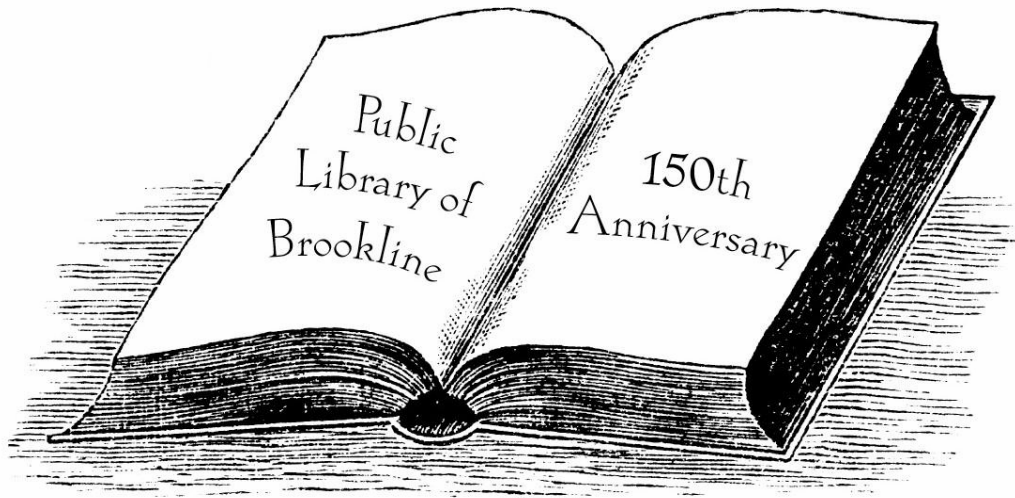


PUBLIC LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE

A HISTORY



Where stories began

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF
LIBRARY SERVICE

1857-2007

CYNTHIA BATTIS, ANNE REED, AND ANNE CLARK

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We appreciate the assistance of the Board of Library Trustees; the Friends of the Brookline Public Library; Marge Amster, Economic Development; Brian Donahue, Librarian Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; Catherine Dooley, Coolidge Corner Branch Librarian; Chuck Flaherty, Town Librarian; Greer Hardwicke, Preservation Planner; Sherry Hesch, Supervisor Children's Services; Julia Ierardi, Reference Librarian; Dalija Karoblis, Assistant Director for Administration; Roger Reed, Preservation Planner; Ben Steinberg, Technology Librarian; Susan von Daum Tholl, Librarian Emmanuel College; Barbara Warner, Putterham Branch Librarian; and Michael Wofsey, Assistant Director for Technology; who helped make this project a reality.

Although this is not a definitive history of the Public Library of Brookline, it is a glimpse into the first 150 years of people, buildings and organizations that have brought the library into the 21st century.

The true work of any library cannot be written. As Library Director, Mary A. Bean, so elegantly wrote in 1884:

After all, it is the unwritten history of our library which is the real history. When we have retold our statistics from year to year, there is still no measurement of the silent and far-reaching influence of our books—no estimate of the incentive to study and research—no record of the numberless times when our treasuries of information have yielded “just the very thing” the inquirer sought—no note of the helpfulness to teachers and pupils—no chronicle of the comfort to the sick or weary, or knowledge of the mere enjoyment of the multitude; yet these are far more truly the important chapters in library history than are the precise numbers of books bought or loaned. They are chapters scattered through the various lives of those who come within the circle of library influence, but quite beyond the grasp of the historian.

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EARLY LIBRARIES

1857

On Wednesday, December 2, 1857, the first library supported by public funds and available to all residents opened in Brookline.

But it was not the first library in the town. Library Director, Louise M. Hooper's address to the Brookline Historical Society in 1937 detailed the early history of Brookline libraries. Here, in part, is her report.

It is eighty years this month since the first book was charged to a borrower in the Library in the old town hall in Brookline on December 2, 1857. But it is over one hundred years since in 1825 the first library that we know of for the use of Brookline residents was organized, the Brookline Social Library...

Since we are celebrating the 80th birthday of our public library, it seems fitting to stop for a little to tell you of the beginnings of the... small libraries which preceded it, some of which contributed their books to the stock of the new public library. ...[I] want to take you back tonight to 1825, the year of library beginnings in Brookline, to give you an idea of the town in which our libraries began their career of modest usefulness.

There is at last in 1825 a second road leading into Brookline, the Mill Dam or Punch Bowl Road, now Brookline Avenue, opened in 1821. Up to this time all travel from Boston has come over the Neck, through Pierpoint's Village, known to us as Roxbury Crossing. Both roads now lead to Punch Bowl Village and the famous tavern of the same name. I am tempted to quote from...[the] delightful story of the "Old Worcester Turnpike," which brings back so well those early days...



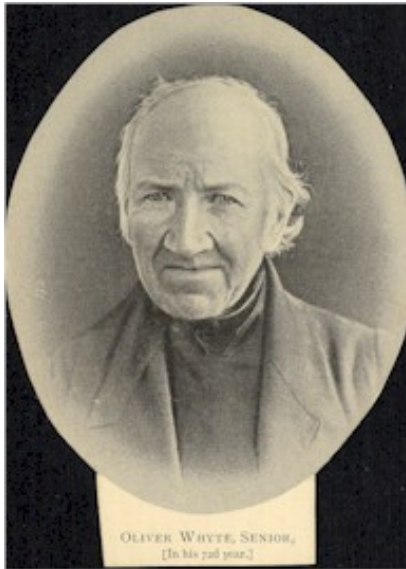
Punchbowl Tavern

It must have been a busy place in front of the old tavern in Punch Bowl Village with all the through travel from the towns to the west. We can imagine the crowd of the idle, the curious, the news gatherers, and those with some definite purpose gathered about the tavern, in tap room, and on the benches outside, watching for what was the event of the day, the coming, stopping and driving away of the New York Stages...

There is now (still in 1825) a Town Hall on the old Sherburne Road [now Walnut Street], a picturesque stone building destined to stand for a hundred years and more, which supersedes the Meeting House and the School House as a place for town meetings. The Selectmen at this time meet at the Punch Bowl. A stage now plies back and forth to Boston, and the New York and Harford stages pass through the town, stopping at the tavern for refreshment. There is as yet no railroad. There is but one church, the First Parish supported by the town until 1833.

Although one finds occasional mention of an earlier library, the first law authorizing the establishment of libraries for the use of the public was in 1793 when the Massachusetts Legislature passed the first general library act. Under this seven or more persons to be called proprietors, could organize to form a "social" library which was allowed to raise money for the necessary expenses by assessing its

shares, and to hold property to the extent of \$300 [equal to \$6000 today]. Under this act Social Libraries grew and multiplied in Massachusetts, 19 having been started between 1800 and 1820, and 10 between 1820 and 1840. In this last number the Brookline Social Library must be included. On its little printed "Abstract of the Rules" the date is December 27, 1820, and the officers are given. Dr. John Pierce was President, Mr. Otis Withington, Secretary, Oliver Whyte, Esq., Librarian, and Deacon John Robinson, Treasurer. The library was kept at first in the house of the Librarian, which must have been the very beautiful house on Walnut St. (the Sherburne Road) at the foot of what is now High Street.



Oliver Whyte



Oliver Whyte's house

From Mr. Whyte's house, the library was moved to the shoe-shop of James Leeds, on Washington Street next door to our present public library lot. The rules state that the subscription was \$5 a year for the first two years, and thereafter \$2 a year. The library was to be open on the first and third Saturday of every month, from 3-4 o'clock, but the Librarian was allowed to deliver books at other times under the condition that the subscriber return books already in his keeping. The little catalogue, printed in 1827, lists about 400 volumes of history, biography, travel, fiction, etc. The last class includes the Waverly novels, a few of Cooper's Indian tales, Maria Edgeworth, "Children of the Abbey" and "The Vicar of Wakefield." This seems a small beginning to the public library as we know it today, but it was really a beginning, and the progress has been continuous.

A second Social Library was begun in 1846 that had great bearing on the development of public libraries. Here is Benjamin F. Baker's 1897 recollection of that library:

In the autumn of 1846 a number of young men in this town, with the writer, feeling desirous of some opportunity whereby they could improve themselves by obtaining better facilities for information, as well as a better knowledge of what was going on in different parts of the country, agreed to hire some place where they could meet evenings and dull days when they were obliged to be idle, each to contribute such books as he might have, whether of biography, travels, fiction, or any works that might be of interest or information... Sometime in eighteen hundred forty-seven or eight the idea came into my mind that a library that would be free to the public, or where books could be taken out for a small sum, would be

of great use and benefit to those persons who were desirous of improving their minds and were fond of reading, but were unable to gratify their tastes in that direction from their inability to purchase books, and who were obliged to live in boarding-houses where it would not be convenient to take up too much room...In the fall and winter of 1849 the news that gold had been discovered in California reached us, and at once much excitement prevailed among the people in relation to the matter...several of our number went to better their fortunes. This in some degree broke up our circle, and we did not take so much interest afterwards as we had done before, and in 1850 we gave up our room and divided the books and papers among those of us that were left.

But from some source or other the idea of a free library to be established and maintained by the towns and cities had been working...in 1851 the Rev. John B. Wight of Wayland, introduced a bill into the Legislature allowing towns to levy a tax of twenty-five cents on each ratable poll, to be expended for books to establish free public libraries. This act was approved and became a law May 24, 1851. (*Fortieth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Public Library of Brookline, Massachusetts for the year ending January 31, 1897, p7ff*).

Mr. Baker revived his interest in free public libraries in 1856 when he needed to consult a particular reference book and could not find a copy! After discussion with prominent men of the town he offered a warrant to Town Meeting. On March 30, 1857, the Brookline Town Meeting, assembled at the Town Hall, voted to collect \$930 for the first year to create a public library.

A committee of citizens was established as the first Board of Library Trustees and they spent the next nine months fitting up rooms on the first floor of the Town Hall on Prospect Street (which no longer exists) near Washington Street to house the library. J. Emory Hoar, Headmaster of the High School, then situated in a building across Prospect Street, was appointed as the first of the only nine Library Directors in our 150 year history at a salary of \$125 per year.



Town Hall 1857

By the end of the first year the book holdings, from purchase and donation, totaled 1,000 volumes. This growth continued over the years and forced the library to take over another room in the Town Hall. By 1861 the shelves were overcrowded and the need for a separate library building was evident. In 1863, the library had taken over three rooms in Town Hall and, in 1864, took over the School Committee Room. In the Annual Reports for the years 1861-1865, both the Trustees and the Librarian reiterated the need for space but space not contained in a wooden building. They feared everything would be destroyed by fire and were concerned that donations of books would be curtailed by this same fear.

It would take nine years, many Town Meetings and a lawsuit before a separate building would be constructed on the site of the present library. The full story of these years can be read in the Appendix, page 20, of the *Fortieth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Public Library of Brookline, Massachusetts for the year ending January 31, 1897*.

1869

After considering three building lots or the possibility of adding an extension onto Town Hall, the land where the library now stands was purchased from John Gibb, George S. Cushing and Collins & Chase for the total sum of \$7,000. Louis Weissbein's design was chosen from the submissions of five architects and was built and furnished for \$45,000. It opened on October 18, 1869 with 12,000 books and periodicals on its shelves.



1869 Library

The growth of the library was such that by 1875 the Trustees noted in the Annual Report the need for an additional Reading Room. Rather disingenuously they wrote:

The Trustees are aware that at a time when economy is especially demanded, no unnecessary expenditures should be urged upon the town; but they feel it no more than their duty to call attention to a need which has increased with the growing demands of the reading public.

They are content to leave the whole matter to the intelligent consideration of the citizens, in the confidence that the same spirit of liberality which has created and sustained an institution, now grown to be a model of its kind, will at a fitting time grant the necessary means for an addition which will so greatly add to the measure of its usefulness.

The needed space would not be found until monies were appropriated for a new wing in 1889. Steam heat and electric lights were used for the first time in the 1889 addition. In 1892 a new reading room was added and named for library benefactor, John L. Gardner.



1869 Public Library with 1889 addition on right



Gardner Hall 1869



Reference Room 1869

1910 As early as 1900, some 12 years after the first addition to the 1869 building, the Trustees called attention to the cramped condition of the building and the impending need of a structure more spacious and better adapted to meet the modern demands of such an institution. They tried to make do by adding cases in alcoves and basement rooms but poor lighting and ventilation made for less than acceptable conditions. The town gave the Trustees permission to study what a new building might require to be adapted to the present needs of Brookline and also to plan for future endeavors.

In 1906 the Trustee's Committee on a new library building reported that they were of the opinion that the best interests of the town would be served by having a competition, limited to five leading architects residing in Brookline, who would be invited to submit plans in accordance with the conditions set forth by the Board. The five firms were

- Andrews, Jaques & Rantoul
- Guy Lowell
- Peabody & Stearns
- Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge
- Sturgis & Barton

Each firm accepted the invitation with the stipulation that plans were to be submitted by October 1, 1906. Once the plans were received, they were kept under lock and key only to be seen by the Trustees and the Librarian. The plans were examined and numbered (without the identity of the architect) and kept under the custody of the Librarian. In January of 1907, the Committee unanimously agreed upon the recommendation of the appointment of the architect of the design numbered "5" as the architect of the new library. Sturgis and Barton had submitted the winning design, pending the approval of Town Meeting and the passage of the necessary appropriations needed to complete the project. The other competitors were paid \$500 each for their efforts.

Since the new building would be erected in the same spot where the library now stood, the old building would have to be moved to accommodate the new structure. \$244,000 was appropriated for this purpose. The old building was cut from its foundation and raised on jacks. It was shifted westward 144 feet, 8 inches and then southward 88 feet, 8 inches to the spot where the Civil War Monument now stands. It took two months to complete the move. During this time library service was never interrupted – not even for a single hour! (The Civil War Memorial by Edward Clark Potter was unveiled on October 10, 1915 in "Memory of the Civil War Dead." It cost \$40,000 [equal to more than \$800,000 today]).

The moving of this building was one of the largest enterprises of its kind to date and was described in detail in the *Engineering Record* for September 25, 1909, with photographs taken by Miss Hobson of the library staff.



Library raised on railroad ties

On November 1, 1909 the cornerstone was laid during a small ceremony in which a copper box was placed containing library and town records, a stamp, and Boston and Brookline newspapers. Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald, trustee and chairman of the building committee presided and referred to the new building as one built by the people and for the people irrespective of race, color or condition. Rev. Dr. William H. Lyon, minister of the First Parish Church, and trustee, made the invocation. Rev. Dr. Daniel Dulany Addison of All Saints Church and also a trustee, made a short address:

According to ancient custom we lay the cornerstone of the new Public Library, in the presence of our fellow-citizens, and our fellow-citizens that are to be. It is gratifying to see so many boys and girls because it indicates an interest on the part of the young people in a work which is designed for them as much as for others. We own it in common. Some towns have libraries given by men of wealth; such a gift is a fine thing, but immeasurably more significant is the building of such a structure by the people themselves. It grows out of their own lives and is thus a part of them.

A library is an evidence of the eagerness of the American people in education. The schools provide the training and the library offers the tools for the use and perfecting of the training. It is another indication that we are determined to give every boy and girl in the land an opportunity for the best intellectual development and the full expression of personality. An educated democracy makes an efficient democracy. Our national and civic problems will be solved when we can get the people to use the educational means which we are providing.

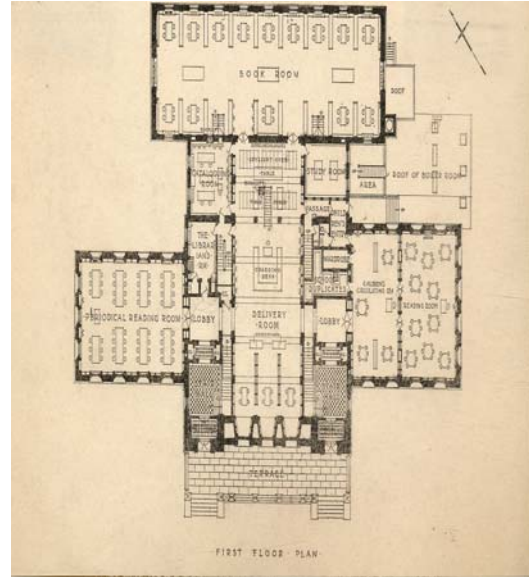
Our library also shows our belief in the self-made man. It is our pride that this is the land of self-made men. There are no artificial barriers in the path of awakened ambition. One difference between America and the older lands across the sea is, that they, by inherited custom, and tradition, and social caste, do not use fully the total brains that they produce. We, on the other hand, are trying to use and develop to the fullest the total brains that God gives to us. Wherever talent or ability appears, we are eager to give it a chance to enrich the life of the people. The free access to the best thought of the world is one of the ways in which we achieve such beneficent results.

The library also stands for culture. Education without culture is hard and barren; culture makes education elastic and broad minded. A study of art, of the refinements of literature, the inspiration gained from the poets, and the theories of the philosophers, lend a charm to life which can be measured only in spiritual terms. Here we are to have a store house of culture where we may go and learn things of value to the heart and soul of man. A public library is the people's University.

We shall watch with pride the building grow, believing, from the completeness of the design, that we are erecting a modern library which shall also be our most important civic monument.



1910 Library



Floor Plan 1910

The new building was to be completed in 15 months time according to a signed contract but was substantially completed one month ahead of schedule in mid August 1910.

The books were transferred from the old library to the new in two weeks time. The old building closed at the end of the day August 28th and the new building opened the following day without disruption of library service. The project not only took less time but also less money than had been allotted. When the final settlement had been made, the library was able to return to the town the sum of \$763.85.

In 1910 and 1911, the new building brought with it more demands from the public. Circulation saw a 10 percent increase and approximately 20,000 more books. The reading rooms were kept open until 10 pm, however, the public was slow to grasp this new opportunity as they were when the library opened on Sundays in 1904. Popularity steadily increased. The children's rooms were opened on week-day evenings for the first time in November 1910, with increasing attendance. The Reference Department was becoming increasingly useful as the library attracted more serious students to its grand reference room.



Brookline Public Library. Loan Department, looking toward Book Room.
Circulation Desk 1910

The focus of building for the next five decades was on improving and enlarging the branch libraries (*q.v.*).

1974

In the early 1960s, the Trustees and Library Director Theresa Carroll recognized the necessity for an updated survey of library services which had not been done since 1940. Francis R. St. John, library consultant, was retained to conduct a survey that would study library operations, the plant and facilities, school library services, town needs for library service, and public opinion.

One of Mr. St. John's recommendations was that the library's present form was poorly designed and inefficient for modern library service.

In 1966 Town Meeting voted: "To see if the Town will raise and appropriate...the sum of \$24,000...for preliminary plans for alterations and additions to the Main Library...."

In 1966, Mrs. Carroll applied for a Federal Grant for Building funds that would total one-fifth of the funds actually needed for building renovations. The library did not, however, receive the federal funding that year and did not reapply. Town Meeting in March 1969 appropriated \$160,000 for working drawings and specifications for alterations and additions to the Main Library. In November of that year, Integrated Design Services, Inc. estimated the proposed renovations would cost \$2,224,800 based on building costs projected to 1972.

Finally, in 1971, Town Meeting, approved a warrant for the additions and alterations to the Main Library. Construction started in June 1971. During the eighteen month period, June 1971 through December 1972, the Main Library closed to the public for only thirty-five hours. Library staff and the public endured the dirt, noise, lack of heat (librarians wore coats, gloves and boots at public service desks!) and parking difficulties occasioned by the construction with reasonable good humor. Despite the dislocation caused by the construction, the Main Library experienced its largest circulation in history, almost 464,000 library items were borrowed.

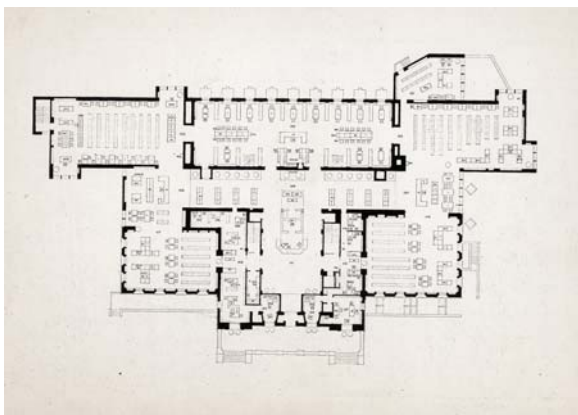


1974 Construction from Town Hall roof

This photo, taken from the roof of Town Hall, shows the Main Library under renovation in 1973 (Washington Street would be just off the picture on the left). The present building is at left with new construction at the right. Underground parking was planned to be provided as shown in the lower right for the library, the Pierce School and the Town Hall.

The construction was scheduled for completion in 1974. Staff offices and library material were moved within the building to accommodate the contractor. Because of problems caused by the construction, the Main Library was closed forty-six hours to the public in 1973.

On October 6, 1974 many residents and invited guests from neighboring communities attended the program marking the completion of the renovations and additions to the Main Library. Robert C. Cochrane, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Selectmen was the featured speaker. The program included a solo on the new Steinway grand piano purchased from the contributions of the community (during Piano Week June 2-8, 1974). Ikebana, International Boston Chapter provided flower arrangements. In honor of the occasion, the Brookline Library Music Association sponsored a special concert, and the Brookline Society of Artists exhibited paintings. The Cranberry Puppet Theater presented three plays in celebration of the Main library expansion.



1974 floor plan



**Circulation Desk staff
Anne Sweeney, Maureen Hughes and Julie Falsioni**

As the cost of energy soared during the late 1970s the Trustees voted to implement energy saving measures at all libraries. The thermostats were set at 65° during the winter months. The Trustees in cooperation with the Purchasing Agent and the Schools, and the Boston Gas Company agreed to bill the town at the lowest possible rate. The Trustees also met with the Energy Study Conservation Committee and the Selectmen on energy conservation matters related to the Main Library. A malfunctioning transformer incapacitated air conditioning and other equipment in 1978. By 1980 the fuel crunch led to the town proposal to close two library branches for 21 hours weekly to save energy.

In 1981 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Historical Commission listed the Public Library of Brookline in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Brookline Village Commercial District. The National Register, established under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, remains the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

Town Meeting in June 1982 voted an annual appropriation sufficient to restore four positions and limited book funds cut during Proposition 2 ½ (*q.v.*). In September 1982, the Main Library opened 61 hours, the Coolidge Corner Branch Library 47.5 hours, and the Putterham Branch Library 31.5 hours, but the hours were still 25% fewer than they were in 1980.

On October 19, 1986 the Exhibition Hall was renamed Hunneman Hall in honor of Robert Ingle Hunneman who served on the Board of Library Trustees from 1955 through 1979 and was Chairman from 1956-64 and again from 1970-1974. During his term of service additions to the Main Library and the Coolidge Corner Branch were undertaken, and the Putterham Branch Library was constructed. At the dedication ceremony, the Trustees announced the establishment of the Robert I. Hunneman Fund, and welcomed contributions from the community.

2003

In May 1995 the Trustees began a six month process of analyzing the space and program needs of the library for the next twenty years. The Trustees hired Library Management Consultants to review the library's long-range plan and local demographics; apply state and national standards to analyze the materials collection; and develop a written building program.

The Library Management Consultants found the current building had:

... inadequate space for children's services and insufficient shelving for large print, paperbacks, and non-print materials....Of the total 67,000 square feet of space in the current building, only 28,000 square feet is accessible by the public. The heating and air conditioning system performs poorly, and the electric system is not designed to accommodate vital new information technologies. There is poor lighting and inadequate seating throughout the building and the building currently does not comply with the standards set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The consultants found great strength and heavy use in some collections such as art, social sciences, and the humanities. It was recommended that tattered and out of date items be weeded from the collection to make the remaining items more accessible. Placing greater emphasis on electronic information sources and enhanced methods of resource sharing could decrease the size of the collection and enhance the quality of library service.

The Trustees and staff hired Farley Associates, an architectural firm from Danvers, to assess the feasibility of renovating the existing library to meet the projected needs of library users. The final report indicated that a renovation could increase the amount of public space from 28,000 square feet to over 47,000 square feet. In November 1995, Town Meeting authorized the Trustees to submit an application to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for a grant which, if funded, would pay approximately one third of the total cost for renovations.

In January 1996, the architectural firm of Perry Dean Rogers and Partners was hired to assist the Board of Library Trustees in the development of a schematic design for the renovation of the Main Library. The plan designed by the firm met the functional needs of the library without adversely impacting the landscape surrounding the library. The Brookline Preservation Commission and the Greenspace Alliance supported the plan. The renovated library plan opened up an additional 18,038 square feet, created a large comfortable children's room, and provided for more comfortable seating. The closed stacks would be replaced with open accessible shelving for public use. The floor plan could easily be adapted to meet changing needs in the future.

In April 1996, Brookline was one of 92 communities which applied to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) for funding of the renovation project. Unfortunately, the library's application was not approved that year.

The Trustees submitted their revised restoration plans to the MBLC in February 1997. The new plan would increase the public space by 58%; fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act; provide a secure and environmentally appropriate space for the preservation of historic materials; create a pleasant and comfortable environment with appropriate lighting, temperature, and humidity; and restore much of the elegance of the 1910 building.

On May 1, 1997, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approved the application and placed Brookline on a waiting list for funding under the Public Library Construction Program. \$3.5 million was finally approved for the restoration, almost one third of the then projected \$11.2 million project. The remaining funds needed to come from a combination of Town and privately raised funds. The Board of Library Trustees committed to a major fund raising campaign to finance the project through planned giving and major gifts to the library.

On September 2, 1999, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners offered Brookline a grant of \$3.5 million towards the projected \$13 million renovation of the Main Library. The Brookline Library Foundation had raised over \$2 million in cash and pledges towards its \$4 million fundraising goal. At the November 1999 session, Town Meeting unanimously voted to support the renovation and asked that the Town's share of funding be included in the Capital Improvements Plan to be funded in 2000. By the end of the year, the design development phase of the project had begun. Construction was planned to begin in January 2001 and last for 18 months.

In late December 2000, construction bids came in several hundred thousand dollars above the original estimates for the restoration of the Main Library. With the cooperation of the Brookline Library Foundation, the Board of Selectmen, and Town Meeting sufficient funds were allocated to allow the Trustees to proceed with the renovations. A contract was signed with B.B.C., Inc.

The Main Library closed on Saturday, January 6, 2001 at 5:00 P.M. On January 9, a new "mini" branch library opened in the lobby of Town Hall, and service resumed at the Coolidge Corner and Putterham Branch libraries. Approximately 10,000 Main Library items were temporarily transferred to Coolidge Corner Branch Library and 5,000 items to Putterham Branch Library. The Town Hall branch held approximately 1,500 items. The Brookline Public School Libraries received more than 1,000 Main Library items for

student use during the renovations. The remaining 230,000 items were packed and shipped to a warehouse for storage.

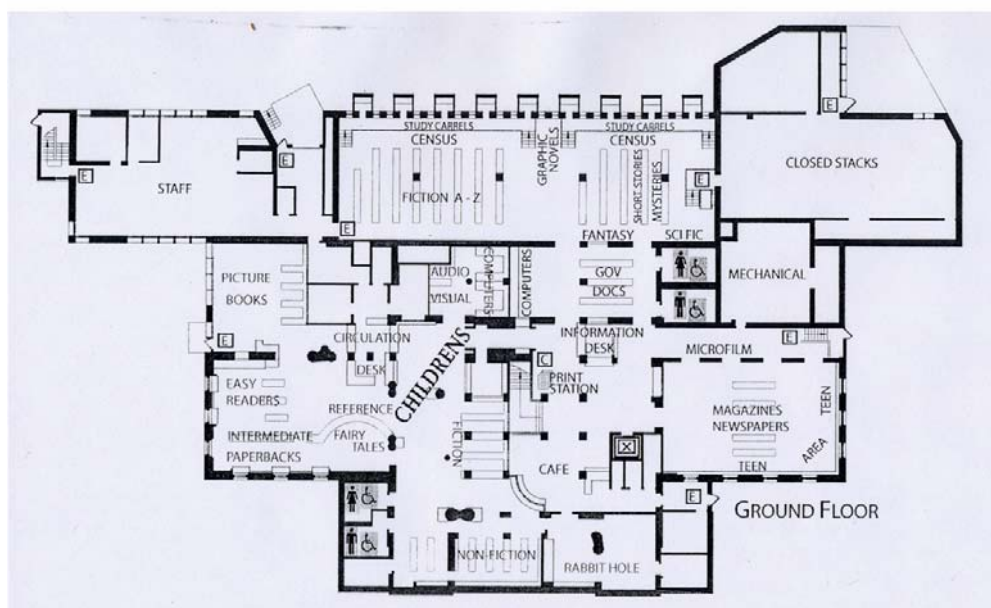
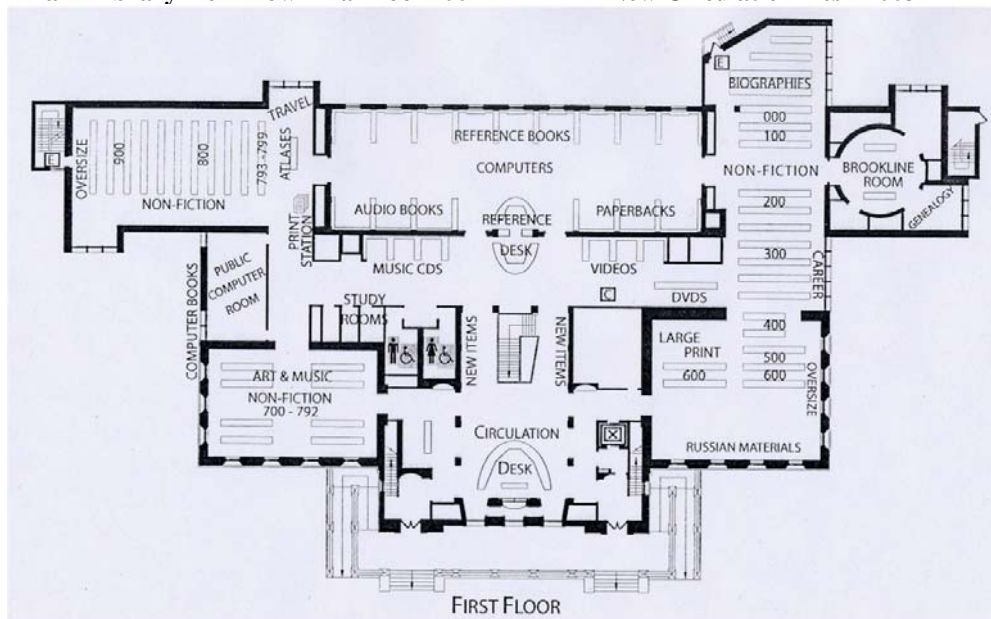
Two years later, in January 2003, the renovated Main Library opened for service. The building had been restored to its 1910 Edwardian glory but sported all the trappings of the 21st century in materials and technology.



Main Library from Town Hall roof 2001



New Circulation Desk 2003



Main Library Floor Plans, 2001 - 2003 renovation

COLLECTIONS

Two major tasks faced the Trustees in 1857. The first was the promulgation of library rules. The link will take you to a succession of official library rules. It is interesting to observe how little, in philosophy, they have changed over 150 years.

That first year, and for decades after, the second task, handled by a subcommittee of the Trustees, was the purchase of materials for the library. The budget for 1857 was \$930, equal to roughly \$22,000 today. By way of comparison, 150 years later, the library materials budget for Fiscal Year 2007 is \$446,535. The average price of a non-fiction book in 1857 was 75¢. Today it is \$33. In the early years the subcommittee met monthly to purchase books but by the 1890s the demand from patrons for current materials forced them to meet weekly. We still purchase books on a weekly schedule.

Today all public libraries must, by law, have a mission statement and a collection development policy to support that mission. There is no mission statement on record in the Trustees' minutes for that first year and the only suggestion of a collection philosophy was noted by Mr. Hoar in the 1857 Annual Report. *"No book of an exceptionable character has been purchased, as it is designed to give no place on the shelves of the Library for such books."* The Trustees echoed that sentiment with "no books have been purchased... not suited to the family circle."

In 1858 Mr. Hoar hinted at a mission statement and expounded at great length on the number and subjects of the non-fiction collections that had been used by the patrons but about fiction works he had nothing but scorn.

There has, of course, been great demand for tales and works of fiction; very many have been taken from the Library during the year. It must perhaps be acknowledged, that too much reading of this kind is sought here and everywhere; and we have heard it objected, that such reading, and indeed so much popular reading of any sort, tends, not to vigorous thought and really practical information, but to a superficial style of thinking; and that the public mind is thus enervated... It is therefore the agency of a good library, in this age and locality, not so much to make readers as to regulate the public reading; for we trust much to the efficacy of good books in expelling bad ones. Again: many of those who read works of fiction mainly, would, if deprived of this kind of entertainment, seek excitement in places and in employments which would not be so well for themselves, and certainly not so well for the health of the public morals. To such, a good library may impart the means of rational enjoyment, which, at the same time, will soften and humanize the character. [By 1890, fiction would account for 46 percent of the circulated books!]

By the 1920s the selection of materials, at least fiction, was now the responsibility of the Librarian, but she was finding it "one of the hardest tasks...to make a reasonable choice of titles from among the mass of current fiction. The public asks for everything-sometimes from knowledge of the fitness of the book, and more often because of the glowing language of advertisements and contemporary reviews. It has been, and perhaps always will be, impossible to make a choice so wise as to obviate criticism..."

In an attempt toward a collection development policy for fiction, "the library has always tried to adopt and hold to a policy in buying fiction, which was perhaps the easiest to formulate in terms of exclusion than in any other way. It tried to exclude the pernicious,

the weak, the silly and the dull.” A reading committee to assist the Librarian in her decisions was formed in September 1923. For each book they were asked to consider the following questions:

- Do you recommend that this book be placed in the library for general circulation?
- If not, do you consider it worthy of consideration by the library notwithstanding moral or other defects?
- Are there objectionable passages or chapters?
- Is it as good as other books by the same author or distinctly inferior?
- To what class of readers does it appeal?
- Is it wholesome reading for boys and girls of High School age?
- Would it appeal to uncultivated readers?
- Does it deal with normal, wholesome people and conditions? Or is it morbid and unwholesome in atmosphere?
- Is it well written? Is it cheering, depressing, exciting, tame, humorous, unduly sentimental, weak, silly, pernicious?

This practice continued for several decades and notes from these readers could be seen on the backs of fiction cards in the shelf list into the 1970s.

Book purchases in 1926 followed a method outlined by Library Director, Louise Hooper. All fiction books were still read by the Fiction Committee, book reviews from the *Saturday Review of Literature* were read for suggestions, children’s materials were all read and examined, professional lists of good books were consulted and requests from patrons were considered after searches for reviews of those titles confirmed their worth to the collection. Miss Hooper concluded this discussion with:

...the aims of the library in spending its book funds.

To buy as far as our funds permit all current books (non-fiction) of general interest which have actual value in form and substance, excluding so far as possible books that are poorly written, that are inaccurate, objectionably controversial, dull, cheap, or which appeal to a very few people. The limited funds of a library such as ours must necessarily bar the purchase of much highly specialized material suitable only for the occasional student or reader, and which is generally available in some of the larger or special libraries of this neighborhood. In fiction the Library tries to buy only what is well-written, interesting and wholesome, excluding the dull, the trivial and the pernicious. This is a difficult end to accomplish, and one’s decision in drawing a line must necessarily be guided somewhat by the standing of the author and by the demands of the public. Constant effort is made to fill in gaps of desirable books in all classes, to keep track of new editions of standard works which should be considered for purchase, and to replace with good editions worn copies of standard and popular fiction and children’s books.

The Depression had a profound effect on the library. In the early years, book budgets and staff salaries were reduced but circulation increased as the now unemployed sought job training materials. By 1936, as the Depression waned, circulation growth slowed but the world had changed so much that the Librarian resurrected the Trustees’ statement from 1857 that “no books have been purchased...not suited to the family circle” to comment “that the Trustees can no longer claim that they buy only such books as are suited to the family circle, is perhaps not so much the fault of the library standards, as those of the family circle itself.”

1941 saw the creation of a “staff committee for book selection and maintenance of the library’s collection.” In 1944 “the routine for the selection of books has been changed so that all members of the professional staff have definite responsibility in specified subject fields for the selection of books to be added to the library’s collection. The Librarian and a staff committee, representative of the various library services, meet each week to decide the final purchases.” This weekly book meeting continued for the next forty years. Professional staff responsibility for the various subject areas were reinstituted in 2004.

A Statement of Book Selection Policy was approved by the Trustees in September 1971. This was updated and expanded in 1986. The 1995 edition has been revised and was approved by the Trustees on March 13, 2007. The 2007 *Collection Development Policy* including the library’s Mission Statement is available on the library website.

All these policies try to establish a perfect world but, in reality, usage of the library was far from perfect.

In 1879 the damage to library materials was so overwhelming that the library closed for eight weeks so “that each book might be carefully examined, page by page, and thoroughly cleansed.” Of the 20,000 books in the collection, 16,000 had sustained damage and needed to be repaired or replaced. The Trustees adopted a rule that all returned books had to remain in the library for one day after return to be inspected for damage and the perpetrator of the damage identified. The damage did decrease and “a number of convictions [were] made” but the problem was not solved. In 1884 the Trustees’ reported that “the number of cases of willful injury by cutting, tearing, and marking is somewhat unaccountable in the face of the regularly enforced penalties.” And, in 1890, the Librarian wrote “there is no question but that greater care on the part of the public would insure better preserved and more cleanly books, but it is difficult to impress this fact upon the community with sufficient emphasis to secure proper attention to the subject, either at home or in the library.”

Although damage to library materials continues to this day through heavy use, carelessness and design, the problem one hundred years after those reports of mutilation was one of loss. An inventory of the collection in the mid-1970s showed many titles were unaccounted for and presumed lost. The security system installed in 1977 helped to slow the disappearance of large numbers of library materials.

Book donations played a large part in developing the new library. The Trustees and Librarian actively sought donations to swell the holdings of the new library. Although most donations were books or journals, several patrons gave busts of famous writers or paintings. Many of the paintings are still on display in the Main Library and a tour of the collection is available in pamphlet form at the Reference Desk and on-line at the library’s website. The busts have been lost to time.

The library established its first trust fund in 1871 with a \$10,000 gift from John L. Gardner, father-in-law of Isabella Stewart Gardner. The Art & Music Room is known as Gardner Hall in appreciation of that gift. In the 1920s we would also receive trust funds from the estates of John L. Gardner, Jr. and Isabella Stewart Gardner.

Gardner’s 1871 gift and that of Martin Hall in 1877 were invested in a home mortgage (at 7%!) and railroad stocks. There was some concern expressed by the Trustees when the mortgagee, Mr. Arthur Cheney, died with the mortgage outstanding but the subsequent sale of Mr. Cheney’s home repaid the debt.

The Trustees stated in 1881 that the Gardner and Hall “funds have enabled the board to gradually raise the standard of the library to a much higher point than a restriction to town appropriations, generous as they have always been, would have permitted.” Over 100 years later the Trustees’ fundraising brochure of 1988 highlighted the fact that private philanthropy made possible the innovation and experimentation that allowed the library to maintain its preeminent position in the life of the community. The brochure was the first step in helping the Trustees and the Town Librarian to seek gifts and grants from individuals, businesses, foundations, government agencies which enabled the library to continue to provide a full range of collections, programs and services.

By 1898, the standard of library service enhanced by the Gardner and Hall Funds had gained such renown that Melvil Dewey, the inventor of the Dewey Decimal library classification system and founder of the American Library Association, commented that “There are few institutions of the country concerning which I should be willing to speak more frankly to one of their officials. The Brookline Public Library is commonly looked on by those familiar with library work of its type through the country, as among the foremost in efficiency and influence. It has won a place where it is often quoted and referred to as the type of the best American public library.”

We have become so accustomed to accessing library materials through the on-line catalog that the card catalog that filled that function for the preceding hundred years has become a distant and bittersweet memory.

Before the card catalog was created in 1891, library holdings were gathered in handwritten, quarterly bulletins. When funds could be budgeted or a gift received, these bulletins would be professionally typeset and printed. Copies were available for use in the library and some editions were sold for home use.

The first card catalog included only the books that had been added to the collection since the printed catalog of 1881. It would take another year for the 1881 and 1873 bulletins of acquisitions to be transferred onto cards and filed in the catalog.

At that time books were not classified by subject numbers but merely given a sequential accession number. Although Dewey published his book classification scheme in 1876, the Trustees did not adopt his methods until 1901. The reclassification of the book collection, which began in May 1901, was a major project that not only required placing a subject number on the entry in the card catalog but also placing a label on the book and then re-shelving the book according to the new class numbers. Although there are ten divisions used today, only a few classification divisions were used in this project: agriculture, domestic economy, landscape gardening, amusements, biography and history. (Some years prior to this project fiction works had been re-shelved by the author’s last name instead of an accession number). It would take four years to complete the non-fiction reclassification project but in the end “the improvement in the catalogue as well as in the arrangement of the books on the shelves is appreciated both by public and assistants.” The card catalog continued to be used until technology (*q.v.*) took over that function in 1988.

SPECIALIZED COLLECTIONS

As staff and patron interests expanded, specialized collections were added to the library holdings.

Charles K. Bolton, Library Director from 1894-1898, organized a collection of town histories, "pictures, papers, autographs and pamphlets" in 1894 which became the basis for the first Brookline Room. Bolton's own *Brookline: the History of a Favored Town* is shelved there today.

A generous gift from the Brookline Historical Society in 1977 funded a visit from a consultant from the New England Document Conservation Center to advise the staff on the preservation of those Brookline historical materials. In the first stage in the restoration project, Town maps which had been unavailable for use due to their poor condition were treated and made ready for public access.

In 1895 the Trustees voted to establish a music library and were able to purchase upwards of 200 books that first year. A donation of \$100 from the estate of Mr. D.W. Russell stipulated that the income be used to purchase music. In 1924, 200 pieces of sheet music were donated by the estate of Edward Stanwood. The estate of William Henry Chase donated between 700 and 800 volumes of music to the collection.

An Art Room had been established in 1927 that united art books and the 1897 photograph collection of architecture and sculpture. These were enhanced by the library's subscription to the *Medici Prints*, color reproductions of classic works of art. (Eighty years later the Library would receive a grant of \$450 from the Massachusetts Council of the Arts and Humanities for the purpose of restoring and preserving these collections.) The *Medici Prints* were withdrawn from our collection and donated to the Museum of Fine Arts in the twentieth century.

This collection was eventually shelved in the same room with the music collection and the name changed in 1944 to Gardner Hall to honor the Gardner family's many contributions to the library. In 1945 recorded music on phonograph records was added to this collection and the usage of the room was of such significance that it rated its own section in the Librarian's annual report. By the late 1980s the music formats had evolved through cassette tapes to compact discs. Feature films on videotape and DVD would follow over the next twenty years. Books on tape and then compact disc were also acquired.

A library for the blind had been started as an experiment to teach Braille to adults but was discontinued in early 1908. Instead, primers and books in Braille were mailed to anyone wishing to borrow them.

Over the years books written for teenage patrons evolved into a Young Adult collection. Books published in large print became popular with citizens with restricted eyesight and a separate reading area was set aside for these collections.

Although the library had collected classic literature in foreign languages for many years, it was not until immigrant populations settled in town in the late 1970s that the library responded with popular materials in foreign languages. The two largest language groups prompted the library, in 1980, to borrow deposit collections of Chinese and Russian books from the Boston Public Library. These proved so popular that several Russian titles,

newspapers and magazines were ordered for the collection. This collection continues to grow and now contains DVDs and videos in Russian.

The Chinese Language collection, now housed at the Coolidge Corner Branch (*q.v.*), containing materials in book and audiovisual formats, is popular with patrons from many towns in eastern Massachusetts.

In 1986 the Career Center was established with newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, and books useful to assist people seeking employment or exploring career options.

The needs of the immigrant populations and those with low literacy led to the development of the Basic Education collection with materials to learn to read and speak English. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners also funded, in 1988, *Need I Say More*, a literary magazine of adult student writings created by the library in cooperation with the Adult Literary Resource Institute. The goal of the project was to provide high quality adult literacy materials to students, teachers, tutors, and librarians.

During the same period the library was awarded more than \$100,000 in federal and state grants and private gifts. These funds were used to produce a Chinese language resource guide to the library; microfilm Brookline manuscripts; and enter the library's 1,300 periodical titles into the New England Union List of Serials database.

The library also published *The List* (Library Information Service Terminal), the brochure which described Brookline's municipal services in English, Chinese, Russian and Spanish editions to assist newcomers in accessing the services of the Town's agencies and departments

Coolidge Corner Branch Library was awarded a \$10,000 federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant in 1991, funded through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, to develop a collection of English as a Second Language (ESL) material. The money also funded a series of programs which focused on survival skills for recent immigrants and newcomers. Library staff utilized a 1994 \$17,000 grant for the acquisition of foreign language materials for the Main Library and the Coolidge Corner Branch Library.

Since 1925, The Public Library of Brookline has been one of seven libraries in Massachusetts privileged to serve as a partial depository library for government publications of periodicals, pamphlets, yearbooks, annual reports, and maps.

The travel books, computer manuals, audiovisual materials and a collection of materials on pregnancy are located on special shelves.

In its first year, open only ten hours a week, the library circulated its 1000 books 2000 times. Today the three branches of the Public Library of Brookline are open 172 hours a week during the school year and 150 hours a week in the summer. In 2006 our collection numbered 330,615 and 1,215,544 items were borrowed by our patrons. As Library Director, Louise Hooper, stated in 1936 the Selectmen of 1857 termed the library "an experiment" but thought it had proved a decided success. These were small beginnings but in looking back over old reports one gets the impression of very steady increase in usefulness, of growth from "an experiment" to an institution as essential to our people as the school, and serving a much larger number." That could have been written today.

SERVICES TO YOUTH

Children's Services

During the early years of the Public Library of Brookline, the privilege of possessing a library card was reserved to those above fourteen years old. Many libraries also restricted use of the Reading Room but in Brookline it was the policy of the Board "to give to every decent and well-conducted child, without regard to age, all the facilities for amusement or instruction which the library can afford, in the belief that the wear and tear resulting from fair handling of magazines is fully offset by the pleasure and improvement derived from their perusal." The Board found, however, that the children were "restless and excitable, and their emotions are often beyond their control; the result is a ceaseless hum throughout the room, which renders attentive reading or study impossible." Separate tables were set up for young people at the end of the reading room in hopes of keeping the noise contained.

Concerned that children were reading fiction and not the more educational non-fiction led to a concerted campaign with parents to steer children to a better class of literature. This campaign was so successful that in 1881 the Librarian, Mary Bean, could note in her Annual Report that the decrease in circulation "may be partially explained by the fact that the average circulation of juvenile books has been greatly reduced—a change in nowise to be lamented."

The noise in the reading room grew to such a level, that in June 1890, the Library opened a room in the basement for use by children. It was open daily from 2-6 pm under the supervision of Mr. Orcutt, the janitor! The room had one table that accommodated 16 children without crowding and eleven shelves attached to the wall. The children were allowed to look at "Harper's Weekly" and "Youth's Companion" magazines "provided the hands of the borrowers are clean." Lowell A. Martin in his *Enrichment: A History of the Public Library in the United States in the Twentieth Century* credits Brookline for establishing the first continuously operating children's room in the country, a concept that was revolutionary at the time as many library administrators feared children would disrupt the serious adult library user.

In the early years of the public library movement, it was common for the founders and staff of new libraries to visit the more established ones, to learn about the latest innovations. Brookline was a stop on some of these visits, the Children's Room is mentioned by visitors from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the August 1890 Library Journal. "Recently a special juvenile department has been fitted up to which children as young as ten years of age have free access, and where they can be under less restriction than is necessary in the library and reading room proper."

Miss Bean was excited by the use of the room by teachers for training children in the use of the library in relation to their current studies. She thought this practice could be "systematized and extended with profit—certainly the idea is suggestive." She was certainly prescient since these visits by middle school classes continue to this day.

6,821 children visited the Children's Room in its first year of operation. By 1894, 9,993 children used the room and the hours had to be extended into the evening. In 1895 members of the police commented on the great value of the library's work in keeping children off the street. What a different scene we find in 1931 and 1933 when the police

were stationed in the Children's Room on Sundays to keep order! The problems occasioned by the influx of students in the afternoons and evenings are still a concern.



Children's Reference Room

By 1896 the children's area had become so crowded that a wall was removed to double the space available. In 1899 a special appropriation of \$4500 was received to develop and stock a Children's Reference Room to be jointly administered by the library and the School Department. Approximately 900 books recommended by the School Department and an assortment of reference materials were purchased and Harriet H. Stanley, a librarian and former teacher was hired as the first Children's Room Supervisor to oversee this collection. Children now had two rooms, one for

study and one for recreational reading.

In 1907, extended hours at the Main Library were necessary due to the increase in use by children, especially on Sundays. The Children's Room collection was greatly improved and extra space allotted. When children received their library cards, they were presented with a small card which stated in simple language the rules for borrowing books and noted the penalty for returning materials late. An overdue notice post card, again in simple language, was mailed two days after the book was due. Any fines that had accrued could be paid in installments and the library card used as long as the payments were kept up.

Constant effort was made to keep the books in excellent condition when taken from the Children's Room. "The detection and fumigation or destruction of all books exposed to contagious disease" was a concern. The agent of the Board of Health visiting all houses where cases of dangerous diseases occur, collects the library books, and destroys them or fumigates them thoroughly with formaldehyde gas, as the case may require."

In October 1910 Gertrude Lockwood, a graduate of Vassar and the Training School for Children's Librarians at Pittsburgh was hired as the Supervisor of the Children's Department replacing Miss Stanley. Beginning in November, the children's rooms were opened on week-day evenings for the first time, with increasing attendance by older boys and girls. Children under age ten were not allowed in the evening unless accompanied by a parent. Ernest Holloway was hired as an assistant to help in the evenings and on Sundays. Together Miss Lockwood and Mr. Holloway organized reading clubs for boys, with the hope of cultivating an interest in reading and visiting the library for educational and recreational pursuits. Soon there would be ten reading clubs, two for girls and eight for boys, the largest comprised of twenty-five girls. The average number of children in the evening increased from 46 in November and December, 1910 to 71 in November and December, 1911.

Since children under the age of 10 were denied access to the library during evening hours, deposit collections were loaned to the elementary schools beginning in 1906. In 1911, this service was extended to the parochial school of St. Mary's of the Assumption Church. The number of volumes loaned more than doubled in two years to 24,749. The deposit program was extended to the middle school classrooms so that by 1916 the library/school partnership was supplying 101 of 108 classrooms. Since many of the children lived a great distance from the library, their only access to books were the deposit collections, and these

books were read by the children and their parents, or by children to parents who were unable to read. The Children's Librarian continued to give talks on reading in every sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grade in the public and parochial schools, and distributed to each child a booklist of notable books.

Weekly story hours were started during the winter of 1915 for children ten years and under, and for a brief time two story hours were held for children over ten years old. The aim of these programs was for librarians to introduce children to suitable books and for the children and librarians to become acquainted. Booklists on various topics were compiled and printed for distribution at the library and the schools. Booklists, story hours and programming remained important aspects of children's services throughout the last 100 years.

In 1916 it was feared that what we now know as polio could be spread through library books so "the prevalence of poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, during the late summer led the Trustees to close the Children's Department for a short period [September 23 to October 2], and to exclude young people from the library altogether. Moreover the same condition caused a large decrease in the number of adults frequenting the library." The opening of the school year was delayed until October 2. The influenza epidemic of 1918 closed the Children's Room for six weeks.

Ethel Kellow was transferred from the Coolidge Corner Branch to become the head of Children's Services in March 1919. Story hours were held on Saturday afternoons with a special Christmas program held around the Children's Room Christmas tree. Alexandra Sanford was hired in June 1921 to replace Miss Kellow. By 1925, there were 5,630 school age children in Brookline. 2,818 or 50% had library cards which they used to borrow 104,096 books, a 3.75% increase over 1924. Book lists celebrating Children's Book Week in November, recommended Holiday books, and good books for children were distributed in the Children's Room and printed in the local paper, *The Chronicle*. During one summer, the Children's department sponsored a "Treasure Hunt" where over 230 children read carefully selected books to find the "treasure" of quoted passages. Mary Heart Heath from the Wheelock School, presented certificates to the winners of the "Treasure Hunt" program.

Changes in school curriculum in the 1930s led to the suspension of library instruction in school classrooms. Instead junior high schools were being equipped with libraries and librarians who taught bibliographic instruction. As noted in the 1930 annual report of the Librarian:

"If Brookline is to keep her "junior high" grades in her grammar schools, properly equipped libraries will be needed within those schools, where both teachers and book circulation can be carried on. These libraries should be administered by trained assistants under the supervision of the Public Library or of the School Department as may be desired."

In 1929, all children in the second grade could be issued library cards; by 1945, any child who could print or write his name, regardless of age, were issued cards. From January 1944 until 1970 children were allowed to take home four books per visit.

During the 1940's and 1950's, library staff visited Brookline's playgrounds once a week in July and August, where the staff told stories and provided books for the children to take home. The Children's librarian at Coolidge Corner arranged storytelling programs at the

Girl Scouts' camp, and provided booklists to the Boston Girl Scout Headquarters for the benefit of other troops. A deposit collection kept at the camp was enthusiastically appreciated by the Girl Scout Organization.

The elementary school libraries continued to supply students with books for home use and reference materials for research. Librarians were hired for the Arthur W. Murphy Library at the Edith C. Baker School, and for the Devotion School Library, which was anticipated to open in 1947. Classroom service continued for all schools without libraries, and an experimental orientation course conducted at the William C. Lincoln School recommended books to teachers, parents, and principals.

The Children's staff contributed to various professional organizations including: The Round Table of Children's Librarians, the N.E. School Library Association, the Children's Book Clinic, a Workshop on Films conducted by the Boston Public Library staff and as members of an inter-agency, inter-faith Committee that advised the attorney general on children's reading. Library staff involvement in professional organizations remained an important part of children's and adult services throughout the library's history. In the 21st century, the Supervisor of Children's Services served as Chairman of the Minuteman Library Network Children's Services Roundtable.

In the 1952 annual report, the Head of Children's Services, Elizabeth Miller, summed up children's service and the duties of librarians this way:



Children's Room 1952

"In these years when hundreds of new books for children are published, each year the responsibility of the children's librarian to select those to add to the shelves of the children's room is greater than ever. We have to remember that school assignments must be considered in our book selection but more important are the books that delight the child...there are many novels dealing with social problems but the book written just for fun and the love of writing is

becoming more rare. Children's librarians are reading these hundreds of titles each year searching for the few books written with wisdom, humor and imagination."

The Trustees believed a school library with a trained librarian encouraged and trained children to use books and the library, and that all children should be afforded this opportunity for enrichment. The Town Meeting of March 1951, however, eliminated the provision that would have extended school library service to Lawrence, Driscoll, Runkle and Heath Schools. In 1952, with the cooperation of the School Committee, libraries were established in all schools not located adjacent to a Public Library Children's Room, thus ensuring all children access to a library.

However, by 1961, the Trustees voted to discontinue furnishing books to private and parochial classrooms, as this service had become too expensive. As a consequence, the number of children using the library increased. The 1960 U.S. Census showed 5,698 children in the 5-13 age groups in Brookline. Children borrowed 157,505 books from the elementary school libraries and 100,000 from the public libraries.

Eighth grade students became eligible for adult library cards and privileges in March 1960. That same year, the public library children's staff implemented a weekly book meeting with the school librarians, where staff read books, reviews, and discussed the items to be added

to the collection. Although school librarians are no longer involved, the book meeting process continues to this day affording the branch and Main Library children's librarians the opportunity to meet, plan programs, and order materials.

At the end of the decade, the partnership between the public library and the schools changed when the School Department assumed the sole responsibility of administering the book collections in the eight elementary school libraries, a total of almost 90,000 volumes.

Doris Seale was appointed Supervisor of Children's Services in 1969, and continued the popular story hours, weekly book meetings, and programs. One special program, that year, was the visit from the Zoomobile of the Franklin Park Zoo where two hundred children enjoyed seeing and learning about a monkey, a tortoise, an armadillo, a boa constrictor and an alligator from zoo staff members.

When the library reopened after the 1974 renovation, the Children's Room moved to a ground floor location. Preschool children had their own special area which included a rainbow ceiling leading to the Story Hour Room and older children enjoyed many comfortable places for reading and study. The Children's Room was open until 6:00 Monday through Thursday; it wasn't until October 1975 that evening opening until 8:00 on Wednesdays was offered to the delight of children and their parents. In 1993 the hours were extended to 8 pm Monday through Thursday.

The children's librarians, in cooperation with the Brookline School libraries, presented a three-day long Children's Book Festival called "Hello Book" which was planned to coincide with Children's Book Week 1978. Children's films such as "Arrow to the Sun"; "Zlateh, the Goat"; and "Owl and the Lemming" were shown continuously in Hunneman Hall. Authors and illustrators, including Patty Wolcott, Linda Bourke, Robie Harris, and Trina Schart Hyman, spoke to groups from the schools in the Story Hour Room.

As a result of Proposition 2½ in 1982, a children's librarian position at the Putterham Branch Library was cut. It wasn't until 1984 that the Putterham Branch Children's Librarian position was restored and story hours resumed at the branch.



Balloon launch 1986

On April 23, 1986 the Children's Room sponsored a balloon launch where more than fifty balloons equipped with post cards went into the New England winds as part of a school vacation program. Four of the post cards were returned to the library from the following communities: Manchaug (West Sutton), North Uxbridge, and Dover, MA., and Ellington, CT.

Children's Room 100th Anniversary

To share the Children's Room's 100th anniversary with the Brookline community, the Trustees established a citizen's committee to plan a year-long celebration. Diane Limbo and Barbara Marcus co-chaired a committee of volunteers and library staff that involved the entire community in celebrating the Public Library of Brookline's Children's Room Anniversary.

The festivities commenced during National Library Week with a program tied into the American Library Association's "Night of 1,000 Stars" where famous personalities across the country visited their local libraries to read aloud to children and their parents. Selectmen and other Town officials read aloud to children in the library. Throughout the year children came to the library to hear story tellers representing the traditions of different cultures.

On November 10, 1990, a "Birthday Bash" featured a show written and performed by the Puppet Showplace Theatre to the delight of 200 children and their parents. Cake, music and door prizes of children's books rounded out the festivities. The Brookline Historical Society discussed the history of children's books and children's libraries at their November meeting. The Brookline Library Music Association sponsored two performances by the Brown Bag Opera Company of "Hansel and Gretel". Brookline Community Cable broadcast "Centennial Seconds" which featured Brookline politicians, community leaders and other citizens reminiscing about children's books and childhood library experiences. The Brookline Recreation Department sponsored a special summer program where children played games that were popular in 1890. In the summer the library sponsored a storyteller's program with Len Cabral, Sumner McClain, and Li-Min Mo. On Thursday June 14, 1990 Judy Black presented traditional and contemporary stories and Victor Cockburn presented telling stories through song.

The Trustees authorized a fund raising campaign to raise \$100,000 to enhance the services to children. Some of the proceeds were put into the Children's Centennial Fund to help meet the needs of the community's children into the 21st century. The Friends of the Public Library of Brookline sponsored a matching grant challenge which added over \$20,000 to the Fund.

During the centennial year, Children's Services established collections of children's cassettes, puzzles, kites, and flannel boards. New paperback racks and toddler seating was purchased to improve the attractiveness of the children's area and an "Eager Readers" program started for 7 to 9 year olds.



Children's Room 2003

In 1999 more than 4,000 children and adults attended programs sponsored by the Children's Department, an increase of more than 30% from the prior fiscal year. The Friends of the Brookline Public Library sponsored a series of programs during the summer that attracted more than 700 children and their parents. By 2000, attendance at children's programs had increased 86% to 7,544. Class visits for fifth and sixth grade students continued to be offered to Brookline students.

With the reopening of the restored Main Library in 2003 children's services had a special room, the Rabbit Hole, for programming and arts and crafts. Programs continued to be very popular at the Main Library and the branches. In July, Doris Seale, Supervisor of Children's Services retired after 45 years of service, and Sherry Hesch, with more than thirty years experience as Main Library's Children's Librarian was named her successor.

Under the supervision of Mrs. Hesch, children's staff offered eight weekly story hours for children from age one to six. Friday Flicks were shown every Friday morning in the Rabbit Hole. Coolidge Corner Branch Library staff offered a very popular Sing-a-long to capacity crowds. The Main Library Children's staff offered monthly book discussion groups, "Sixes and Sevens", "The Middlings: Eights & Nines" and "Pageturners 5th and 6th Graders" where children met and discussed the books of the month and enjoyed refreshments.

During school vacation weeks and the summer, programs were offered in knitting instruction and paper crafts. Performances by the Art Barn Theater and several story tellers were enjoyed by hundreds of children. The Library participated in the State-wide summer reading programs organized each year around a special theme.

The Children's Room staff continues to create thoughtful reading lists and to publish a newsletter, "The Pages" starring "Armando, the book worm," who reports news items, gives book recommendations and answers children's questions. The Children's Room remained a vibrant, exuberant, welcoming place for children of all ages, their parents and care givers, and students of children's literature.

Young Adult Services

No space had been set aside in the library for high school students, and their numbers in the adult library Reading Room in the evenings doubled from the 1930s to the 1950s. As in 1911, discipline became such a problem that in 1933 and 1935, police were stationed in the library in the afternoons and evenings.

It was not until 1969 that services were extended to young adults as a group. An area of the library was set aside for a collection of adult books of interest to younger readers. 2,000 paperbacks were purchased as were a collection of popular phonograph records. Book collections grew in the 1980s as authors and publishers began to produce titles just for this audience.

Programming for young adults in the 1960s included a musical evening entitled, "Vibrations," a newsletter, film programs, booklists and contests centered on literary themes.

The Young Adult Librarian started a newsletter for young adults, held a contest for the best book review written by a young adult, offered a series of film programs, and prepared a number of book lists recommending suitable books for young adults. The selection of suitable young adult materials expanded during the mid-eighties and nineties as more authors turned to writing for this age group. Library tours were given to the sixth grade classes to acquaint the youth with library resources, to obtain library cards, and select suitable materials.

Today, the Young Adult collection contains books, books on compact disc, DVDs, graphic novels and comics. A Teen Animation Film Series, aimed especially at younger teens, ran weekly from November through December 2006. A Teen Advisory Group was established in 2007; and was open to any and all teens, ages 12 to 18, living or going to school in

Brookline, who wanted to find out more about how to help improve the library and teen services. Information on the Teen Advisory Group and teen services may be found on the teen pages of the library's web site at www.brooklinelibrary.org.

Based on responses to the teen survey conducted in the summer, the Young Adult Librarian planned a number of programs for teens including a manga/graphic novel café, Internet chat sessions with young adult authors Holly Black and David Lubar, and a teen gaming night "Dance Dance Revolution" to celebrate Teen Tech Week. A special program celebrated the release of the final Harry Potter book in July 2007.

Services To Adults

Reference Services

In the early 1900s, scholars often consulted the reference staff in the elegant Reference Room which retains its grandeur into the 21st century. Numerous sets of encyclopedias, legal resources, business, and career materials are now purchased to meet the changing reference needs of the community. Materials once found only in print format have been purchased in various electronic formats including CD-Roms, microfilm, CDs, and online subscription databases. Use of the telephone was encouraged for reference work in the early years of the last century to assist professional business people and those who lived a distance from the library, a practice which continues today.

Reference Department statistics in 1978 verified there were more than 50,000 patrons who utilized the resources of the department. Statistics were gathered in a format based on a model recommended by the American Library Association and were later modified to reflect changes in technology.

Statistics maintained at both the Information and Reference Desks reflected a change in the types of reference questions being asked. Today, more in-depth questions involving the use of the Internet and specialized resources are answered by experienced reference staff.

In the August 1990 issue of *Boston Magazine*, Brookline's Reference Department was given the magazine's coveted "Best of Boston" award.

Through the years, reference staff have prepared many book lists, user aides, and programs for the enrichment of patrons. In the late 1980s, a computerized list of the library's periodical holdings was printed for use at all public service desks, and could be readily updated when new magazines were added to the collection; this format is still used today. User aides on searching the Internet, accessing online databases, requesting materials, renewing materials have been printed and made available at the Main Library and the branches.

In October 1971, a monthly program of Film Classics began at the Main Library. In 1972 as a result of the Main Library construction, the Film Classics series were transferred to the Coolidge Corner Branch Library where the series of Garbo and Hepburn films were shown to overflow crowds. The series returned to Main Library in 1974 where it ran until 1996.

Library promotions have included calendars of library events that were mailed to colleges, churches, Council on Aging apartments and other organizations. The calendars were also distributed in the libraries, Town Hall, supermarkets, laundromats, and banks.

Announcements of library activities were made on radio and television stations. Today the

same information is found in the local paper, *The Brookline Tab*, and online at the library's web site www.brooklinelibrary.org.

In 1986, the Town Librarian and a readers advisory librarian, sponsored a book discussion series that met from February through June focusing on short stories collections. The program was expanded the following year to include more fiction and some non-fiction titles. The book discussion groups proved so popular, that by 2003, the library offered monthly book discussion groups at the Main Library and the branches, which met from September through June. "Food for Thought," a philosophy discussion group, met six times during the summer months and returned in the fall for once-a-month gatherings through 2005. A very popular poetry discussion group, started in December 2004, met the first Thursday of the month from January through June at the Main Library. A mystery book group started in 2007 meeting the third Tuesday of the month at the Main Library discussing mysteries over brown bag lunches.

DEPOSIT STATIONS AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE BRANCH LIBRARIES

As Brookline's population grew, new areas of the town were developed and with this push north and west came a demand for library services. The library responded by creating Deposit Collections in various locations in town. Several of these would develop into permanent branch libraries in later years but at the beginning they were housed in clubs and stores.

The first Deposit Collection was in the Reading Room of the Friendly Society in the Union Building on High Street in 1895. In that same year, a second was created in Mr. Lynch's store at the corner of Hammond and Boylston Streets to serve the Holyhood district. Deposit collections were extended to the Heath Street Boys Club, several fire engine houses and to school classrooms

In 1900 the Trustees reported that:

There has been considerable pressure brought to bear on us to establish branch libraries, notably from the inhabitants in the neighborhood of Coolidge Corner. A room in that vicinity was offered free of rent, for one year, if we would place there duplicates of books for circulation and the magazines usually found in a reading-room, and supply an attendant for managing the same. The estimated expense was so great, however, with the prospect of its becoming larger in the future, and the town appropriation not being adequate to meet it, we had to decline to undertake the work. We believe, however, that the request to establish a branch there may be reasonable, but are not now prepared to recommend the town to take action in the matter.

The year 1902 saw the development of a deposit station in Miss C.A. O'Brien's store at 809 Boylston Street. In 1903, the Trustees bowed to public pressure and a deposit library was opened in Hayman's drug store on Beacon Street at the corner of Harvard Street in Coolidge Corner.

The deposit station at Chestnut Hill started in 1907 but proved to be less popular than the one at Coolidge Corner. In 1909 a letter was sent to Chestnut Hill residents asking certain questions about the value of the deposit station to determine whether it would be wise to continue to support the agency. The response was enough to continue the deposit station and implement some of the suggestions made by those residents; the collection would

change more frequently and have two deliveries per week from the Main Library. 1911 saw the closing of the Chestnut Hill deposit station leaving the neighborhood with no library facilities. In 1916 Miss M. A. Ward of 605 Hammond Street, near the corner of Boylston, took charge of a deposit of books in her shop. The shop was later taken over by Miss Julia M. McNamara in the same location. This would be a temporary measure since the station was serving only a fraction of the Chestnut Hill population. Books were made available, but there was no place to sit and read them and with no one to help find them made for a poor substitute for a branch library. Chestnut Hill would be first in consideration for a new branch library. In 1920, the station closed in Miss McNamara's shop as she was no longer willing to support it.

At the end of 1912 the deposit station at Coolidge Corner was moved to a larger space at 277 Harvard Street (now Starbucks) and was made into a reading room and deposit station – making it a small but full-fledged branch of the Main Library. The room was equipped with 2,000 books which included some reference books, a small core collection of books and a large changing collection of good reading from the Main Library. The success of this branch grew far beyond estimation due to its convenient location in one of the fastest growing parts of town.

A telephone was installed to request transfers from the Main Library and it was hoped that a small delivery truck might be in order as this was being tried by the Post Office for delivery and collection of mail. Improvements were made to the branch in 1914 along with a sign so large that it could be read from across Beacon Street! Patrons not familiar with the Main Library came to consider this the only “public library.”

By the year 1916, the library had 125 deposit collections in two branches, two deposit stations, three fire stations, the police station, and 117 schoolrooms in sixteen schoolhouses. Books were also sent to seven playgrounds and to the camps for Brookline youth run by the Friendly Society and the civic societies.

As popular as the deposit stations had been, they saw a decline in use as the branch libraries were established. They had served their purpose very well and actually proved the need for branches in the several neighborhoods. By the 1940s the deposit stations were closed and the branch libraries flourished.

A Branch for Coolidge Corner

The year 1915 brought more change to the branch when the town purchased the land and building at 299 Harvard Street for \$17,500. The public was delighted with this new space and staff greatly appreciated the improved conditions in which they were to work. It was thought that the second floor might be used as a Children's Room; however, it was decided to keep the children on the lower floor under the watchful eye of the library staff and have the upstairs space used by older readers.



299 Harvard Street



The Stearns House at 31 Pleasant Street

By 1921 the branch had outgrown its quarters and in 1923 it was decided to look for more suitable accommodations. It wasn't until 1927 that the Town sold the Harvard Street property for \$85,000 and purchased the Stearns House at 31 Pleasant Street (its current location) for \$57,156 believing it to have many more advantages over the Harvard Street location. Pleasant Street was a much quieter street with less traffic, no streetcar tracks and less trucking. The site was still near to Coolidge Corner and twice the size of its predecessor to allow for future growth for another ten to twenty years. Renovations to the house took place and the new branch was opened on April 16, 1928.

A deposit of Yiddish books was lent to the Coolidge Corner Branch in 1934 from the State Division of Public Libraries. The collection was so popular that the library decided to purchase a small collection of Yiddish books for its own collection.

The Coolidge Corner Branch was closed from January 1, 1943-March 30, 1943 due to the shortage of coal.

Increased use and circulation continued over the years putting a strain on the library staff and the collection and eventually the building itself. As early as 1946 a new building for the Coolidge Corner Branch was contemplated, but it wasn't until 1951 that the Trustees requested funding for detailed plans and specifications. The original request was defeated and the Trustees hoped the revised project would win the approval of Town Meeting in 1952. Joseph L. Wheeler completed an overall evaluation of the Coolidge Corner Branch Library in September 1951 and presented specific recommendations for improvements. He reported that the branch arrangement was not accessible for borrowers, space was limited, there were no display or exhibition areas, as well as no space for starting a collection for the young adults in grades 7 through 9. In 1954, Town Meeting appropriated the money to build a new branch on the present site; and in 1955, the architectural firm, Shepley



Coolidge Corner Branch Library

Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, was hired to design and build it. The Coolidge Corner Branch Library moved to temporary quarters in the basement of the Devotion School making it necessary to reduce the adult collection and suspend children's services during construction. The branch was scheduled to open in the spring 1956 but due to unforeseen delays was not opened until January 14, 1957.

In November 16, 1967 members of the Special Town Meeting voted to appropriate

\$350,400 to be expended by the Building Commission with the approval of the Selectmen and Trustees for the alteration and additions to the Coolidge Corner Branch Library. The proposed addition would increase the space available for patrons, materials, and staff work areas. Architects Joseph J. Schiffer and Associates provided plans to expand the multipurpose room on the main floor for children's services, extend the rear with a multipurpose room under the main floor, provide a reading room to seat 200 comfortably, and house 60,000 volumes.

The additions and alterations of the Coolidge Corner Branch Library were completed in 1969. The branch remained open during construction while furniture and books were shifted often to accommodate the contractor during the successive stages of work. The branch closed only eleven days for construction purposes. On March 17, 1970, the Building Commission inspected and accepted the additions and alterations to the branch. An Open House held on September 24, 1970 was well attended. An outstanding feature of the branch remains the interior garden.

In May 1987 the Coolidge Corner Branch Library started circulating compact discs. The collection was well received by the public, and circulation increased every month. Over 90% of the entire collection was bar-coded in anticipation of library automation, which eventually took place in March 1990.

Book security systems, which also counted attendance, were installed at Coolidge Corner and Putterham Branch Libraries in mid-July 1987.

Coolidge Corner Branch Library hosted a Chinese Cultural Day in May 1988. The program attracted 154 people, 80% of whom were Asian. The program included a dance and martial arts festival, library tour and refreshments. A Chinese bilingual brochure was produced and distributed.

In September of 1991, the stained glass window, "Tree of Knowledge, Tree of Light," by artist Linda Lichtman, was officially dedicated at the Coolidge Corner Branch Library. The window with its bold graphic elements complements the brick interior and is an outstanding example of public art.

During the 2001-2003 renovation of the Main Library, Coolidge Corner served as the Main Library. Several Main Library staff were reassigned to Coolidge Corner and established a reference desk to serve the patrons. During this time period, circulation at the branch increased by approximately 50 percent. Meanwhile, system-wide circulation decreased less than 10 percent.

In June of 2005, the Coolidge Corner Branch closed for its own renovations to the heating and ventilation systems and some modifications to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The interior received a new coat of paint; new carpeting and the shelves were rearranged to allow better access to the collections. Cable was run to allow for the installation of more computers for patron use. The outside of the branch library now has a new façade and entryway planked by etched glass with the names of famous authors. The branch celebrated 50 years of service in this location in January 2007.

The Coolidge Corner Branch continues to be a vibrant, bustling library that serves a large population in this neighborhood. Coolidge is one of the busiest branch libraries in the state and accounts for close to 30 percent of the total circulation of the Brookline library system. Thanks to librarian Ting Yin, the branch provides one of the largest Chinese

language collections in the area and conducts many programs for children including a weekly sing-along. Special programs for young adults and a senior cinema film program round out the services offered.

A Branch for Chestnut Hill



After the closing of the deposit station in Chestnut Hill in 1920, authorization was given in 1921 by Town Meeting and plans were made for a branch at Chestnut Hill. On May 9, 1921, the Chestnut Hill Branch opened in a corner room in the building at 621 Hammond at the corner of Heath Street. The building, owned by Mrs. Nora T. Gleason, was thoroughly renovated to accommodate shelving and the necessary furniture. Residents were most appreciative

of the service of the branch. Although it was the best location for a branch, it had been foreseen that the space was too small for its purpose. The branch was able to make do until 1926, when the library relocated to share space in the Baldwin School on Heath Street. Over twice as much space allowed for more reading areas and many more books. Over the summer, when the library and school were closed, books were delivered by automobile and transferred by the side of the road. The branch continued to thrive for many years.

The 1970s saw a gradual decline in usage of the Chestnut Hill Branch. Unfortunately, the energy crisis, budget shortfalls and that declining circulation led the Trustees to vote at the October 21, 1977 special meeting: "The Chestnut Hill Branch...be closed and that the activities carried on at the Chestnut Hill Branch be transferred to the Putterham Branch; and that the Town Librarian and the School Librarian work together to transfer the present Chestnut Hill Library quarters to the Baldwin School for library use as soon as practical but no later than February 28, 1978."

Despite the Blizzard of 1978 February 5-8 and a state of emergency that closed the library for a week, the branch was emptied by the February 28, 1978 deadline.

The Sewall Reading Room

The Sewall Reading Room was started in December 1912 as a cooperative venture between the Brookline Education Society and the library. The reading room was located in a small rented room across from the Sewall School for the first year and moved into the schoolhouse in a room designated for use as a library in December 1913. In 1921, the room was moved into the large kindergarten rooms for use and was open 3 nights a week from October 1 to June 1. The reading room enjoyed great success over the years, but closed at the end of the 1939 school year.

High School Library

The public library took over management of the high school library in September 1917 and completely reorganized it. Lessons in library use were given to all students. In 1934, the old "Shailer Hall" was altered to house the library which had become very overcrowded. Renovations allowed for more adequate seating and classrooms for instruction, were

completed by Civil Works Progress Administration labor. A fire broke out in an attic room just above the library in 1936 which destroyed Shailer Hall and part of the high school. Of the 4,500 books in the library collection, 409 were completely destroyed. Some were rebound, but many had to be replaced. For two years the library was located in the Faculty Room until the new building opened with five rooms designed for the library. Library services continued to expand over the following years, but the loss of books was becoming a problem that made for a serious commentary on the attitudes of youth toward public property.

At the request of the School Committee, the Trustees turned over complete administration of the high school library to the school department on July 1, 1966.

A Branch for South Brookline at Putterham

With the end of World War II, it was anticipated that the establishment of a branch library in South Brookline would be likely. In December 1948, the Putterham Branch Library was opened in the storefront at Putterham Circle now the site of Mandarin Gourmet



Putterham Branch Library 1948

Restaurant. This branch would fill a real need in the growing locality of South Brookline for years to come.

By 1956 the increase in population in South Brookline made the Putterham Branch Library's rented space at Putterham Circle inadequate. The Trustees requested the Selectmen to reserve town land at the intersection of Grove and South Streets to provide for a branch library and parking facilities. The Trustees requested an article for the 1957 Town meeting authorizing the expenditure of \$2,000 for a

study on the feasibility of abolishing the pumping station and erecting a new building on that site. However, the town acquired a different lot at the corner of the West Roxbury Parkway and Bellingham Road as a site for a branch library.

The Trustees of the library requested the selectmen to include an article for the 1959 Town Meeting Warrant to appropriate \$5,000 for preliminary plans to design a new branch facility in South Brookline. The Building Commission, with the approval of The Board of Library Trustees, employed The Architects' Collaborative (TAC) to prepare plans and a cost estimate for constructing a library in South Brookline (TAC was an architectural firm founded in 1945 by Walter Gropius). On June 10, 1960, the Putterham Branch Library closed at the circle. From July to December 1960, the hours of service were extended at the Chestnut Hill Branch and its book collection augmented with books from the Putterham Branch Library. Limited service resumed December 1 at the Edith C. Baker School.

Jean B. Fletcher and John C. Harkness of TAC were chosen to design the library. On December 11, 1961, the Putterham Branch Library opened its doors at 959 West Roxbury Parkway. The building has 8,300 square feet (including the auditorium) and offered parking for 20 cars. The first librarian was Aimee Draper. The South Brookline Garden Club designed the gardens at the branch and received the Sears Roebuck Award for civic beautification. The *Architectural Record* commended the Putterham Branch Library building for its relationship to its neighborhood in scale and materials which blended with area residences. The library interior was characterized by “an unusually open feeling” where a flow of space served public functions. The horizontal windows below the eaves and wall windows in the Children’s Room and Meeting Room open the interior space to the landscaped exterior.

In 1985, branch librarian, Anne Reed wrote: “Putterham remains an important community library where patrons expect individualized service, they know the staff by name, and depend on staff assistance for selecting materials, reserving items, which is after all the essence of Putterham.”

On May 19, 1986, Putterham Branch staff implemented a pilot program for the rental of best sellers that was funded by the Friends of the Public Library of Brookline. The rental collection paid for the purchase of additional titles of popular best sellers, thus decreasing the length of time patrons had to wait for those popular items. A new young adult collection was established and a very popular family night film program begun.



Putterham Branch Library 2001

In 2001, the Putterham Branch Library’s Meeting Room was converted to office space for the Technical Services Department and administrative staff during the renovation of the Main Library. That year the branch also celebrated forty years in their current location and celebrated in fine fashion with a children’s sing-along and a lecture on the history of the branch given by Susan von Daum Tholl.

This branch was scheduled to be closed for renovation in the summer of 2007 while upgrades were made to the heating and ventilation systems, and interior renovations were made. This project has now been delayed two years in order to allow the Board of Assessors to use the Putterham Branch Meeting Room as office space during the renovation to the Town Hall. The branch will continue to be very active with afternoon chess programs, a Family Film program, story hours and all the services they provide to their South Brookline neighbors.

EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS THAT SHAPED THE HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY

World War I

It was interesting to note that, in 1917 despite World War I, Brookline residents were reading more books than ever.

Early in the summer of 1917 the War Department asked the American Library Association to provide reading matter for fighting forces at home and abroad. Librarians around the country undertook to raise a million dollars to provide a library building in each of the 32 cantonments and to also send reading matter to all the smaller military and naval stations both here and abroad.

The libraries of Massachusetts joined in this undertaking and felt that a heavy obligation was laid upon them to raise their share of the money needed.

The Brookline Library War Council, of which Mr. Charles H. Stearns was president and Mr. Ernest B. Dane treasurer, raised \$8,060.94 during September and October. Nationally, a total of \$1,700,000 was raised!



Camp Norman Prince

In advance of the appeal for money for libraries, the library asked the citizens of Brookline for books and magazines for the soldiers, and the appeal met with a very generous response. Nearly 5,000 books and tons of magazines were distributed to the forts and stations around the state including Camp Devens in Ayer, Camp Norman Prince in Brookline and the Watertown Arsenal.

As a point of interest, Camp Norman Prince was made up of members of the 101st Field Signal Battalion Corps, a support unit for the 26th Yankee Division of the National Guard of Massachusetts who reported for duty at the old Commonwealth Armory (now the site of the Agganis Arena at Boston University) on July 25th, 1917. They were mobilized and had their temporary camp on the playground of the Noble and Greenough School, then located at 89 Egmont Street in Brookline. The camp was named for Norman Prince, a Boston resident, who was a member of the Lafayette Escadrille, a unit set up in April 1916 and made up of American pilots based in France that fought against the Germans prior to US entry into WWI. Prince died on October 15, 1916, three days after crashing. He is buried in Washington Cathedral. The unit broke camp on or about September 4, 1917 and shipped out to France from Hoboken, NJ on September 6, 1917.

In 1918 the library continued to serve as a receiving and distribution station for books for our men in service. About 20,500 volumes were received and distributed during 1918 to various posts in this country including 9,800 to the Cambridge Dispatch Office which sent them overseas. This war work continued during 1918 under the supervision of Miss Susan Crampton, who volunteered her services.

The Main Library and Coolidge Corner Branch also served as agencies for the sale of War Savings Stamps.

In 1919, the library was able to be of service to Base Hospital No. 10, on Parker Hill, for disabled men in the military service. Books were distributed to the patients by library assistants who volunteered their time. This was the last war work, outside the distribution of books, in which the library participated.

During the war the library was able to make its usefulness felt as never before, and was able to co-operate with many town organizations in work which for the time was paramount in importance. In doing this work the library building has inevitably become an important social and civic center in the town.

The Depression years took their toll on the library at a time when demand for services was increasing. The book budget was cut, a full time position was made half time, the children's room closed at 6 p.m. and no reserves were placed on books in order to cut down on postage. The Library Bulletin of new acquisitions which had been published ten times per year was cut back to six issues.

World War II

In common with all other public institutions, the library was met with new responsibilities due to the onset of World War II. There was a change in the emphasis of service and in the materials provided. Ingenuity and increased labor were required to meet the challenge of providing the war needs without too much sacrifice of the basic cultural needs.

Library Director, Elizabeth Butcher, noted, in 1942, that:

In order to be prepared for any emergency, the library staff has taken instruction in Air Warden Duties and in First Aid.... Free mornings and afternoons have been given to sorting books for the Armed Forces, to the assembly of libraries for shipment at the Brighton Deposit Center and to helping with the organization and reference service of the Defense Library of the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety. This was a fruitful experience and brought requests for service from the Public Library of Brookline. With the declaration of war, the library began to assemble pamphlets, government documents, books and posters on the war and civilian defense. Lists were compiled and distributed covering such subjects as "Science serving Mankind," "Wings over the World," "Garden for Victory," "America in a World at War," "Our Fighting Forces"

The Brookline Victory Book Campaign in early 1942 collected 26,487 volumes that were distributed to the military.

Because of its excellent record in the selling of war bonds and stamps, Brookline was chosen by the United States Treasury Department to hold a Book and Author War Bond Rally. Sponsored by the Public Library for the Brookline War Finance Committee, the rally featured an auction of original manuscripts donated by authors Miss Esther Forbes, Christopher La Farge and John Erskine. Autographed copies of their most popular books were given away as prizes. Tickets to the rally were free to all who purchased a war bond from December 1st-15th. Approximately \$253,000 was raised during this two week period.

The Children's Room joined the war effort in 1945 when a committee of children started a Treasure Chest. The aim was to collect pennies in the chest and then buy books to fill the chest to send to the children of France, Czechoslovakia and the Philippines. One of the treasure chests went to the St. Anthony's Institute in Manila, a school for orphans and the poor.

In 1946 the Trustees were grateful to the War Parents of America, Chapter No. 23 for a “Memorial Presentation of 30 books on Contemporary History and American Democracy to commemorate the valiant services rendered by our sons and daughters in the Armed Forces of our Country in World War II.” These books were carefully selected by the Librarian and marked with an appropriate book plate.

With the end of the war, increased use of the Library by returning service men and women was seen at both the Main Library and the Coolidge Corner Branch. Veterans were seeking vocational information of all kinds along with preparation for civil service examinations, and books on starting one’s own business. The Library’s excellent collection of pamphlets and government documents was quite useful in supplying the desired information in these fields.

Maintenance of the Main Library, deferred during the war years, was undertaken in 1947. The Library would now concentrate on preparations for a new library in Coolidge Corner.

Library Centennial Celebration

In 1957 the Library celebrated 100 years of service to the Brookline community. A Committee of Trustees and Town Librarian, Elizabeth Butcher, planned a series of events to mark the library’s centennial. During March a pictorial exhibit of Brookline History was on display. Nina Fletcher Little spoke at the Coolidge Corner Branch on Brookline history. The Brookline Library Music Association held a concert as a “Salute to Brookline” at which Herbert Fromm, Director of Music at Temple Israel, presented an original work of music, titled “Birthday Canon for the 100th Anniversary of the Brookline Library.” Saturday, March 16, there was an open house at the new Coolidge Corner Branch Library and refreshments served.

Proposition 2 1/2

Proposition 2 ½ was a ballot initiative passed by the voters of Massachusetts in order to limit property tax increases to 2 ½ percent annually for funding municipal operations. Approved in 1980, it was first implemented in fiscal year 1982. The Brookline Advisory Committee proposed cutting the library’s budget by \$30,000 and suggested cutting hours at the two branches by 21 hours a week to save energy costs. The library budget was actually cut by \$200,000 to \$1,500,000. Reduction in the hours of library service began in 1980 when staff vacancies were left unfilled. The library lost 10 full-time positions (library assistants, librarians, one junior building custodian and two house workers) and 55 percent of all part-time personnel, including the pages who returned books to the shelves. The branches faced a reduction of 41 hours of weekly service. Coolidge Corner Branch would be open 35.5 hours (down from 62) and Putterham Branch 23.5 hours (down from 56.5). Main Library hours were reduced from 68 hours to 59. Delivery of books to shut-ins was the first program dropped. On October 11, 1981, telephone reference on Sundays had to be curtailed.

Library 125th Anniversary

During the confusion and changes wrought by Proposition 2½ the library celebrated its 125th anniversary.

Mrs. Theresa A. Carroll reflected on her two decades as Town Librarian as she prepared for the 125th Anniversary of the Library’s founding in an interview with the local Brookline

paper: "I get depressed by 2½ but I'm stubborn. I can't give up. I hate to give in when things are going wrong. And I still can't imagine a better place to work."

In recognition of the Library's 125th Anniversary, the Selectmen adopted the following proclamation:

Whereas, March 30, 1982 is the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Public Library of Brookline, the first library in Massachusetts established entirely by municipal action, and

Whereas, Brookline thus became a pioneer in nurturing the growth of an institution of learning singularly American, and

Whereas, from a room in the Town Hall... successive generations of Trustees and librarians have built a library whose excellence is recognized far beyond the borders of the Commonwealth, and

...Now, THEREFORE, firm in the conviction that a well informed citizenry is the strongest bulwark of democracy, we the Board of Selectmen of Brookline, do hereby proclaim the period March 30, 1982 through December 31, 1982 as library months in the Town of Brookline and urge all our citizens to seek ways to insure the continuation of this irreplaceable institution.

An Open House celebration was held on Sunday, March 28, 1982, at the Main Library from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Events included background music in the lobby by the "Sails String Quartet" sponsored by the Brookline Library Music Association; two puppet shows by the Cranberry puppets in the Children's Room; balloons appropriately inscribed for children by the Friends of the Brookline Public Library; a poetry reading in the Exhibition Hall by Brookline poets, Judith Leet, Margo Lockwood, and Nina Nyhart; and library tours. Exhibits of paintings from the works of the Brookline Art Society were on display in the Exhibition Hall. Martha G. Edmondson, Chairman of the Library Trustees, opened the formal program which included greetings from the Town of Brookline delivered by Robert M. Stein, Chairman, Board of Selectmen, and from the Boston Public Library Director Philip J. McNiff. Thomas J. Cottle delivered an address on the library entitled "A Very Special Place." The program was followed by refreshments and a mammoth birthday cake. The Southern Brookline Garden Club provided flowers. About 1,500 people participated in the celebration. Since the library was open for service, one book circulated every fifteen seconds.

Library 150th Anniversary

The Library turned 150 years old in 2007 and was proud to celebrate its roots by hosting a photographic exhibition spanning the years 1857-2007. From a small room in the basement of town hall to the grand structure that now stands is quite an achievement. Photographs of all the library buildings and those of the town during the time period were featured.

The library is considered the crown jewel in the town as it should be. The library's accomplishments are due in part to insightful librarians, a town that valued education, and the townspeople who supported the efforts of the library.

In appreciation of all that has been accomplished since 1857, this history was written to commemorate 150 years of library service and commitment to the people of Brookline.

ORGANIZATIONS

Since its inception, the Brookline Public Library has been a center of the social and cultural life of Brookline. Throughout the Public Library of Brookline's 150 years, its meeting rooms at the library branches and Hunneman Hall at the Main Library have offered a venue for the discussion of politics, enjoyment of music, visual arts, and other educational and cultural programs. Town organizations, community groups, and individuals have rented the meeting rooms and conference room for special events. The Board of Library Trustees supported and encouraged the development of several organizations which are part of the library's mission and service to the community.

Brookline Art Society

In the 1950's under the direction of Elizabeth Butcher, Town Librarian, the Brookline Society of Artists and the Brookline Library Music Association were formed to meet the artistic and cultural needs of the community.

The Trustees voted at the February 3, 1950 meeting to endorse the formation of the Brookline Society of Artists. Charles D. Maginnis, at that time a library trustee, was elected president of the organization. Its members numbered 147 artists, all of whom were library card holders. The main purpose of the society was to foster creativity and give artists a venue to show case their work. In the first year, 3,600 people attended the art society's two exhibitions. The society also sponsored workshops on Saturday mornings in the Exhibition Hall and monthly meetings.

Through the years, the art society continued to use the Exhibition Hall for its annual juried art show, special exhibits, and events. The Art and Music Librarian worked closely with the Society.

One of the members of the Brookline Society of Artists, Dorothy Clemens, willed her paintings to the library, with the stipulation that these paintings could be displayed in any town building but could not be sold. The proceeds from the sale of her home formed the basis for the Clemens Trust Fund in 1987.

At the April 11, 1995 Trustees meeting, E. Green, President of the Brookline Art Society, gave a brief history of the society and its relationship with the library. The Trustees voted at their July 11, 1995 meeting to continue the relationship by agreeing to the following:

1. To continue to provide meeting space free of charge for meetings of the Society;
2. To agree to provide the use of Hunneman Hall for up to two juried shows each year;
3. To continue to provide the use of three wall cases and two pedestal cases in the lobby for ongoing exhibits. Contents of these cases to be managed by the Art Society;
4. To attempt to incorporate exhibit space in any re-design of the Main Library.

(Trustees Records July 11, 1995 v.12 p.89)

The Brookline Art Society continued to exhibit members' art in the Main Library lobby through 2001. Since 2003, the Trustees' Programming and Exhibits Committee review and select art presented by Brookline residents to exhibit for the Main Library and branches.

Brookline Bird Club

The Brookline Bird Club website (<http://massbird.org/bbc/BBCAbout.htm>) gives a glimpse of its history.

The Brookline Bird Club, commonly known as the BBC, is the oldest and largest of the many bird clubs in Massachusetts. It was founded in 1913, and has over 1100 members. The Club sponsors an active program of year-round field trips, covering the entire state from the Berkshires to Stellwagen Bank. During the peak of spring migration, walks are scheduled for each day of the week. Two evening lecture meetings are held each year, one in spring and one in fall. Guests are always welcome on Club walks and at Club meetings.

A special tradition of Club trips has been to encourage new birders, both young and old, to learn about birds and the pleasures of birding through active participation in seeking and identifying birds in various habitats and during all seasons of the year. A number of world-class trip leaders and ornithologists birded with the club in their childhood years.

The origin of the Club, as the name suggests traces to Brookline. In the spring of 1913, a notice in the *Brookline Chronicle* and the *Boston Transcript* invited all those who might be interested in the study of wild birds to attend a meeting at the Brookline Public Library. The result was the founding of the Brookline Bird Club. The first annual meeting was held in Brookline, the first President was a resident of Brookline, and most of the Club's early members were from Brookline. Today, of course, Club membership reaches far beyond Brookline to all of Massachusetts and to many other states as well.

Brookline Library Music Association

In November 1951, the Brookline Library Music Association (BLMA) was founded due to the hard work of Brookline resident, Mrs. Frances Stevens. Over the last 55 years the BLMA has sponsored workshops on music, competitions for young composers, and six concerts each year which provided a venue for talented young artists to perform. The first year, Mr. George Butler, Organist at the First Parish Church, presented a series of evening meetings on understanding contemporary music.

The organization was so well respected that on October 16, 1964 the BLMA was honored at a pre-symphony luncheon. Harry Ellis Dickson of the Boston Symphony Orchestra praised the association for its continuing service to the community and encouraging young composers and musicians.

In addition, the association was praised in the March 1965 issue of *Musical Quarterly*: "The Brookline (Massachusetts) Public Library through the Brookline Library Music Association puts on concerts and commissions new works; on a small scale, it is doing just what the Library of Congress does through its music foundations."

The BLMA celebrated its fifteenth anniversary with a special concert and exhibit on November 1, 1967. The association had compiled an impressive record of eighty-eight concerts with a total attendance of over 6,000. The winner of the annual composition competition was honored with the premier performance of his or her work at one concert each year.

Programming continued at the Main Library during the early 1970s renovations. The BLMA celebrated its twentieth year of its founding with a very successful opera gala, with over 200 people in attendance in 1971.

Competition contests ended in the 1960s, but the BLMA continued to present six concerts each season featuring some of Boston's most talented emerging artists. The series included music of all genres, and the BLMA remains proud of its many performers who have gone on to successful musical careers including Joan Baez, the Romanul brothers, Judith Gordon, Steven Salters, and Karyl Ryczek.

The organization celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 2000, still managed by its own citizen board of directors and supported entirely by modest annual dues and donations. On October 28, 2000, the BLMA honored its anniversary with a gala concert starring Robert Honeysucker and PALS Children's Chorus.

Friends of the Brookline Public Library

The Friends of the Brookline Public Library was formed in 1981 with over 300 members. In an attempt to stretch library service in tight fiscal times, several opportunities for volunteer service were developed by library staff with the assistance of the Friends. Volunteer opportunities included: working at the Putterham Branch Library, working at the circulation desk at the Main Library, answering telephone and informational questions, and running the annual October book sale, etc. The community came together to support the library by volunteering over 1,000 hours of service and joining the organization. The Friends' first project, the Fall Book Sale netted \$3,300 for the library. By 1985, the Friends of the Brookline Public Library had 400 members who provided service to the community through the library.

The library service to those elderly town residents unable to come to the library, begun in 1933, had, by 1956, forty-four individuals who received books every three weeks. The Health Department provided a car for transporting the materials. However, the passage of Proposition 2 ½ led to the curtailment of this service. In the spring of 1996, the Friends, in conjunction with the Brookline Council on Aging, established the Library Connection to resume the delivery of books to shut-ins.

In addition, the Friends sponsored several programs including an ongoing book sale in the lobby of the Main Library (first established in 1995), annual fall book sale, "Favorite Poem Night," "Book Club Night," and "Candidates for Library Trustees Night." Annually, the Friends send one month's proceeds from the lobby book sale to support the library in Brookline's sister city, Quezalguaque, Nicaragua.

The Friends have funded special grants to library staff to work on their own time on projects that provide direct benefit to library users. Projects have involved programs for the public; improvements in library services, materials, or equipment; professional development initiatives; or a combination of these efforts. Past grants included conservation and exhibition of historic photographs in the Brookline Room, the initial design and upgrading of the library's website, the design and printing of brochures, evening workshops that enabled town residents to trace the histories of their houses or parts of town, preparation of the theme kits now available in the Children's Room, a series of programs for children led by professional artists demonstrating art techniques that

children can use, and an online index to obituaries of Brookline residents and newspaper articles which appeared in the local Brookline papers.

Currently, the Friends and Steps to Success are sponsoring free English conversation groups for adults who speak English as a second language. The discussions focus on practical, everyday topics and are held at the Main Library and the Coolidge Corner Branch.

Annual meetings of the Friends have included programs featuring “Voices of Brookline,” hosted by Larry Ruttman; “The Rise of the Graphic Novel,” hosted by Stephen Weiner; “Who Was Shakespeare”; “Wit and Woes of Dorothy Parker”; and a special January 2005 program “Book Lust” with Nancy Pearl.

Brookline Library Foundation



In order to assist the Town in funding its portion of the library restoration, the Trustees helped form the Brookline Library Foundation, Inc. in 1999. The Foundation is an independent non-profit 510 (C) 3 corporation to support the work of Brookline’s three libraries through awareness and fund raising activities. The Brookline Library Foundation spearheaded a major private fund raising effort to support the 2001-2003 library restoration projects.

The stated mission of the Brookline Library Foundation is: “To support the restoration and renovation of the buildings in the Public Library system in Brookline, Massachusetts, and to make funds available for library materials, services and programs within said system, or for other purposes of the Library, as determined by the Trustees of the Library.”

For the first major fund raising initiative, the firm of Hill, Holliday, Connors, Cosmoules, Inc. donated a significant amount of time and money to develop a public awareness campaign in 1999. The campaign featured famous Brookline residents and fantasy library cards on posters, bookmarks, taxicab tops, etc. The Brookline residents featured on their library cards included Isabella Stewart Gardner, Roland Hayes, Bob Kraft, John F. Kennedy, Conan O’Brien, Ellen Goodman, and others. More than 2,169 residents made donations to the “Campaign to Restore and Renew the Public Library of Brookline Help Write the Next Chapter 1998-2003,” a complete list of all the major donors is on a plaque in the restored Main Library.

Another fund raising activity of the Foundation is the annual winter gala, first held in January 1998, to raise funds for the library renovation project. The evening featured live and silent auctions, book signings by local authors, a light gourmet supper, musical entertainment by the Winniker Brothers Band, and dancing. Approximately 400 people attended the social event of the year, and more than \$30,000 was raised. Monies raised at the subsequent winter galas and annual appeals were used to provide \$4 million of the Main Library restoration project’s \$13 million costs.

Currently the Brookline Library Foundation is responsible for the library annual winter gala and direct mail fund-raising campaigns. All proceeds support services, programs and projects of the Public Library of Brookline including the purchase of the *Dictionary of National Biography*, children’s special programs, microfilm of Boston City Directories, furniture and supplies, and museum passes.

Brookline Reads

The Board of Library Trustees initiated Brookline Reads, which encourages the entire community to read the same book, join in discussion groups, and to attend films and panel discussions around the themes raised in the book. The first book chosen, *Snow in August* by Pete Hamill, brought the community together to discuss Brooklyn in the 1940s, anti-Semitism, baseball, and the Golem.



Following on the success of the first program, the Brookline Reads Committee selected Miriam Grace Monfredo's *North Star Conspiracy*, to honor Brookline's 300th Anniversary. The book raised issues surrounding abolitionism, slavery, and the Underground Railroad, significant for the Brookline community as the town was a stop on the Underground Railroad and several prominent residents were involved in the Abolitionist Movement.

The large Asian community in Brookline made Lisa See's *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* the perfect choice for the third Brookline Reads program. Set in China, the novel explores the complex relationship between two women with different backgrounds who exchange messages in "nu shu," a secret language known only to women.

A dragon dance was held in the Main Library driveway, traditional and modern Chinese music presented by the Brookline Music School, and storytelling with Li Min Mo kicked off the 2006 event. A panel discussion on language, moderated by Jerome Groopman, and Lisa See's talk and reception brought all ages a greater understanding of women's place in China.

To celebrate the Public Library of Brookline's 150th Anniversary, the Brookline Reads Committee selected Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. Programs for this nineteenth century work began with twenty-first century music, the world premier of a jazz piece by Brookline resident and composer Ran Blake, entitled "Dreamchild Noir," and ended with the twenty-first century graphic novelist Ron Espinosa discussing his new interpretation of Alice. In between, programs discussed, celebrated, played, and shared the many levels and puzzles of this 19th century masterpiece. All ages delighted in the intricacies and hidden meanings of Alice.

TECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCE SHARING

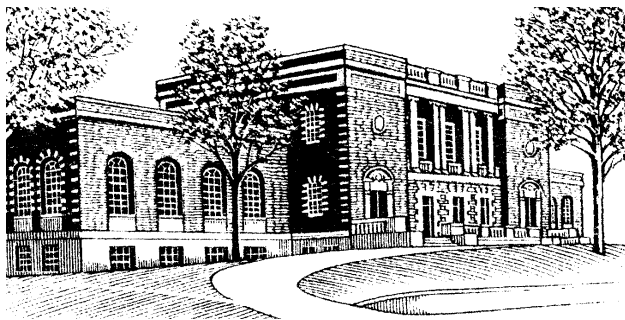
The Trustees voted at the January 10, 1967, meeting that the Brookline Public Library join the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System. EMRLS, one of the earliest examples of resource sharing among libraries, also provided improved access to training programs, interlibrary loan resources and materials.

By 1984 library staff had studied, evaluated and prepared for automating library functions. The Trustees submitted a request for funds through the town's capital improvements program to support the automation project. Acquisitions, cataloging and circulation were the major areas analyzed for technical considerations and cost-and-service effectiveness.

The Board of Library Trustees established a special Automation Committee with Barbara Marcus as the chair. The Trustees' major priority was setting in place the framework to

make possible the development of an automated library. Together with the library staff, the Automation Committee prepared a comprehensive analysis of how library operations and services could be enhanced through automation. The report described three phases of library automation. In phase one the library would create a machine readable database of its collection. In phase two, the library would replace its inefficient, labor intensive photo-charging circulation system with an online computerized system. When phase three was completed, the library would have an online public access catalog (OPAC) which would replace the existing card catalogs.

In 1986 the Board of Library Trustees approved the library's participation in the newly developed Metro Boston Library Network (MBLN), based at the Boston Public Library. The members included the public libraries of Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Newton, Malden, and Chelsea. The participants shared in the development and operational costs of an automated system which made the holdings of all the libraries available to library users in all these communities. Funds for this project were approved by Town Meeting following extensive discussions and review by Town officials, citizen boards and library staff. The process of automation began in 1987 when barcodes were applied to all library books and library cards were issued featuring the sketch designed and donated by Brookline resident Doug Smith. Machine-readable records were created for each of the library's several hundred thousand books, audiovisual materials, and other holdings. Computers were installed in the Technical Services Department to start the conversion process.



Public Library of Brookline

On June 18, 1987, the directors of the six libraries participating in the MBLN voted to authorize the library Trustees to enter into contract negotiations with Data Research Associates, Inc. (DRA) to provide the MBLN with an integrated library automation system. Successful completion of the contracts with DRA led to the installation of telecommunications equipment and terminals, and patron

registration. Town Librarian Michael Steinfeld was elected President of MBLN, while Dalija Karoblis, Assistant Town Librarian, served as Brookline's implementation coordinator. Library staff worked with specially trained teams attaching barcodes to 278,500 library books (73 percent of the library's collection). While the barcoding project continued in 1988, data entry staff created machine readable records for all bar-coded materials.

In the same year, the Gateway Cities Program funded a project for the Public Library of Brookline to create an online information and referral directory of municipal government services of use to the general public, immigrants, and other newcomers. The information collected was translated into Russian, Chinese, and Spanish. Esther Felix, project coordinator, gathered the information and designed the database.

Another technology improvement was the 1987 telefax project which allowed magazine articles, government documents and business information to be requested from the Boston Public Library collections and sent to the Public Library of Brookline in a matter of hours. This state funded grant, in cooperation with the Boston Sub-region of the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System, opened up Boston's specialized and unique library

holdings to communities who demonstrated strong commitment to excellence in library service.

The Interlibrary Loan Department utilized OCLC, the national online bibliographic database, to verify out-of-print titles, find libraries owning a specific title, and request the material be sent to Brookline for patrons. This technology led to a 42.5 percent increase in the number of items borrowed from other libraries for Brookline's readers.

In preparation for automation, data cable was installed at the Main Library and both branches for the library's computer terminals. Multiplexer units connected branches to the Main Library and Main Library to the Boston Public Library which allowed records to be created for the library's fiction and biography collections. New patron registration forms were designed and translated into Russian and Chinese for our Russian and Chinese community.

A major service improvement for our patrons was the introduction of the library's new computer-based online circulation system. The Putterham Branch Library staff charged the first book on the new computerized system February 8, 1990. The Coolidge Corner Branch Library and the Main Library charged books on the new system later in February. The new system:

- Brought greater efficiency, accuracy, and speed to most routine library transactions
- Provided online access to the collections of other libraries
- Created a master computerized record for every new book in the library's collection which made possible inventory control
- Provided a public access catalog and faster interlibrary borrowing

Local officials and Trustees inaugurated the system at a ribbon cutting ceremony held at the Main Library on April 26, 1990.

The Public Library of Brookline was the first library in the Metro Boston Library Network to provide the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) for the public in July 1991. The library installed fifteen computer terminals at the Main Library and both branches which allowed the public to see the availability of the library's collections. The OPAC provided author, title, and subject access to more than 750,000 titles, in the title collection holdings of the now seven MBLN libraries. The public was able to place requests for items checked out or on request lists. The computerized system automatically printed a notice to the person waiting on the list when the item became available for pick-up at the library.

In 1993 the library increased its reliance on technology as a tool to improve library service. Patrons with a computer and modem could now search the holdings of Brookline and the six other members of the MBLN network from office or home. In July, the Technical Services Department provided centralized cataloging services to the MBLN member libraries. The MBLN Cataloging Center resulted in savings which were reallocated to improve library services.

Staff attended in-service training sessions on the use of reference materials, computer technology, the Internet, and other patron service issues. The library implemented an ongoing program to train the public in the use of library resources in both print and electronic formats.

In July 1995, the library provided Internet access via a terminal in the reference room at the Main Library, and two CD-ROM workstations were installed in the reference room. A

telecommunications device for the deaf was purchased to enable the staff to communicate with hearing-impaired patrons who are not able to use a conventional telephone.

With the cooperation of the Assessors Department in 1996, updated real estate assessment and tax information was made available to patrons via a computer terminal in the Reference Room. The reference staff provided over 100 training sessions for the public on the use of the Internet and other information resources. Additional electronic databases were made available at the Main Library.

In July 1997 Brookline, Cambridge, Lexington, and Newton left the Metro Boston Library Network and joined with twenty-nine other public libraries and four academic libraries to become part of the Minuteman Library Network (MLN). Through MLN, patrons had access to over 5,000,000 items, full text to hundreds of magazines, newspapers and journals, as well as online reference works.

In April 1998 cabling for new telecommunications equipment allowed for full graphical access to the Internet and access to online databases at all three libraries over high speed T1 data lines. The Trustees approved an "Internet and acceptable use" policy. Filtering software to block inappropriate sites for children were applied on computers in the children's rooms. The Internet continued to be very popular, with almost 800 patrons a month utilizing the library's computers.

With the restoration of the Main Library and its reopening in 2003, high speed wireless internet access for patron's laptops or other wireless devices became available at the

Main Library, as well as the Coolidge Corner and Putterham Branches. RCN generously provides the T-1 level (1.5 MBs) Internet Service free-of-charge. The Town's Information Technology Department provided funds, support, advice, and expertise to enable the library to offer this service.

The Main Library has standard Ethernet RJ-45 and electrical jacks available in many areas of the building for patrons to plug in their own device and access the Internet. The enabled jacks are labeled "Plug-In."

As of March 2007, the library offers a total of 74 computers for patron use. Computers providing full Internet access are available in the adult areas of all three branches. Because of their popularity, patrons may be required to log on with a library card; time limits may be imposed on some devices. In addition to the Internet, these workstations also provide Microsoft Office XP Professional (including Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint). A number of Express Internet computers are available in the Main Library Reference Room for checking email, limited to one session of twenty-two minutes. These sessions do not require a library card.

Catalog-only computers provide access to our Online Public Access Catalog as well as the electronic resources to which the library subscribes. Microsoft Office is not installed on these computers, but WordPad and Notepad are available for note taking and most word processing functions.

The computers located in the children's rooms provide Internet access using filtering software to restrict adult content, language and violence. Headphones may be requested at the Children's Room desk, or patrons may plug in their own.

The library provides one computer at the Main Library and one computer at the Coolidge Corner Branch for the use of limited-sight and blind patrons. Both computers have Internet access, Microsoft Office, and specialized software packages JAWS and Kurzweil 1000.

In July 2003, the Minuteman Library Network contract ended with Data Research Associates (DRA), and the network launched a new online catalog and circulation system, provided by Innovative Interfaces Incorporated (III). The new system's enhancements included more precise searching in the online catalog, creating lists, saving searches, and easier requesting of materials for patrons. From the Minuteman Library Network home page, www.mln.lib.ma.us, patrons can search the catalog, access Community Information Resources, search for periodical articles, request materials not available from within Minuteman, and manage their accounts.

The Trustees, Friends, and the Brookline Library Foundation funded the costs of upgrading and reconfiguring the library's web site in 2006. Clearpeak Interactive was hired to redesign the web site which debuted in November 2006 and featured a crisp, welcoming, uncluttered style. All pertinent information for the Brookline libraries can be found under tabs and via a helpful search box.

In 2006 The Public Library of Brookline became a charter member in the state's Digital Commonwealth project. The purpose of the Digital Commonwealth is to "promote the creation of digital resources by libraries and other cultural organizations in Massachusetts." In 2007, the Brookline Digital Committee determined which items of historical significance to the community (including the Brookline Historical Photographs, maps, and manuscripts) should be digitized and preserved for future generations.

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TOWN LIBRARIANS

	Dates of service	Beginning Salary	Ending Salary
J. Emory Hoar	1857-Sept. 1871	\$125	\$300
Mary A. Bean	1871-1893	\$1,200	\$1,500
Charles Knowles Bolton	1893-1898	\$1,500	\$2,000
Hiller C. Wellman	1898-1902	\$2,000	\$2,000
Louisa M. Hooper	1902-1940	\$2,000	\$4,000
Elizabeth Butcher	1940-1962	\$3,500	\$10,000
Theresa A. Carroll	1962-1983	\$9,101	\$38,000
Michael Steinfeld	1984-1992	\$41,132	\$57,825
James C. Flaherty	Jan. 1993-	\$58,000	\$103,217

TRUSTEES BY DATE

1857-1857	Bartlett, James
1857-1857	Atkinson, Edward
1857-1862	Howe, James M.
1857-1863	Turner, John N.
1857-1857	Stearns, Marshall
1857-1863	Hedge, Rev. F. H.
1857-1862	Lawrence, Amos A.
1857-1861, 1867-1872	Bowditch, William I. Parsons, Thomas (First President of the Board of Trustees)
1857-1886	Baker, Benjamin F.
1857-1874, 1880-1898	Dana, Edward A.
1857-1858, 1865-1868	Chandler, T. P.
1857-1866	Dupee, James A.
1858-1858, 1862	Homer, George F.
1858-1875	Aspinwall, William
1858-1875, 1879-1892	Emerson, E. C.
1859-1869	Wellman, William A.
1859-1863	Philbrick, William D.
1863-1866	Diman, Reverend J. L.
1863-1864	Cotting, Charles U.
1863-1870	Candler, John W.
1864-1873	Lamson, Reverend William
1864-1876	Shedd, J. H.
1864-1865	Head, Charles D.
1866-1889	Abbott, John C.
1867-1870	Shurtliff, Dr. Augustine
1869-1900	Cabot, Edward C.
1870-1874	Amory, Dr. Robert
1871-1877	Candage, Rufus G. F.
1871-1909	Fay, Clement K.
1871-1875	Davis, Robert S.
1873-1875	Towle, George M.
1874-1888	Chandler, Alfred D.
1875-1887	Codman, James M.
1875-1888, 1893-1917	Wells, John
1876-1876	Drew, Charles H.
1876-1903	Brown, Reverend H. N.
1877-1895	Poor, Henry V.
1877-1877, 1879	Farley, James P., Jr.
1878-1880	Whitney, Henry M.
1878-1879	Talbot, Thomas H.
1880-1880	Haseltine, William B.
1881-1895	Francis, Dr. T. E.
1881-1906	Fitzgerald, Desmond
1888-1925	Soule, Charles C.
1889-1899	Hovey, Edward E.
1889-1892	Storrs, Leonard K.
1890-1920	Stanwood, Edward
1892-1923	Cummings, Prentiss
1895-1912	Hoar, J. Emory
1896-1902	North, S. N. D.
1899-1903	

1900-1915	Lyon, William H.
1902-1926	Addison, Daniel Dulany
1903-1911	Williams, Moses
1903-1909	Gay, Frederick L.
1904-1915	Wead, Leslie C.
1907-1941	Francis, Carleton S.
1909-1916	Fish, Frederick P.
1909-1926	Lamb, Henry W.
1911-1926	Stewart, Ralph A.
1912-1926	McManus, Thomas F.
1915-1923	Hoar, D. Blakely
1916-1926	Babbitt, George F.
1916-1949	Humphreys, Walter
1917-1919	Cushman, Robert
1919-1932, 1937-1953	Endicott, Arthur L.
1920-1932	Denny, Arthur B.
1923-1942	Peterson, Abbot
1923-1949	Parker, Eleanor
1925-1939	Devlin, Thomas
1926-1946	Williams, Harold P.
1926-1929	Fitzpatrick, Paul E.
1926-1932	Tyler, Barrett P.
1926-1954	Bigelow, Albert
1927-1933	Cushing, Harvey
1929-1932	Creagh, John T.
1932-1949	Lyman, Theodore
1932-1937	Cutler, Robert
1932-1953	Fitz, Dr. Reginald
1932-1950	Maginnis, Charles
1933-1937	Baker, George Bramwell
1938-1956	Foster, Frederick
1939-1947	Clarke, Hermann
1941-1950	Minot, Dr. George
1942-1959	Leslie, Dr. William
1946-1952	Lamb, Arthur
1947-1976	Caswell, Francis
1949-1955	Weinberg, Rabbi Dudley
1949-1965	Little, Nina
1950-1971	Parkman, Francis
1950-1964	Brown, Douglass
1950-1969	Drum, John
1952-1957	Richardson, Elliot
1953-1954	Weeks, Sinclair
1953-1975	Chute, Ruth
1954-1979	Goldman, Morris
1954-1972	Dean, Philip
1955-1979	Hunneman, Robert
1956-1965	Vose, Morton
1957-1975	Taubenhaus, Barbara Alpern
1959-1963	Chandler, Alfred
1959-1975	Blackman, Reverend George
1964-1984	Drooker, Emilie
1965-1970	Kaye, Sidney
1965-1980	Edelstein, Bernard

1970-1978	Gardiner, Tudor
1971-1979	Lowell, James
1973-2001	Tyler, Dr. H. Richard
1973-1984	Sharff, Frederick
1975-1984	Edinburg, Dorothy
1975-1984	DeLeon, Bertha Ann
1975-1985	Edmondson, Martha
1976-1982	Hurlbut, Ann
1978-1981	Mangiaracine, Anita
1979-1987	Becker, Jules
1979-1985	Doherty, Virginia Palmer
1980-1983	Perry, Thomas
1980-1986	Podren, Phyllis
1981-1987	Fine, Jonathan
1982-1984	Griffin, Maureen
1983-1989	Marcus, Barbara
1984-1994	Waldman, Claire
1984-1985	Winig, Maxine
1984-1985	Burns, Robert
1985-2000	Stotsky, Sandra L.
1985-1991	Alper, Benedict
1985-1991	Pool, Gail
1985-1986	Blumsack, Jo Ann
1985-1986	Kantorowitz, Jo Ann
1985-1988	Lipman, Marguerite
1986-1992	Brussel, Sylvia
1986-1988	Rose, Carla
1986-2007	Katz, Paul M.
1987-1993	Probststein, Irene
1988-2003	Rosen, Ellsworth E.
1988-1990	Cohen, Lawrence
1989-2005	Epstein, Peter J. (Chairperson 2002-2005)
1989-2007	Geller, Dennis P. (Chairperson 2005-
1991-1992	Field, Jean
1992-2003	Jacobson, Kenneth D.
1992-2000	Swartz, Max
1992-2003	Firestone, Mary
1992-2004	Bernstein, Leonard
1994-2005	Romanow, Gabriela
1995-1995	Dunlap, Hugh
1995-present	Jones, Gary D.
2000-present	Axelrod, Carol
2000-present	Livingston, Karen
2001-present	Winitzer, Roberta
2004-present	Burstein, Michael
2004-present	Goldman, Vivien
2004-2007	Kong, Philip
2004-present	Sperber, Edith
2005-present	Margolis, Jon
2005-2007	Mermell, Jesse
2008-present	Kopelman, Carol H.
2007-present	Vanderkay, Judith
2007-present	Healy, Regina
2007-present	Sullivan, Mary T.

TRUSTEES BY NAME

Abbott, John C.	1867-1870
Addison, Daniel Dulany	1902-1926
Alper, Benedict	1985-1991
Amory, Dr. Robert	1871-1877
Aspinwall, William	1858-1875, 1879-1892
Atkinson, Edward	1857-1857
Axelrod, Carol	2000-present
Babbitt, George F.	1916-1926
Baker, Benjamin F.	1857-1874, 1880-1898
Baker, George Bramwell	1933-1937
Bartlett, James	1857-1857
Becker, Jules	1979-1987
Bernstein, Leonard	1992-2004
Bigelow, Albert	1926-1954
Blackman, Reverend George	1959-1975
Blumsack, Jo Ann	1985-1986
Bowditch, William I.	1857-1861, 1867-1872
Brown, Douglass	1950-1964
Brown, Reverend H. N.	1877-1895
Brussel, Sylvia	1986-1992
Burns, Robert	1984-1985
Burstein, Michael	2004-present
Cabot, Edward C.	1870-1874
Candage, Rufus G. F.	1871-1909
Candler, John W.	1864-1873
Caswell, Francis	1947-1976
Chandler, Alfred	1959-1963
Chandler, Alfred D.	1875-1887
Chandler, T. P.	1857-1866
Chute, Ruth	1953-1975
Clarke, Hermann	1939-1947
Codman, James M.	1875-1888, 1893-1917
Cohen, Lawrence	1988-1990
Cotting, Charles U.	1863-1870
Creagh, John T.	1929-1932
Cummings, Prentiss	1895-1912
Cushing, Harvey	1927-1933
Cushman, Robert	1917-1919
Cutler, Robert	1932-1937
Dana, Edward A.	1857-1858, 1865-1868
Davis, Robert S.	1873-1875

Dean, Philip	1954-1972
DeLeon, Bertha Ann	1975-1984
Denny, Arthur B.	1920-1932
Devlin, Thomas	1925-1939
Diman, Reverend J. L.	1863-1864
Doherty, Virginia Palmer	1979-1985
Drew, Charles H.	1876-1903
Drooker, Emilie	1964-1984
Drum, John	1950-1969
Dunlap, Hugh	1995-1995
Dupee, James A.	1858-1858, 1862
Edelstein, Bernard	1965-1980
Edinburg, Dorothy	1975-1984
Edmondson, Martha	1975-1985
Emerson, E. C.	1859-1869
Endicott, Arthur L.	1919-1932, 1937-1953
Epstein, Peter J. (Chairperson 2002-2005)	1989-2005
Farley, James P., Jr.	1878-1880
Fay, Clement K.	1871-1875
Field, Jean	1991-1992
Fine, Jonathan	1981-1987
Firestone, Mary	1992-2003
Fish, Frederick P.	1909-1916
Fitz, Dr. Reginald	1932-1953
Fitzgerald, Desmond	1888-1925
Fitzpatrick, Paul E.	1926-1929
Foster, Frederick	1938-1956
Francis, Carleton S.	1907-1941
Francis, Dr. T. E.	1881-1906
Gardiner, Tudor	1970-1978
Gay, Frederick L.	1903-1909
Geller, Dennis	1989-2007
Goldman, Morris	1954-1979
Goldman, Vivien	2004-present
Griffin, Maureen	1982-1984
Haseltine, William B.	1881-1895
Head, Charles D.	1866-1889
Healy, Regina	2007 - present
Hedge, Rev. F. H.	1857-1863
Hoar, D. Blakely	1915-1923
Hoar, J. Emory	1896-1902
Homer, George F.	1858-1875
Hovey, Edward E.	1889-1892

Howe, James M.	1857-1862
Humphreys, Walter	1916-1949
Hunneman, Robert	1955-1979
Hurlbut, Ann	1976-1982
Jacobson, Kenneth D.	1992-2003
Jones, Gary D.	1995-present
Kantorowitz, Jo Ann	1985-1986
Katz, Paul M.	1986-2007
Kaye, Sidney	1965-1970
Kong, Philip	2004-2007
Kopelman, Carol H	2008 - present
Lamb, Arthur	1946-1952
Lamb, Henry W.	1909-1926
Lamson, Reverend William	1864-1876
Lawrence, Amos A.	1857-1862
Leslie, Dr. William	1942-1959
Lipman, Marguerite	1985-1988
Little, Nina	1949-1965
Livingston, Karen	2000-present
Lowell, James	1971-1979
Lyman, Theodore	1932-1949
Lyon, William H.	1900-1915
Maginnis, Charles	1932-1950
Mangiaracine, Anita	1978-1981
Marcus, Barbara	1983-1989
Margolis, Jon	2005-present
McManus, Thomas F.	1912-1926
Mermell, Jesse	2005-2007
Minot, Dr. George	1941-1950
North, S. N. D.	1899-1903
Parker, Eleanor	1923-1949
Parkman, Francis	1950-1971
Parsons, Thomas (First President of the Board of Trustees)	1857-1886
Perry, Thomas	1980-1983
Peterson, Abbot	1923-1942
Philbrick, William D.	1863-1866
Podren, Phyllis	1980-1986
Pool, Gail	1985-1991
Poor, Henry V.	1877-1877, 1879
Probststein, Irene	1987-1993
Richardson, Elliot	1952-1957
Romanow, Gabriela	1994-2005
Rose, Carla	1986-1988

Rosen, Ellsworth E.	1988-2003
Sharff, Frederick	1973-1984
Shedd, J. H.	1864-1865
Shurtliff, Dr. Augustine	1869-1900
Soule, Charles C.	1889-1899
Sperber, Edith	2004-present
Stanwood, Edward	1892-1923
Stearns, Marshall	1857-1857
Stewart, Ralph A.	1911-1926
Storrs, Leonard K.	1890-1920
Stotsky, Sandra L.	1985-2000
Sullivan, Mary T.	2007 - present
Swartz, Max	1992-2000
Talbot, Thomas H.	1880-1880
Taubenhaus, Barbara Alpern	1957-1975
Towle, George M.	1874-1888
Turner, John N.	1857-1863
Tyler, Barrett P.	1926-1932
Tyler, Dr. H. Richard	1973-2001
Vanderkay, Judith	2007 - present
Vose, Morton	1956-1965
Waldman, Claire	1984-1994
Wead, Leslie C.	1904-1915
Weeks, Sinclair	1953-1954
Weinberg, Rabbi Dudley	1949-1955
Wellman, William A.	1859-1863
Wells, John	1876-1876
Whitney, Henry M.	1878-1879
Williams, Harold P.	1926-1946
Williams, Moses	1903-1911
Winig, Maxine	1984-1985
Winitzer, Roberta	2001 - present

TRUST FUNDS

The chart below details our Trust Funds and how much the donor would have had to give in 2005 to equal the buying power of their original donation.

Year	Gift	Donor	VALUE IN 2007 dollars (adjusted for inflation)
1871	\$10,000	John L. Gardner	\$171,183
1877	\$5,000	Mr. Martin L. Hall	\$96,264
1897	\$550	Caleb Brandlee	\$13,537
1922	**	D. Blakey & John E. Hoar	
1923	\$1,000	Miss Alice W. Bancroft	\$12,056
1924	\$20,000	John L. Gardner Jr. Isabella Stewart Gardner	\$240,639
1925	\$5,000	Frances E. Hunt	\$58,692
1943	\$5,000	Colt Memorial	\$59,343
1956	\$1,000	Louise M. Hooper	\$7,550
1957	\$5,000	Leon R. Egyes	\$36,438
1962	\$15,000	Sidney L. Kaye	\$101,785
1970	\$100	Arthur Winebaum	\$528
1980	\$2,375	Nicholson Fund	\$5,903
1984	\$4,500	Shalom Haase	\$8,871
1986	\$100	Robert Hunneman	\$186
1986	\$10,000	Dorothy A. Clemens	\$18,675
1987	\$155,000	Putterham Civic Trust Fund	\$279,412
1990	\$3,000	Fife Children's Fund	\$4,703
1992	\$8,000	Esther B Kahn	\$11,685
1992	\$4,000	Preservation Fund	\$5,842
1992	\$10,000	Mildred Bent	\$14,606
1993	\$487,000	Mr. Benjamin Alper	\$690,635
1994	\$46,000	Barclay House Tenants Association	\$63,581
1995	\$6,344	Margaret Breen DeLeon	\$8,554
1996	\$2,000	Hoesly-Scheider Family	\$2,618
1996	\$91,960	Edward J. Kingsbury	\$120,395
1996	\$5,000	Dr. Orrin Levin	\$6,546
1996	\$5,000	Florence DeLeon Phin	\$6,546
1996	\$3,000	Sarita Tisser	\$3,927
1997	\$5,154	Raymond C. & Joan C.Green	\$6,634
1998	\$5,000	Doris Goldblatt	\$6,335
2000	\$304,232	H. Richard Tyler	\$363,003
2001	\$10,000	Evelyn F.Gross	\$117,743
2005	\$100,305	Daniel C. Levey	\$105,691
2005	\$10,000		\$10,537
total	\$1,345,620		\$2,660,643

** This fund has annual donations so is hard to quantify. It is currently valued at over \$300,000. This number is not included in the above totals.

HISTORICAL STATISTICS

Year	Volumes in Library	Circulation
1857	1,000	
1858	2,137	2,000
1859	2,856	10,000
1860	4,118	11,000
1861	4,751	11,619
1862	5,366	14,022
1863	6,239	15,005
1864	6,817	17,575
1865	7,520	19,206
1866	8,502	19,793
1867	9,026	19,103
1868	9,687	18,011
1869	10,500	18,144
1870	14,153	22,381
1871	13,552	33,393
1872	14,448	17,389
1873	15,593	37,105
1874	16,669	50,120
1875	17,893	39,419
1876	19,323	48,011
1877	20,282	45,619
1878	21,416	53,425
1879	22,925	47,295
1880	24,018	53,094
1881	25,181	47,036
1882	26,158	43,699
1883	27,089	48,852
1884	28,062	50,608
1885	29,519	49,308
1886	30,842	47,394
1887	31,632	47,921
1888	32,700	52,025
1889	33,756	52,106
1890	34,960	56,912
1891	36,298	66,274
1892	37,477	73,825
1893	39,007	83,007
1894	40,332	85,694
1895	41,955	26,534

	Volumes in Library	Circulation
1896	43,768	92,963
1897	45,250	96,913
1898	47,580	97,311
1899	49,401	104,454
1900	53,315	118,092
1901	55,441	126,881
1902	58,866	137,044
1903	63,930	137,144
1904	65,270	146,475
1905	62,061	138,798
1906	64,803	140,666
1907	37,030	156,129
1908	69,294	164,518
1909	70,996	138953*
1910	73,205	171,628
1911	76,731	189,929
1912	79,607	198,578
1913	83,549	217,965
1914	86,388	216,455
1915	89,663	230,913
1916	92,649	231,691
1917	96,061	250,139
1918	98,000	246,661
1919	100,622	270,043
1920	103,210	282,804
1921	106,465	309,817
1922	109,930	311,487
1923	112,792	310,113
1924	115,507	328,472
1925	119,001	325,167
1926	121,268	338,627
1927	124,239	374,608
1928	130,120	382,868
1929	131,740	385,849
1930	137,660	391,095
1931	138,769	423,796
1932	141,058	478,292
1933	146,048	473,983
1934	151,633	465,633
1935	153,900	462,108
1936	157,653	449,590
1937	163,037	164,830

	Volumes in Library	Circulation
1938	166,802	168,594
1939	169,639	162,199
1940	173,343	154,684
1941	175,352	138,650
1942	177,592	122,155
1943	180,007	103,603
1944	181,901	193,355
1945	183,203	182,611
1946	188,613	190,944
1947	194,022	190,166
1948	195,719	176,385
1949	197,710	190,840
1950	205,681	190,473
1951	212,193	197,732
1952	224,641	202,987
1953	231,734	200,547
1954	240,536	201,191
1955	242,889	216,686
1956	248,549	211,856
1957	269,016	
1958	268,802	515,737
1959	273,883	372,348
1960	278,242	385,912
1961	288,484	388,138
1962	296,069	407,289
1963	307,287	409,253
1964	321,646	413,975
1965	336,356	428,138
1966	327,399	426,637
1967	344,587	416,462
1968	357,884	414,969
1969	367,344	407,057
1970	290,019	424,408
1971		195,077
1972		191,620
1973		179,318
1974		169,953
1975		196,256
1976		215,947
1977		207,498
1978		208,728
1979		227,151

	Volumes in Library	Circulation
1980		235,941
1981		239,705
1982	366,609	241,301
1983	368,501	228,776
1984	392,028	215,953
1985		209,506
1986	406,779	207,863
1987	411,924	201,617
1988		201,933
1989		208,097
1990		224,695
1991		262,218
1992		265,455
1993		257,458
1994		264,280
1995		
1996		687,542
1997		629,718
1998		736,182
1999		759,784
2000		805,915
2001		749,628
2002		737,166
2003		831,432
2004		1,054,611
2005		1,198,533
2006		1,215,544
2007		1,262,147

REFERENCE STATISTICS

	Information		Reference		Museum	Reading	PAC	Internet	Renewals	Study
	In		In							
	Person	Phone	Person	Phone	Passes	Guidance				Rooms
FY 08	23,268	11,618	26,734	14,155	4,065	1,882	47	162	14,443	12,197
FY 07	22,820	11,922	27,681	13,695	2,776	1,461	243	861	14,248	2,254
FY 06	28,854	13,083	31,675	14,395	2,681	1,537	280	2,228	16,754	618
FY 05	25,299	11,104	27,771	11,879	2,773	1,384	303	2,204	15,093	1,591
FY 04	23,429	9,777	27,449	10,372	2,395	1,407	446	2,498	13,317	1,444
FY 03*	13,307	3,508	14,112	4,372	969	591	239	1,480	3,573	773
FY 02	MAIN LIBRARY CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS									
FY 01*	10,873	5,489	12,805	5,735	1,549	1,705	144	8,628		
FY 00	26,618	11,304	29,069	12,950	4,046	2,897	604	6,940	17,176	
FY 1999	25,862	9,335	28,776	12,664	4,697	3,173	1,229	5,380	14,995	
FY 1998	25,606	9,185	28,502	12,513	4,662	3,134	1,227	5,303	14,840	
FY 1997	35,774	11,631	34,638	15,234	2,117	2,734	1,876	662	12,287	
FY 1996	32,234	11,475	33,769	15,572	1,900	1,962	2,555	429	9,186	
FY 1995	32,820	13,495	34,730	16,439	1,682	1,711	2,191			
FY 1994	41,571	13,267	41,279	18,594	1,524	925				
FY 1993	37,348	12,885	19,543	7,492	1,225					
FY 1992	39,780	13,296	21,630	8,902						
FY 1991	32,664	7,870	31,490	16,768						
FY 1990	20,741	1,847	22,987	16,367						
FY 1989	18,903	1,495	19,927	11,985						
FY 1988	17,953	950	18,803	13,499						
FY 1987	16,615	1,002	18,402	12,580						
FY 1986	19,382	1,135	19,147	12,214						
FY 1985	19,695	412	18,514	12,076						
FY 1984	13,256	664	13,228	9,996						
FY 1983	22,201	999	15,902	8,604						
FY 1982	15,944	782	15,534	9,293						
FY 1981	21,656	1,451	15,583	11,953						
FY 1980	19,563	1,763	15,662	11,333						
FY 1979	19,666	3,185	11,917	9,598						
FY 1978	15,072	3,120	10,389	8,640						
FY 1977	13,968	1,920	9,144	9,263						
FY 1976	7,493	1,011	5,373	5,131						
FY 1975	5,821	6,691	2,157							
FY 1974	5,711	3,750	2,136							

* Main Library closed January 2001 for renovations, statistics FY 01 reflect 6 months from July to December 2000. Main Library reopened January 2003, FY 03 statistics reflect January-June 2003.

RULES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF BROOKLINE

- I. Nonresidents. All pupils enrolled in the Brookline public Schools and all employees of the town who are not inhabitants of Brookline may use the library and borrow books (which term as used in these rules shall include all other library materials) there from under the same conditions as inhabitants of the town, upon furnishing satisfactory evidence of such enrollment or employment; and all other persons who are not inhabitants of Brookline may do so upon the payment of an annual fee of three dollars.
- II. Identification Cards. Every person entitled to borrow books from the library shall receive an identification card bearing his name and address. No book shall be borrowed from the library except upon the presentation of such card, against which borrowed books shall be charged. Every cardholder shall be responsible for the prompt return of all books charged against his card and shall be liable for any damage to or loss of such books.
- III. Juvenile Cards. Every child entitled to borrow books from the library, who is under the age of thirteen years and has not completed the eighth grade, shall receive a juvenile identification card. Before a card is issued to any such child, his parent or guardian shall sign an agreement to be responsible for the prompt return of all books charged against that card and to be liable for any damage or loss of such books.
- IV. Borrowing Limit. There shall be no fixed limit on the number of books which may be charged against a regular card at any one time, but no person shall borrow a greater number of books than the librarian may deem reasonable. No more than four unreturned books shall be charged against a juvenile card at any one time.
- V. Return Date. All books shall be returned on or before the fourth Wednesday following the date on which they are borrowed from the library, or if they are borrowed on a Wednesday, in or within three weeks from that date.
- VI. Fines. For failure to return a book charged against his card on time, a person shall be subject to a fine of two cents a day for each day during which such failure continues, except that the fine for a book charged against a juvenile card shall be one cent a day. Any person failing to return a book charged against his card for four weeks beyond the time prescribed by these rules for its return shall be liable for the cost of the book plus accrued fines to that date. No person shall be permitted to borrow books while he is indebted to the library for fines or other liabilities in an amount exceeding one dollar.
- VII. Limited Circulation. Books of reference, and other books which the librarian may deem unsuitable for general circulation, shall not be borrowed from the library except by special permission of the librarian.
- VIII. Use of the Library. All persons using the library shall conduct themselves quietly and avoid all unnecessary conversation. Any person whose conduct is improper or offensive may be denied the use of the library.
- IX. Library Hours. The respective library buildings shall be kept open on the days and during the hours voted by the trustees.

Voted by the Trustees 1959

DEPOSIT STATIONS

As Brookline's population expanded west to Washington Square, and out Route 9 first near the present St. Lawrence Church and later out to Chestnut Hill, the demand for library services was met by rotating collections of books set up in stores or private homes.

Friendly Society

"The library is...sending deposits of books to the Friendly Society, - for its main reading room, for the room for smaller boys, and for the clubs for young women and girls. These books have been welcomed by the Society, and their use has been very satisfactory. From the reading room for smaller boys, which is open every evening, 212 have been issued during the two months and a half of its existence." Annual Report 1907 p.8

	Circulation	
1901	535	
1902	226	4 months
1903	177	
1907	416	
1908	55	only open 2.5 months

Sewall School Reading Room

only open eight months each year.

"The establishment of the first reading room in a Brookline school building has grown out of the experiment made possible last winter by the Brookline Education Society. Through the co-operation of two committees of this society with the library, we were able to open a reading room in a small building opposite the Sewall School [284 Cypress Street]. The expense of rent, heat, light, and salary of the attendant were met by the fund raised by the Education Society. The room was kept open for five months from December 7, 1912 to May 1, 1913, and although the work was carried on under many difficulties, it showed not only the need of a library reading room, but also of a better and larger one. A request made in the spring to the School Committee for the use of the unoccupied room in the Sewall schoolhouse [279 Cypress] brought a ready consent. Permission was also given to use that part of the kindergarten room for a games room. The request for this last was made because we felt that it would be very desirable that a games room should be open at the same time as the reading room, and we hoped the Recreation Commission would be willing to bear the financial burden of the enterprise. To our great satisfaction this proved possible, and Mr. Nason of the Gymnasium has undertaken the management of the games room.

In preparation for this work it was necessary to light the building for evening use, and here the remainder of the fund raised by the Education Society last winter came to the rescue. With a few additional contributions from the friends of the work the building has been wired and equipped with fixtures in hall, janitor's quarters and in the two rooms to be used, and two gates have been built to shut off the unused part of the halls.

On the evening of December 10, 1913, the two rooms were opened to the public, to the great satisfaction of the youth of the neighborhood. The reading room is a

beautiful, large room, up one flight, with shelving across one side, and tables and chairs to accommodate about 40 readers.”

The Sewall Reading Room was open three evenings a week from 6-9 pm from October 1-June 1

	Circulation	New Cards		Staff
1912	80		open 12/7/1912	
1913	1443	41		Mr. Burt Cooper, Miss Phail
1914	3734	69		Mr. Walter Spaulding
1915	3800	43		Mr. Walter Spaulding, Mr. Kjorlaug
1916	2677	20		Mr. Kjorlaug, Mr. Park Carpenter
1917	2895	18	closed 1/22/1917 due to lack of coal	Mr. Carpenter, Mr. George E. Ladd, Jr.
1918	814		reopened 11/9/1918	Miss Margaret R. Haley
1919	2741	22		Miss Haley, Mr. Samuel Pollack
1920	2475	14		Mr. Pollack, Mr. Edward H. McDermott
1921	3183			Mr. McDermott, Mr. Frank T. Ball
1922	3285	19		Mr. Frank T. Ball
1923	4150	24		Mr. Frank T. Ball
1924	4222	15		Mr. Frank T. Ball
1925	4747			Mr. James K. Bragger
1926	5137			Mr. Herman Fisher
1927	5463			Mr. Herman Fisher
1928	5062			Mr. Herman Fisher, Mr. David Wright
1929	6478			Mr. David Wright
1930	7453			Mr. David Wright
1931	8811			Mr. David Wright
1932	9148			Mr. David Wright
1933	7383			Mr. David Wright
1934	6808			Mr. Joseph Wright
1935	6603			Mr. Joseph Wright
1936	7099			Mr. Joseph Wright
1937	5068			Mr. Joseph Wright
1938	4964			Mr. Joseph Wright
1939	3381		closed May 1939	Mr. Joseph Wright

Fire House

“We have also begun furnishing collections of from ten to twenty volumes per month to the various fire houses, whose members cannot conveniently reach the library...” Annual Report 1900 p. 8

	Circulation
1900	292
1901	335
1902	480
1903	464
1905	423
1906	426
1907	420
1908	726
1909	432
1910	550
1911	648
1912	648
1913	302
1914	689
1915	556
1916	573
1917	571
1918	592
1919	530
1920	502
1921	394
1922	289
1923	270

	Circulation
1924	257
1925	214
1926	234
1927	256
1928	316
1929	729
1930	568
1931	584
1932	704
1933	595
1934	409
1935	313
1936	414
1937	573
1938	626
1939	671
1940	567
1941	570
1942	401
1943	statistics no longer detailed by station name

Police Station

	Circulation	
1916	152	Begun April 1916
1917	169	
1918	35	

Boylston

	Circulation	Cards	
1902	347		opened in November in Miss C.A. O'Brien's grocery store, 809 Boylston Street
1903	3431	69	
1904	3734	35	
1905	2978		
1906	3897	39	
1907	3710	40	
1908	2958	26	
1909	3175		
1910	3607		
1911	3685		
1912	3718		
1913	4954	67	
1914	5182	50	Miss Margaret Grogan "succeeded to Miss O'Brien's business on May 1, 1914."
1915	4924	62	
1916	5182	88	Miss Grogan's business closed and the station was discontinued on May 5. It reopened at 782 Boylston in the care of Mrs. Katherine O'Donnell
1917	5580	30	
1918	7837	18	
1919	8424	8	
1920	9763	21	
1921	2746		Closed May 27 with the departure of Mrs. Thompson from the neighborhood. Service continued at the Heath School December 2, 1921.

Heath

	Circulation	
1919	266	only open for two months
1920	125	opened December 2, 1921 with Mr. J.K. Bragger in charge
1921	506	
1922	125	closed March 31, 1922 because of under use and the Committee of Thirty advised the town to discontinue the \$250 salary of the janitor

Chestnut Hill Deposit Station

	Circulation	
1907	1844	June-December 1907 in Louis H. Gates Drug Store at the corner of Boylston and Hammond Streets
1908	2012	
1909	1803	
1910	2950	
1911	832	closed May 15, 1911
1912		closed
1913		closed
1914		closed
1915		closed
1916	4445	opened June 23, 1916 in shop of Miss M. A. Ward, 605 Hammond Street
1917	6493	
1918	5167	
1919	5476	
1920	2693	closed July 1, 1920
1921	8449	reopened May 9, 1921 in corner room in the home of Mrs. Nora T. Gleason, 621 Hammond Street
1922	14226	
1923	13057	
1924	14041	
1925	16023	
1926	14029	May-August books delivered by "book automobile" once a week, September-December in new Baldwin School on Heath Street
1927	13533	
1928	16584	
1929	17612	
1930	20217	
1931	21655	
1932	23583	
1933	24178	
1934	22990	
1935	21564	
1936	21913	
1937	22552	
1938	23139	
1939	24031	Statistics no longer kept by station name. The Chestnut Hill Library eventually closed in December 1977.

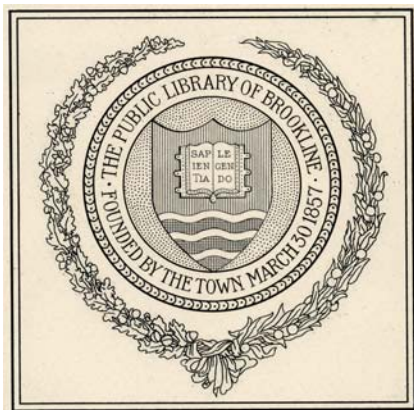
Washington Square

	Circulation	
1927	5517	opened April 7 in the dry goods shop of Mrs. Margaret M. Warren at 1631 Beacon Street
1928	10246	moved June 1 to 1624 Beacon Street "Longwood Sweets" owned by Miss Ruby Allen
1929	11252	
1930	11266	
1931	12294	Mrs. Laura Apsey took over "Longwood Sweets" on January 2. On October 1 the station was moved to Ditmar Electric at 1611 Beacon Street
1932	13912	
1933	12144	
1934	11997	
1935	13818	
1936	12077	
1937	11285	
1938	13368	
1939	15493	
1940	12147	Ditmar Electric went out of business. The library was moved to the Charlotte Hat Studio, 1676 Beacon Street.
1941	13954	
1942	14950	statistics no longer kept by station name

Winthrop

	Circulation	
1920	111	open five nights a week and Sunday afternoon in the Recreation Center on Brookline Avenue, formerly the Winthrop School, from October to January; then three nights a week.
1921	246	closed April 26, 1921 due to low usage.

LIBRARY SEAL



In 1910, \$100 was appropriated for the purpose of designing a seal for the library that would be used on bookplates. The Library Committee was authorized to procure a design for such a bookplate. The design was not adopted until 1913 when the seal was presented to the Trustees who then voted that the Librarian be made custodian of the seal press.