

LINWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

50TH ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTED ON THE 15TH APRIL, 1959.

This is our 50th year and again I am pleased to say that we have had a successful year even though our book supply has not been as large as usual due to import restrictions. There has been a larger than usual turnover of subscribers; new ones were 247 and cancellations 209, giving a net increase of 38. There were 752 subscribers at the end of February. A recent check disclosed that some of our subscribers have been members since before 1935, some since the 1920's.

Subs 1958  
714  
752  
+38  
ISSUES 1958  
48198  
50078  
+ 1880

Book issues for the year were 50,078 or 66 per subscriber. Book purchases were:-

Fiction	610	costing	£329.11.9	or	10/9	ea.	(10/1 last year)
General	204	"	£180.17.4	or	17/9	ea.	(16/5 " " )
<hr/>							
Total:	814	"	£510. 9.1				

This represents 1.16 books costing 14/6 per annual subscription of 7/-.

With magazines, periodicals and newspapers the amount spent on reading matter would be approximately 16/4 per subscriber. It will be noted that the price of books is still increasing but that the subscription has not been increased for many years. This year 150 books have been loaned to this Library from the "K" pool at the Canterbury Public Library and they are being well read generally. They will be replaced periodically. These books are issued under the "free" scheme.

Children's Section. Although there has been a reduction in the membership of this section, it is a busy one. There were 279 new members and 578 cancellations. Of the latter 497 were transfers to the "over 16" age group, and dead cards which had not been used for some time. There were 1547 current cards at the end of February; 299 less than last year. Book issues were 9,537 or 6 per member.

ISSUES 1958  
12147  
9537  
- 2610

Books for this section are supplied by the Canterbury Public Library and are changed periodically by that Library.

This section is staffed by members of the respective Parent-Teacher Associations.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Book-buying (Fiction): Supplies have been somewhat limited as is evidenced by the total being over 100 less than last year. Quite a number of books have had to be returned for various reasons, but generally we feel that the reading matter has been of a fairly high standard, except for a tendency on the part of some authors to write books of less than 160 pages.

We feel that we are catering to the general demand and standards required by our subscribers.

General (Non-Fiction): 211 books have been placed on the shelves. Considering the import restrictions some really worth-while books have been coming in. It is a treat to handle fewer and better books. Over 100 books were rebound by the Public Library's Bindery, and these have helped to brighten the shelves. In addition, six volumes of the Illustrated International Encyclopaedia have been purchased. All non-fiction books are strengthened before being issued.

Magazines: The past year has provided subscribers with an excellent selection of magazines, 286 having been placed on the shelves and 242 deleted. Those magazines deleted have been forwarded to Langford House who, in turn, pass them over to the Salvation Army Home, and from reports received they are very much appreciated by the old folk.

It is pleasing to note that we still receive all magazines that are on order. It was feared that at one stage, owing to restrictions, we may have had to find some substitutes but that as yet has not been necessary.

Our thanks are due to the binding staff of the Canterbury Public Library for the splendid example of workmanship that is produced in the binding of these magazines.

Culling: 300 books were withdrawn from the shelves, 116 of which were sold for 29/-.

Only light culling was carried out this year as it was not known what effect the import restrictions would have.

Book-binding: Once again we must thank the Canterbury Public Library Bindery for the excellent work they are doing in re-binding our old books. They are returned "as new". 475 of our books received this treatment.

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