

W. Chairman

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The Committee have asked me to speak briefly on the Founding & Progress of this Library & it is both a pleasure & a privilege to do so; a pleasure because we think a sincere word of appreciation of work done 25 years ago, to those Founders & Early workers who are here with us tonight is much better than rows of aptaphs in cold print by & by, & a privilege, because the present Committee are doing our best, in the spirit of the founders, to carry on the splendid work so well begun 25 years ago.

The earliest official mention of a Library in Linnord appears on the Estimates submitted to the Ch Ch City Council, by the Finance Committee on August 7<sup>th</sup> 1908 and it runs thus "Library Linnord £40

Some time before this date Mr. D. Richardson  
 President of the Linwood Citizens Assn. had  
 expressed regret that a growing suburb like  
 Linwood, had no library, and this resulted  
 in arranging a deputation to wait on the Council,  
 the outcome of which, was the laconic notice  
 on the agenda of the Council.

Following on these events, & spurred by  
 the grant from the Council, interest in the  
 movement increased & greater activity became  
 apparent.

At a meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> - 1909, held in  
 the Rolleston St Hall, Mr. W. W. Langer in the chair,  
 Mr. G. M. Russell was the principal speaker, &  
 at the close of his address, he moved "that  
 a library be established in Linwood with headquarters  
 in the old Borough Council Chamber"

So we see, that, while to Mr. D. Richardson must be

given the credit of being the gentleman who  
first ~~proposed~~ suggested a library for  
Linnrod. It was Mr Russell who moved the  
motion for its establishment.

a few weeks later, viz June 11<sup>th</sup> the library  
was formally opened by Mr. G. P. Alison,  
Mayor of Chch, & speeches were made by Messrs  
Zanner as President, & Mr. Russell.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>. 1909. the newly formed Committee  
held their first meeting. Those present were: -

Mr Zanner. President a. Marshall. C. P. Rutland  
a. Rowntree. W. J. Mc Kay, & M. G. Lappell,  
A. Archbold. J. G. Clark. D. Inglis. W. Meers  
& H. Harvey Lee.

at this meeting Messrs Zanner, Marshall,  
Rutland, & Archbold, were instructed to draw  
up Rules & By-Laws. They met in Mr Marshall's  
House some time in June - July.

One result of the deliberations of this Sub-Committee has proved to be of very great value to the Library from then, onward to the present day. viz. that one Subscription should entitle the Subscriber to one book only. but, that Extra books may be taken out on the payment of 3<sup>d</sup> Each.

This was decided, what is, perhaps, the most important single factor in the Library's history, for all through the intervening 25 years we find that "Extra Books" has been one of the largest sources of revenue showing on the Ann Balance sheets.

It is probable that those gentlemen did not realize what a wise decision they had made & never dreamt that the apparently insignificant sum of 3<sup>d</sup> should produce such fine results:

x	From 1919 to 1923	Extra books produced	£943	} During the last 15 years
	1924 - 1928	" "	- 1448	
	1929 - 1933	" "	- 1641	
	1934	" "	- 367	
			<u>£4399</u>	

Taken over the period <sup>5</sup> since 1919 - a period of 15 years  
Subscriptions amount to £5724  
Council Grants 1670

But here is a fine illustration of the power of 3<sup>d</sup> multiples  
Extra Books amount to £4400 (nearly 3 times Grants)

Which expressed in books, tells us, that 352 000 books  
have been paid for, at the rate of 3<sup>d</sup> each, by Subscribers

This is a most welcome addition to our Receipts &  
helps considerably to make the Treasurer's path - if  
not a bed of roses, - a pleasant one.

Besides this, it is returned to the Subscribers in the  
form of an early & adequate supply of new books.

Briefly - It is a beneficent circle that revolves endlessly  
for the benefit of all.

~~The other point to illustrate the Founders  
conception of a library.  
Quote from address~~

The Success of our Library is due:

First - To the true & faithful work of the Founders & the Early Workers

Second. To the loyal & zealous spirit shown by succeeding Committees

To illustrate the First point let us see what two of the Founders thought

Quote from address

and to prove the 2<sup>nd</sup> point it is sufficient to draw your attention <sup>first</sup> to the 16,000 Subscribers of today, a number that so far as I know is not equalled by any subscription library, and to the 15,000 books on the shelves, with another

15,000 or more worn out by eager readers,

2<sup>ndly</sup>

to the Excellent Juvenile Dept. with 1600 Books specially chosen for our young girls & boys.

3<sup>rdly</sup>

to the splendid Magazine Dept with its <sup>70</sup> news papers Periodicals & Magazine. weekly, bi-weekly & monthly

4<sup>thly</sup>

to the N. F. Dept with its 2600 vols covering a wide sphere of thought & research

While the "Fairclough Section" the gift of Mr. F. C. Fairclough of a portion of his fathers library, numbering nearly 1000 books was a gift of very great value.

At the First Annual Meeting held on June 24<sup>th</sup> 1910 the following officers were elected.

- Patron The Mayor of Christchurch. M<sup>r</sup>. C. Alison
- President M<sup>r</sup>. G. W. Russell
- Vice-Presidents Messrs W. W. Tanner, H. Staley, W. Howley, A. Marshall  
W. R. Smith
- Treasurer M<sup>r</sup>. J. Clarke
- Secretary M<sup>r</sup>. W. Harvey
- Committee Messrs Archbold, Butterworth, H. Purson, Cooper, Isaac  
Clarke junr, Mackin, M<sup>c</sup>. Kinney, Rutland, Brownhill  
Richardson & Men

The Presidents of the Library have been:-

- Messrs ~~W. W. Tanner~~<sup>M<sup>r</sup>. W. Tanner</sup>, <sup>M<sup>r</sup></sup> Russell, H. Purson, <sup>M<sup>r</sup></sup> Richardson, G. W. Howley,  
C. P. Rutland, C. J. Cox, E. E. Mitchell & E. Salvoza.

Secretaries:- Messrs W. M. Chappell (of the Provisional Committee)  
W. Harvey, F. A. Drayton, W. Medgley, E. E. Mitchell & W. J. Hopkins.

Treasurers:- Messrs J. Clarke & Marshall T. E. G. Thomas

a brief mention of the members of the First Committee <sup>of 1907</sup> may not be out of place.

M<sup>r</sup>. W. Richardson the Father of our library, is still a valued member of Committee despite his 80 years & we are always glad to see him at our meetings.

M<sup>r</sup>. W. W. Tanner, is a life member & though unable to come regularly to the library, <sup>82</sup> ~~or is no member~~ <sup>post the committee</sup> so that he is kept supplied with reading matter. He is as devoted as ever to the welfare of the library.

Mr Rowntree has proved a zealous & loyal supporter of the Library from its inception. His Landerbrook is visible in many places within the building.

Mr C. P. Rutland, is as regular in his attendance to his duties as the evening of the Sun, as one of our most respected members. For 25 years he has been on our Committee

Mr A Marshall, took an active part in the work of the library, for many years, but for some time now has been content to fill the role of subscriber only, but we are always pleased to see him, & ~~to hear his views~~ to chat about both the past & present.

Mr J. W. Mc Kay is another old resident in the district & his interest in our library is as keen as in 1909. but like Mr Marshall, is satisfied to be a subscriber & thus enjoy a little of the fruit of early planting.

Mr Chappell moved to Rangiora early in 1910, but his work as Sec of the Provisional Comm in 1908-9 was invaluable & his removal from was a heavy loss to us.

Mr Harvey is not often seen in the library, but is still interested. He was the first Sec of the library.



~~Mr. Messer~~ - The remaining member present at the 2nd  
 Comm. Meeting June 25 1909 was Mr. Messer who joined  
 the great majority some few years ago.

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In conclusion Sir we have received a great  
 benefit from the hand of these gentlemen & ~~those~~  
~~Successors~~ following them, that benefit brings with  
 it Equally great responsibilities & the future of our  
 Library lies in our hands & the hands of our Successors.

If <sup>we</sup> are as faithful, & as wise as they have  
 proved, in fulfilling those duties, then with  
 confidence can we believe & say that great  
~~has~~ been the Success of our library <sup>has been</sup> in the past,  
 Still greater success awaits it in the future.