel, and the employment of part-time workers, were not conducive to maximum efficiency. At times, Miss Norton and Mrs. Alice Papin, a most capable assistant who has been an employee of the library since 1936, were the only full-time members of the staff. Despite the handicap of inexperienced help, the library made every effort to serve the residents effectively.

(resequenced)

Throughout the country the shortage of trained librarians was forcing libraries to curtail their hours. This shortening of hours might have been a solution for the situation, but Miss Norton felt that the public should not be deprived of its usual service.¹

During 1947 the situation remained much the same. The Annual report stressed the need for at least two trained professional assistants, a cataloger and a reference librarian, one to be an administrative assistant to the Librarian. Although the Librarian and the Board made every effort, they were unable to find trained librarians with the proper personal qualifications.²

Even with this minimum staff of four full-time and three part-time members, the library continued to give good service. This was particularly demonstrated in a 1948 survey of ten suburban libraries which included Teaneck. In circulation Teaneck was first; in size of staff it ranked sixth.³ Obviously, the library was operating on an economical basis for the service rendered.

Changes in personnel continue to the present, although there are some people who have stayed on for long periods of time. No one simple cause explains the turnover of personnel. The Teaneck wage

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1946. p. 2.

2. Ibid. 1947. p. 2.

3. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Comparative library figures 1949. Typed.

scale, while undoubtedly lower than that of some more favored suburbs, was still not sufficiently below standard to account for staff losses. A new salary schedule established December 19, 1953, by the Library Trustees has brought Teaneck wages more into line with the current wage market.

What has happened in Teaneck seems to be happening throughout the country: librarians have been leaving for various personal reasons--marriage, care of the sick and aging, or desire for a more favorable geographical location. Whatever the reasons for this labor turnover, they have not affected one person. Fortunately, this happens to be Miss Norton.

IX

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MISS AGNES C. NORTON, LIBRARIAN

March 4, 1954 was the twenty-fifth anniversary of Miss Norton's service with the Teaneck Library. Since she has been with the library practically since it was founded, and since she helped to shape its policies in all that time, she has been largely responsible for the high quality of the library. A closer examination of her varied activities reveals how much the community and the library are indebted to her.

When she arrived in Teaneck on March 4, 1929, Agnes Cornelia Norton had a varied library experience behind her. She had received her training at Fitchburg Normal School, Springfield Library School, and Columbia University. Before she was called to Teaneck, Miss Norton had worked at Attleboro Public Library for two years, in the Children's Library of Boston City Hospital for two years, as Librarian at Ludlow, Vermont, for one year, and as Assistant Librarian at the Howe Library in Hanover, New Hampshire, from 1926 to 1929.

The spirit in which Miss Norton assumed control is evident in the library today—its atmosphere is one of friendliness, neatness, and order. Good organization is implicit in the tone of the Annual reports. Careful planning and sound common sense were the essence of the flexibility with which the collection responded to the community's needs through the Depression, war, and the post-war periods. Patient and thorough hard work in publicity effected the

education of the community to the value of superior library service.¹ Imagination inspired the many features that served so many segments of the town's population, features like the Children's Theatre, Summer Reading Clubs, and Lecture Series.

Miss Norton's activity in the community has been phenomenal. She has talked before many organizations in Teaneck: PTA's, Jewish Sisterhood, Court Anastasia, Bahai, DAR, local garden clubs, and the Woman's Club. In February 1950 the Teaneck chapter of B'nai Brith, a national Jewish service organization, named her "Woman of the Year" for her "outstanding work in promoting brotherhood in Teaneck".² She has done more than give book talks. Many times she has spoken before high school and college groups on the vocational aspects of library work. In 1937 she served on the Bergen County Adult Education Planning Council.

Her successful work with the library speaks for itself in its record of economical and efficient management. Under her administration the library has also engaged in effective public relations, as evidenced by its selection for the Wilson Publicity Honor Roll in 1941 and 1942 for its attractive booklists.³ These

1. Norton, Agnes C. "Increases through the regular budget." Wilson library bulletin 27:528-529 March 1953.

2. "Miss Norton honored by B'nai Brith unit as she's given annual brotherhood award." (In Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. "Scrapbook." [1928-1951] p. [89])

3. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1942. p. 6.

booklists were intended for specific audiences and were distributed throughout the community. The library has given service, for example, to business men in the community. One instance of this kind of service was the illustrated pamphlet on retail trade, Let books boost your sales, prepared by the library and mailed to every local merchant in town from a Chamber of Commerce mailing list.¹

Miss Norton has been very active in professional organizations. She has participated in county, state, and national professional bodies. She has served as President of the Bergen-Passaic County Library Club. In the New Jersey Library Association, she has served on various committees, such as the Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, and the Cooperation with Business Committee. For two years, as Publicity Committee Chairman, she edited the News letter which was sent out three times a year to the Association's 1,200 members. In 1951 she was elected Vice-President of the New Jersey Library Association. In the American Library Association, she has served with the Activities Committee of the Junior Members' Round Table, a group of seven members chosen from all sections of the United States.

The Teaneck Public Library owes much to the unbroken record of Miss Norton's twenty-five years of capable stewardship. The place which she holds in the affectionate esteem of the community

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1949. p. [4]

is a recognition of her qualities not only as an administrator,
but as a remarkable human being.

X

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE GROWTH

It may seem that the recent additions to the library leave little to desire in the way of future improvement. Already, however, the library feels a lack of adequate storage space. This lack will be felt more keenly as materials such as gifts and back numbers of periodicals increase. Some architectural provision for this condition will have to be made in the future. Otherwise the library building should be adequate in size and facilities, even when Teaneck, which has small undeveloped areas, has reached its maximum growth.

There is also a need for a larger book stock, especially in the Young Adult Room, which is still new and capable of much growth. It would seem desirable also to expand the other collections, which have been limited by lack of space until the recent expansion of the library.

There is still, however, the problem of location. The library is not easily accessible to all parts of the town. From three areas of Teaneck access to the library is inconvenient. The most inaccessible section is the south end of Teaneck, bordering on Fort Lee Road, which has no bus line to the Library. From the West Englewood Park section, it is necessary to take two buses. The third area is the north end of town, near Bergenfield, where many houses are located some distance from the local bus line.

Either a bookmobile, already suggested by Miss Norton as far

back as 1938,¹ or the establishment of branches in these three areas mentioned, would remedy the situation. In view of the recent costly additions to the library, there seems little likelihood that the town will purchase a bookmobile or set up new branches in the near future. The eventual attainment of these goals is suggested, however, as worthy of consideration. The record of appropriations for library needs indicates that future needs will be met eventually, as they have been in the past, by an appreciative community.

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual report. 1938. p. [5]

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A

CHRONOLOGY OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

This chronology is appended to give a synoptic view of the main events in the history and development of the library. It is intended to help the reader see more easily the pace at which the Free Public Library of Teaneck grew.

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|--------------------|--|
| October 1912. | Mrs. Louise S. Jordan starts circulating library in her home, at 125 West Englewood Avenue, Teaneck, N. J. |
| June 22, 1922. | Women volunteers incorporated as Teaneck Library Association. |
| May 30, 1923. | Library is opened in renovated slave house. |
| July 22, 1923. | Purchase of slave house property for \$2,000. |
| July 24, 1926. | Sale of slave house property for \$17,500. |
| February 14, 1927. | Referendum on erection of municipally supported library. |
| March 8, 1927. | Free Public Library of Teaneck, N. J., organized under municipal control. |
| May 21, 1927. | Cornerstone laid for the first library building. |
| November 20, 1927. | Board of Trustees formally dedicate the building. |
| December 15, 1927. | Distribution of books begins from new library building. |
| March 4, 1929. | Miss Agnes C. Norton becomes Librarian. |
| July 4, 1936. | Cornerstone laid for PWA additions to building. |
| December 4, 1936. | Dedication of enlarged building. |

- June 23, 1941. Teaneck Public Library is named to Wilson
Publicity Honor Roll.
- June 26, 1942. Teaneck Public Library is again named to Wilson
Publicity Honor Roll.
- February 16, 1950. Miss Norton, Librarian, chosen by B'nai Brith
as "Woman of the Year".
- June 1952. Construction started on new additions.
- December 5, 1953. Open House at Library to observe opening of
the new wings.

APPENDIX B

TEXT OF A PLAQUE LISTING THE MEMBERS
OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The text of the plaque hanging on the wall of the new Music Room is included to give a listing of all the people who worked in the Library Association.

A Tribute of Appreciation

WHEREAS the women who were active members of the Library Association at the time this Library was organized March 8, 1927, made possible the erection of this building through unselfish devotion and effort, and

WHEREAS the architect who designed and supervised the construction of this building donated his services, now

THEREFORE be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of Teaneck that in grateful recognition of this invaluable contribution to this Township the names of these women and of the Architect be hereby made a permanent part of the building.

EMMA AHRENS

AGNES CAMPBELL

EVELINE CADDY

CARRIE FRANK

GEORGIANA GREENLAW

MARGARET HAWKEY

LOUISE JORDAN

LILLIAN KENNEDY

EVA LEBECK

SARAH KENNEDY

DORA NIBBE

ROSE PEINECKE

FRANCES QUASDORF

ELIZABETH SAMPLE

MATTE SCOTT

ELLA SCHUMANN

IRENE THACKWELL

FREDERICK T. WARNER, ARCHITECT

APPENDIX C

CIRCULATION STATISTICS--1928-1953¹

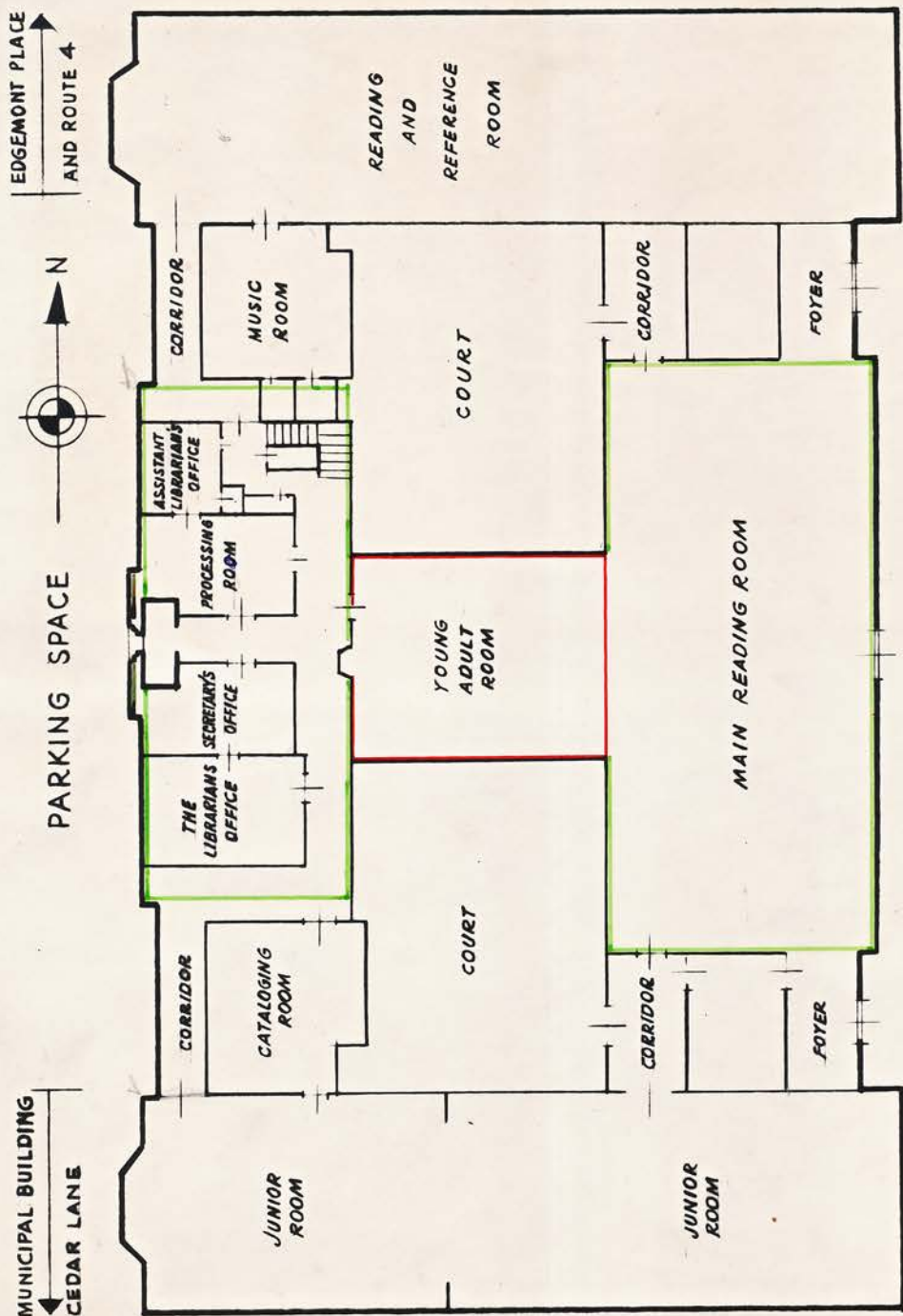
The figures below are taken from the Annual reports except for those bracketed, which are totals compiled from the monthly circulation statistics records at the Library. Beginning January 1, 1950, all books were stamped for four weeks, with no renewals allowed. This change in policy accounts for the subsequent drop in circulation figures.

YEAR	BOOKS	PAMPHLETS	PICTURES	PERIODICALS	RECORDS
1928	20,867				
1929	43,853				
1930	72,731				
1931	85,611	30	4		
1932	120,407	49	68		
1933	135,311	83	102		
1934	137,832	78	44		
1935	133,280	33	156		
1936	126,524	95	566		
1937	162,015	296	804		
1938	182,123	506	690	[4,524]	
1939	191,611	611	1,155	[4,424]	
1940	195,340	828	1,073	5,034	
1941	202,799	1,002	711	4,928	
1942	206,569	956	688	4,829	
1943	176,778	955	931	4,298	
1944	194,837	681	757	4,628	
1945	182,432	673	781	[4,844]	
1946	183,332	685	709	[4,342]	
1947	201,117	944	562	[4,402]	
1948	211,040	977	838	[4,822]	
1949	231,301	1,269	1,269	[5,636]	2,043
1950	210,441	712	932	4,962	4,014
1951	227,243	532	335	[5,159]	5,130
1952	257,861	573	647	[5,960]	4,707
1953	254,412	848	1,523	[4,968]	5,478

1. Teaneck, N. J. Free Public Library. Annual reports. 1927-1953. passim.

APPENDIX D

FLOOR PLANS OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING



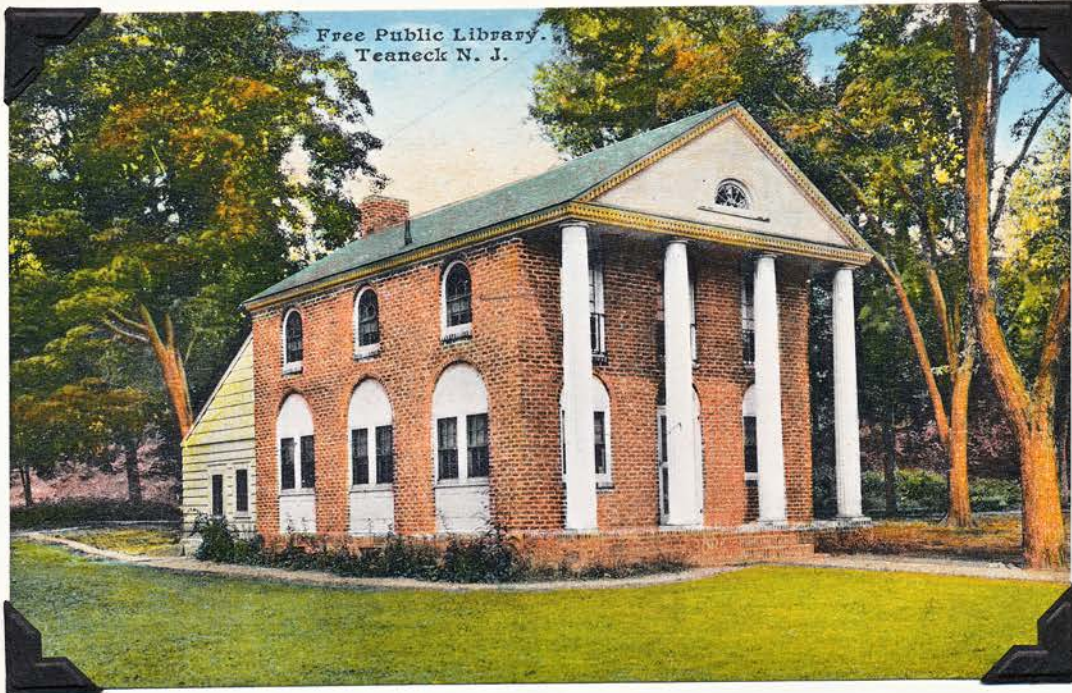
AREA OUTLINED IN GREEN
PWA ADDITIONS (1936)

TEANECK ROAD

AREA OUTLINED IN RED
IS THE ORIGINAL (1927)
BUILDING

TEANECK PUBLIC LIBRARY

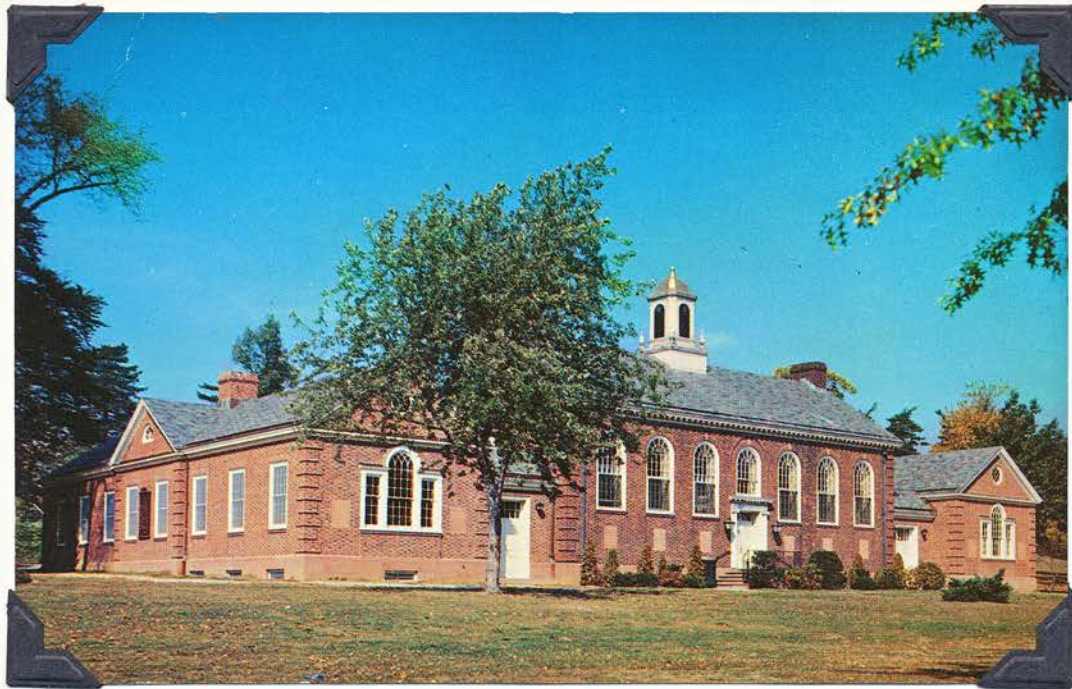
APPENDIX E
PICTURES OF THE BUILDING



1. Original building, 1927



2. Building enlarged by Public Works Administration, 1936



3. Building with recent additions, 1953



4. Main Reading Room



5. Junior Room, facing east



6. Junior Room, facing west



7. Young Adult Room



8. Reading and Reference Room

APPENDIX F

PRESENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Free Public Library of Teaneck has been fortunate in having a succession of intelligent devoted citizens as Trustees. They have been people who place the proper value on good library facilities and have worked hard to further the development and expansion of the library. The names listed below are those of the present members of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Phillip W. Fraleigh, President

Mrs. John Casey, Secretary

Mr. William C. Moore, Treasurer

Mr. Allan A. Walsh

Mrs. Raymond Ankers

TRUSTEES 1927 - 1954

MRS. JOSEPHINE ANKERS

MRS. ADELAIDE BERGHORN

MRS. MARGARET CASEY
Dr. George Clark
C. A. ESSLINGER

PHILIP W. FRALEIGH

FRANKLIN GAYLORD

MRS. GEORGIANA GREENLAW

RALPH W. GREENLAW

E. H. GROTEFEND

MRS. MARGARET HAWKEY

L. T. HOSTETLER

MRS. GERALDINE HUSTON

MRS. LOUISE JORDAN

FRED W. LONBY

WILLIAM C. MOORE

MRS. FRANCES QUASDORF

MRS. HELENA ROWLAND

MRS. ELIZABETH SAMPLE

MISS MATTE SCOTT

MRS. EDITH SHULENBERGER

JOHN SOBY

MRS. IRENE THACKWELL

MRS. MARGUERITE TUTTLE

ALLEN A. WALSH

JOHN J. WILKINS

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