

THOMAS FOUNTAIN BLUE, PIONEER LIBRARIAN, 1866-1935

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
IN LIBRARY SERVICE

BY

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SCHOOL OF LIBRARY SERVICE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

AUGUST, 1955

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TO
PIONEERS
IN THE
STREAM OF DEVELOPING
A MORE FRUITFUL CIVILIZATION
IN WHICH TO LIVE

FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The justification of this paper is not one toward expanding the hypotheses, principles, and methods of library service, but is toward the orderly arrangement of widely scattered facts concerning the life history and pioneer library work of Thomas Fountain Blue, who, characteristically, engineered much of the way along which trained librarianship trods.

The numerous sources from which the data have been drawn indicate the range of courtesies afforded the writer. Dr. Virginia L. Jones suggested the subject, gave encouragement, critical reading and counsel through each step. Mrs. Hallie B. Brooks gave critical reading and counsel. Mrs. Josephine Thompson made suggestions and gave counsel.

The family of Thomas F. Blue opened his private home library and painstakingly uncovered original sources of general and intimate data. We owe gratitude to Mrs. Cornelia Johnson Blue, along with her two sons, Thomas F. Blue, Jr., and Charles Johnson Blue, for granting permission to use original data, private letters, and collected clippings. Lyman T. Johnson, the brother of Mrs. Thomas F. Blue, in addition to being interviewed, aided toward eliminating duplicative waste of labor. Miss Alice Linwood Blue, age 92, graciously endorsed the study of her brother's career.

Further acknowledgements are made to many professionals, some former contemporaries of Thomas F. Blue, for making available data, correspondence, and for being interviewed. Mr. Clarence R. Graham, Head

Librarian, Louisville Free Public Library, permitted the use of Minutes of the Louisville Free Public Library Board of Trustees, Annual Records, Pamphlets, Scrapbooks, books, and correspondence. Miss Ellen T. Harding, Head of the Kentucky Division of the Louisville Free Public Library, made available a micro-filmed scrapbook, pamphlets, and other materials.

Mrs. Naomi Lattimore, third successor and incumbent Supervisor of the Western Branch Library and Eastern Branch Library, Louisville Free Public Library, was interviewed. She collected papers, pamphlets, and leaflet materials. Interviews were afforded by Mrs. Elnora McIntire Meriweather, former student, later co-worker and second successor, retired; Mrs. Minnie H. McAfee Cooper Taylor, former student and later co-worker, retired; and Mrs. Beulah Bolan, former student. Mrs. Ruth M. Harry conducted me through Western Branch Library and this kindness was repeated by Mrs. Martha N. McCoy at Eastern Branch Library.

Mr. Harold T. Brigham, former Head of the Louisville Free Public Library, now Director of the Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, sent a pen portrait of his recollections of Mr. Blue.

Sincerest appreciation must go to my husband, Arnold Wood Wright, who gave assistance in ways too numerous to describe.

The Atlanta University Scholarship Committee and the Carnegie Foundation made a material contribution toward my matriculation in the graduate program of Library Service. Kentucky State College granted a leave-of-absence.

To all of the above and other abundant support, I am obligated. However, none of these should be held accountable for any distortions, theoretical or factual, appearing in this paper.

L. T. W.
1955

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Historically, the Negro has held an important place in the development of libraries in the United States. The Negro was a pioneer in branch library movements in the East and in the South. Although all of these librarians would not rank as professional librarians in the mid-twentieth century, if it is remembered that they served in the day when the library profession was young, their contributions will stand recording.¹ In the light of the record of these Negro pioneer librarians, it would seem that the Negroes who are librarians in the mid-twentieth century and thereafter have a pioneer leadership heritage of which to be proud.²

In 1905, when the Louisville, Kentucky public library decided to open the first branch library in the South designed to serve Negroes, they called Thomas Fountain Blue to head it. For 30 years he worked in the branch. He educated young women for branch work in Louisville, Kentucky; Houston, Texas; Birmingham, Alabama; Atlanta, Georgia; Evansville, Indiana; Memphis, Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga, Tennessee.³

¹Wallace Van Jackson, "Some Pioneer Negro Library Workers," Library Journal, LXIV (March, 1939), 215.

²Ibid., p. 217.

³Ibid., p. 216.

Western Colored Branch Library, Louisville, opened in 1905; Eastern Colored Branch Library, Louisville, opened in 1914; Thomas Fountain Blue was given joint direction. In 1920, all Negro library work was consolidated in Louisville and he was made director. The Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library served as a model for library work among Negroes in the South and Thomas Fountain Blue served with distinction in the vanguard of the development of branch library service.¹

With so functional a career, it can be safely assumed that Thomas Fountain Blue added to the creation of unique library techniques out of which, no doubt, facets of basic library theory were generated and orientation toward what later grew to be specialized phases of library service was begun.

Purpose and Significance

There exists a need for the recording of the life history and work of our Negro pioneer librarians, outstanding among whom was Thomas F. Blue. With the exception of some short articles, there is no record of his life or work. This paper is offered as an attempt to remedy that deficiency.

Scope

This paper is designed to cover the entire life of this fortuitous pioneer branch library leader, Thomas F. Blue, with special emphasis on the library apprenticeship education he set up in Louisville for young Negro women.

¹Ibid.

Methodology

The systematics of this paper will be mainly historical with threads of the theories of "the pioneer" and of the "leadership personality" running through it.

Relevant library literature has been examined for works by and about Thomas F. Blue. Several articles were discovered in professional journals.

A field trip to Louisville, Kentucky was made so as to uncover original sources of data available in the private library in the home of Thomas F. Blue; the main public library; the Western Branch Library, at which he served for 30 years; and the Eastern Branch Library, at which he served for 21 years. Official records, newspapers, periodicals, and personal materials found here furnished primary source materials.

Non-directive interviews were held with the widow of Thomas F. Blue and with other members of his family. Non-directive interviews with librarians and other informants, limited so as to rule out as much opinionated enthusiasm as possible were also held in Louisville. These included: contemporaries of Thomas F. Blue at the Western and Eastern Branch Libraries; contemporaries at the main public library; the librarian who succeeded Thomas F. Blue; the present librarian at Western Branch Library; the present librarian at Eastern Branch Library; and the present librarian at the main public library (see Appendix A).

A former head of the main library, Louisville, now Director of the Indiana State Library, was contacted.

The collected data were then criticized, classified, and organized, using a combination thematic and chronological grouping.

CHAPTER II

BACKGROUND, EDUCATION, AND EARLY LIFE

Birth

Thomas Fountain Blue, the second child and the first boy child of former slaves, was born March 6, 1866 in Farmville, Virginia. His father, Noah Hedgeman Blue, an only child, had been born near Washington, D. C. Noah, who was a carpenter, married Henry Ann Crawley before the Civil War ended. To that union was born Alice Linwood Blue, August 26, 1864; Thomas Fountain Blue, March 6, 1866; and Charles Sumner Blue, March 21, 1868.¹

In 1955, Alice Linwood Blue was found to be living in Atlanta, Georgia at 1821 West Anderson Avenue, S. W. Recalling memories of her youth, she said:

Our mother died when we were quite small and we were reared by our grandmother - Thomas, Charles, and I. Our grandmother was Mrs. Charity Crawley who formerly lived in Mecklingburg County, Virginia. Thomas was a brilliant boy; he was tall, slender, and quite handsome. Always fond of books, he read everything he could find.²

Education

Thomas Fountain Blue attended Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute from 1885 to 1888. A measure of his early focus on leader-

¹Letter from Mary E. Blue, widow of Charles Sumner Blue to Thomas F. Blue, Jr., June 16, 1953.

²Statement by Alice Linwood Blue, personal interview, June 24, 1955, Atlanta, Georgia.

ship behavior is the fact that he delivered the farewell address at his graduation exercises. In it he said:

God has bountifully blessed us, so let us endeavor to show our gratitude to Him by devoting our energy to the betterment of our people, for when we help our fellow man, we are working for God. As we enter upon the duties of life, let our every movement be characterized by unity of aim, unity of purpose and unity of act; then and not till then will the dark cloud of ignorance, superstition and intemperance disperse, and education, intelligence, and virtue spread over our land.¹

Subsequent to completing Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Thomas F. Blue taught school in Virginia. He enrolled in Richmond Theological Seminary in 1894, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1898.² Graduation exercises were held April 28, 1898; his oration on this occasion had the title "Woman a Silent Force in Ameliorating the Condition of Humanity."³

Minister

Though he was primarily educated for and ordained to the ministry, he never held a pastorate. Throughout his lifetime, however, he delivered thought provoking sermons at many churches. A number of his sermons have survived in manuscript form. To him, a life of harmony and fellowship with God was not something to be postponed for the future, but was a present reality, waiting to be accepted.

¹Thomas Fountain Blue. "Farewell Address," Class address delivered at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, 1888.

²Thomas Fountain Blue, "A Hamptonian as Librarian," Southern Workman, LII (July, 1923), 368.

³Program of Commencement Exercises at Richmond Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, April 28, 1898.

Numerous persons never knew that Thomas F. Blue was a member of a Baptist Church as he spoke from the pulpits of churches of various denominations having a firm conviction that the Christian faith should be truly universal.¹

Early Military Service

Following his completion of Richmond Theological Seminary, Thomas F. Blue's first work was among soldiers in the Spanish American War. Serving as Young Men's Christian Association Secretary of the Sixth Virginia Regiment Volunteers, he was stationed at Camp Poland and Camp Haskell.² In testimony attributed to him, he said: "Here was furnished an opportunity to study men, of all classes, of all walks of life at first hand."³

Y. M. C. A. and Other Civic Work in Louisville

Shortly after the Spanish American War, Thomas F. Blue was called to Louisville, Kentucky to take charge of the Colored Branch of the Louisville Young Men's Christian Association, and remained as its first regular secretary from 1899 to 1905. Afterwards, he became an annual member of the Committee of Management of the Louisville Young Men's Christian Association and was elected annually its treasurer.⁴

Thomas F. Blue was also a member of the following: American Library Association, Negro Library Conference, The Special Committee

¹Statement by Cornelia Johnson Blue, personal interview, June 7, 1955, Louisville, Kentucky.

²Blue, Southern Workman, LII (July, 1923), 368.

³Thomas Fountain Blue, "Public Library Work Among Colored People" (Address at the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of Wayland Institute, Washington, D. C. and Richmond Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, June 2, 1915.) Private home library of Thomas F. Blue. Louisville. 1955.

⁴Blue, Southern Workman, LII (July, 1923), 368.

of Colored Ministers of Louisville on Matters Interracial and the Boy Problem, a charter member of the Louisville Chapter of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. An unidentified, non-dated newspaper clipping indicated that he had served on the Grand Jury at one time in Louisville.¹

Appointed Librarian

The year, 1905, became one of career and leadership significance in the illustrious life of Thomas F. Blue. When the Colored Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library was established in 1905, he was appointed branch librarian;² thenceforth, until 1935, the pioneering and leadership qualities of his brilliant career in library service shone with splendor and accomplishment.

Thomas F. Blue was not a trained librarian. His attitude toward responsibility can be observed in his words: "Recognizing the need of special preparation for the work before taking charge, I was given instruction by Heads of Departments at the Main Library."³

Later Military Service

As it is with most Americans, so it was with Thomas F. Blue. Patriotic duty was interspersed in his career. During World War I, he was on leave-of-absence from the Louisville Free Public Library to serve as Educational Secretary at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky. In July, 1918, he wrote:

¹Papers from Private Home Library of Thomas F. Blue, 1955.

²Blue, Southern Workman, LII (July, 1923), 368.

³Blue, "Public Library Work Among Colored People."

We have a splendid, well equipped building with six secretaries in the service. There are two thousand colored soldiers here and five hundred will come April 26, with more to follow. I have two hundred men in my educational classes. Most of these men cannot read and write. The work here is an interesting experience and an opportunity worth while for real, helpful service. I am glad to have a share in it.¹

In April, 1919 classes conducted under his direction had reached an attendance of 20,345 with 1575 books circulated. He wrote:

Our slogan is every soldier must learn to write his name and as much more as he can. Today a soldier came to the desk to have a money order cashed and signed his name for the first time.²

Marriage and Progeny

The marriage of Thomas F. Blue surprised Louisvillians who were acquainted with him. In August, 1924 he met Miss Cornelia Phillips Johnson of Columbia, Tennessee who was visiting in Louisville. They were joined in holy wedlock June 18, 1925. She was a member of a prominent family, both parents being educators. Highly educated herself, she had taught in high schools and colleges in several states. In 1955, Mrs. Blue was still quite active in civic affairs in Kentucky, her special interests being the Girl Scouts, Parent-Teacher Association, Youth Speaks, Incorporated, and the Baptist Women's Fellowship Group. Her hobby, Stitches for Wishes, has won awards in Tennessee and Kentucky.

To this union was born Thomas Fountain Blue, Junior, in 1926 and Charles Johnson Blue in 1929. In 1955, Thomas had graduated from the Louisville Municipal College (now The University of Louisville) and was enrolled in the School of Electrical Engineering at Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. Charles enjoyed a brief teaching

¹"Graduates and Ex-Students," Southern Workman, XLVII (July, 1918), 267.

²Ibid., XLVIII (April, 1919), 204.

career after graduating from Virginia Union, Richmond, Virginia, and in 1955 was enrolled at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, majoring in Church Music. He was married and had one son.

In 1955, Mr. Harold T. Brigham, Director of the Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana, who was head of the Louisville Free Public Library from 1931-1942, gave the following personal recollections:

Your letter of June 21 revives pleasant memories of my association in Louisville with Thomas F. Blue and his wife. . . .

Several thoughts occur to me at once, however. Mr. Blue was motivated by a compelling spirit of service in all he did. He was highly respected not only among his own people but in the city as a whole. He worked with great energy, a characteristic nervous energy, and seemed always to be on the move, and again characteristically he moved swiftly as a man who had something to do and would get to it at once. He spoke fast and with energy, too, as well as with conviction.

Mr. Blue was an able and effective administrator. I would not say he was a hard taskmaster but he expected and obtained good performance from his staff and he maintained his branch at a high level of efficiency.

It is important to add that Mr. and Mrs. Blue constituted an ideal team, both on the job and in their personal life. Mrs. Blue was a strong, quiet, reserved gentlewoman of marked dignity. She was a leader in her own right and a "power behind the throne". She possessed qualities which complemented those of her husband. Together they were a strong team in library, home and community.¹

¹Letter to the author from Harold F. Brigham, Director, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana, July 1, 1955.

CHAPTER III

LIBRARY CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS, 1904-1908

Immediate Forerunners

Though the Western Colored Branch Carnegie Library Building in Louisville, Kentucky, was the first free public library building to open its doors to colored patrons, as such, its services were preceded first by a small branch for colored patrons in Galveston, Texas. The main library (a private institution) in Galveston had been erected from a bequest left by Henry Rosenberg of that city.¹ A small branch for colored patrons was opened in an addition (built for this purpose) to the Central High School Building, in Galveston, January 11, 1905.² This branch was to serve as a public library agency for the entire Negro population of the city of Galveston, thus making it the first example of a structure which was erected solely to provide quarters for a public library to be used exclusively by Negroes.³

Thomas F. Blue included information in his lectures concerning forerunners in branch library services and commented that Western Colored Branch Library, Louisville, Kentucky, which opened on September 23, 1905, was the second of colored branches to open in the United

¹"Library Economy and History, Galveston Texas. Rosenberg Library," Library Journal, XXIX (July, 1904), 383.

²Ibid., XXX (March, 1905), 169.

³Eliza Atkins Gleason, The Southern Negro and the Public Library (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1941), p. 28.

¹ States. It was the first Carnegie Branch Library for colored and Louisville became the only city with two Carnegie Library buildings for colored in 1914. Louisville was the first city to inaugurate service for Negroes on a wide scale.²

Early efforts were made in Louisville toward general library service. When the Louisville Free Public Library opened its doors in May, 1905, plans were already being made to open a branch for Negroes. The forerunner of the Louisville Free Public Library was the library of the Polytechnic Society of Kentucky established in 1876. In 1902 the name was changed to Louisville Public Library. A free reading room and a subscription circulating library ^{were} ~~was~~ maintained until November, 1904, when ~~it~~ ^{they were} was merged into the Louisville Free Public Library. The new free circulating library opened May 5, 1905.³

In 1902 Louisville accepted a gift of \$250,000 from Andrew Carnegie for a central library building. Ground was broken for the building in 1905 and opened to the public in 1908.⁴ Upon a request of the trustees of the Louisville Free Public Library in 1904, Andrew Carnegie consented to increase his original gift of \$250,000 by the additional sum required to establish a satisfactory system of branches. The branches were to cost \$20,000 each and were to be located about a mile and a quarter apart. It was considered probable that one of the

¹Thomas F. Blue, "Public Library Work with Negroes," (Lecture, personal papers).

²Thomas F. Blue, "Louisville Colored Library Work," (Lecture, personal papers).

³William F. Yust, "Louisville Free Public Library Building," Library Journal, XXXIV (September, 1909), 398.

⁴Ibid.

branches would be devoted to the use of the colored people.¹

Head, Western Colored Branch Library, Louisville, 1905-1908

Upon the motion of the Library Committee, Thomas F. Blue was elected librarian in charge of the Colored Department with the rank of Junior Assistant, employment to begin August 1, 1905, compensation at the rate of \$55.00 per month.²

A newspaper reported that "Well educated, having graduated from one of the best colleges, he was well qualified for the position."³

Two new branch libraries, one for Negroes and the other in Portland, a residential section of Louisville for whites, were to be opened September 1, 1905. The colored branch would be located in a temporary building at 1123 West Chestnut Street.⁴ A permanent Carnegie branch library was to be established at Tenth and Chestnut Streets. Officials of the Louisville Free Public Library were to watch closely the use of the library being started. The interest manifested by colored people in the temporary project was to determine largely the nature of the building which was to be erected.⁵ Thomas F. Blue was ill when the temporary branch library opened. A letter written by the Reverend C. B. Allen to Noah H. Blue, father of Thomas F. Blue, attested to the illness:

The opening exercises were held in Knox Presbyterian Church last Saturday afternoon and the opening was very auspicious

¹"Library Economy and History, Louisville, Kentucky. Carnegie Library," Library Journal, XXX (January, 1905), 45.

²Minutes Book, Louisville Free Public Library, Vol. I (July 26, 1905), p. 185.

³Courier-Journal (Louisville), July 27, 1905.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Louisville Times, September 23, 1905.

and promises much for the future of the race in this city. Your son was greatly missed and was remembered by many of the speakers in their remarks. I think he worked too hard getting ready for the opening of the library and neglected to take care of himself.¹

Western Colored Branch Library met a tremendous need. Interviews 50 years after its inaugural were vivid and sharp about its importance. As is not always the case in similar beginnings, Thomas F. Blue was remembered pointedly by many who appreciated how his leadership personality blended into the full meaning of the project.

One immediate newspaper release claimed that the "Library Will Uplift Race. Superintendent Yust Enthusiastic Over Branch For Colored People."² Beneath this caption was this statement:

The first book taken out was Up From Slavery by Booker T. Washington. The temporary branch is composed of three rooms, large, airy; floors covered with linoleum. A complete card catalog system was installed. The reference works contained the latest editions of the Century Dictionary, Webster's Dictionary, Encyclopedia Americana, and Charles Warner's Library.³

A newspaper release wrote that for the month of November, William F. Yust, head librarian, Louisville Free Public Library, reported 4,132 visitors with 1,545 books issued to borrowers at Western Colored Branch.⁴

Another newspaper release gave notice of "Three Books Lost at Colored Library," and then went on to praise the small loss, plus speaking of circulation:

By means of the shelf list, an inventory shows only three books unaccounted for out of 2,630. Since opening in September, 1905,

¹Letter from Reverend C. B. Allen, Pastor, Knox Presbyterian Church (renamed Ferguson Memorial Church), September 26, 1905, to Noah Blue.

²Louisville Times, September 28, 1905.

³Ibid.

⁴Herald (Louisville), December 7, 1905.

14,732 books have circulated. Thirty-six thousand, seven hundred and eighty-three persons in attendance. With such a circulation and attendance the disappearance of only three books is satisfactory evidence that there is little danger in loss of books. The open shelf system is proving to be both popular and economical.¹

Thomas F. Blue zealously kept records. This trait, though records were required, enables one to follow the step by step statistics of an enlarging free public enterprise.

By reading a more elaborate report composed by Thomas F. Blue, several implications are observable regarding his focus on high quality, community interest, varied services, and professional responsibility:

To the librarian:

September 23, 1905 was made memorable by the opening of the Colored Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library, fitting exercises being held in the Knox Presbyterian Church. Since that time the attendance has been 35,734.

The library began with a choice collection of 1,400 volumes but now has 2,797. There are also on file forty-two of the best magazines and periodicals. The popularity of colored authors is a noticeable fact.

The library is patronized by all classes, teachers and preachers taking special interest. High school pupils use it as a reference library.

Under the supervision of the branch assistant a boys' reading club has been organized, which meets at the library once a week except during the summer months. Its purpose is to acquaint the boys with some of the best authors and to create a taste for wholesome literature.

In May and June the various churches and schools were visited by the librarian and his assistant and brief addresses were made explaining what the library aims to do and how it may be used.²

¹Courier-Journal (Louisville), July 21, 1906.

²Second Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Louisville Free Public Library for the Year Ending August 31, 1906, Vol. II (Louisville: Louisville Free Public Library, 1906), pp. 63-65. Cited hereafter as Annual Report.

Opening: Carnegie Western Colored Branch Library

Permanent Building, Louisville, 1908

Plans for and construction of a permanent free public library branch building had gone forth with satisfactory speed. The makeshift branch at 1123 West Chestnut Street, with 1,400 carefully selected books, had outgrown its temporary quarters. A lot 64' x 120' located at Tenth and West Chestnut Streets had been purchased in the spring of 1906. The opening date of the new building was October 28, 1908, and gala dedicatory exercises were held.¹ A responsible report to the Federal Bureau of Education gave the following account:

The new building, the gift of Andrew Carnegie, was opened October 28, 1908. On that occasion, W. O. Head, the mayor of Louisville and President of the Board of Trustees, presided. The opening of its doors was regarded as an epoch in the development of the race for it was the first institution of its kind in existence.

The building . . . is 77' x 45' with a main floor and basement, built of brick, concrete and stone, covered with tile roofing. The cost, including grounds, building and equipment was \$47,410.64. The library contains 11,264 volumes and receives 78 monthly and daily periodicals and newspapers.

In organizing the public library for Louisville, following the example of the public schools, it was planned to have separate buildings for colored readers. To this end, shortly after the opening of the Main Library, a colored branch with a colored staff was established. It immediately became popular and soon outgrew its surroundings.²

Another account of the opening claimed that:

The new building was opened October 29 and 30. The dedication address was made by the mayor of the city and prominent colored men appeared on the program prepared by Thomas F. Blue. Special

¹Libraries and Lotteries. A History of the Louisville Free Public Library. Prepared by Workers in the Service Division of the WPA in the state of Kentucky (Cynthiana, Kentucky: Hobson Book Press, 1944), pp. 116-117.

²Thomas F. Blue, A Report to Honorable Thomas Jesse Jones, Specialist, Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., March 7, 1917.

exercises for children were held on the following day when instruction was given in regard to their use of the library.¹

The work and effectiveness of the Western Branch Library met with such high favor that the Louisville Free Public Library trustees in May, 1909, voted to establish a second colored branch in the eastern portion of the city.²

Fifth Anniversary, September 23, 1910

In the development of the Negro race the opening of this library marked an epoch second in importance only to the opening of the first free schools here in 1870. The library does more than furnish facts and circulate books. Occasional exhibitions are given: also popular lectures and entertainments illustrated with lantern slides. With its reading and study rooms, its lecture and class rooms, it forms a center from which radiate many influences for general betterment.³

These facts were printed in coordination with the fifth anniversary celebrated September 23, 1910.

A letter to William F. Yust, head librarian, Louisville Free Public Library, April 28, 1910, from Andrew Carnegie, showed anticipation of the fifth anniversary celebration regretting that he "could not come but was greatly pleased to hear of the splendid success of the Library movement in Louisville and especially of the department provided for the colored people."⁴

¹"Personal Notes," Southern Workman, XXXVII (February, 1909), p. 126.

²Colored Branch (Louisville: Louisville Free Public Library, May, 1909).

³Ibid., September, 1910.

⁴Letter to William F. Yust from Andrew Carnegie, April 28, 1910.

Provisions for a Second Branch Building, 1909-1913

May, 1909, the Louisville Free Public Library Trustees "voted to establish a second colored branch library in the eastern portion of the city."¹ Forward action was begun during 1912 "when a site at Hancock and Lampton Streets was acquired."² Construction work proceeded rapidly.

During the same years preparation was going forward to improve the efficiency of the staff at Western Colored Branch Library out of which leadership would also be needed for the new Eastern Colored Branch Library. "A course of sixteen lectures on classification, cataloging, and general library information was given to the staff. . . ."³

At the regular meeting, Louisville Free Public Library Trustees, recommendations were made that Thomas F. Blue be given joint direction of the Western and Eastern Colored Branch Libraries. Several changes in personnel were made.⁴

On the following date a letter confirmed these deliberations:

September 11, 1913

Mr. T. F. Blue, Librarian
Colored Branch Library
Louisville, Kentucky

You have been appointed by the Library Board as Librarian in charge of both the Eastern and Western Colored Branch Libraries. Mrs. Rachel D. Harris will have charge of the Eastern Colored Branch at a salary of \$55.00 a month and Elizabeth I. Finney senior assistant at Western Colored Branch at \$50.00 a month.

George T. Settle⁵

¹ Colored Branch (Louisville: Louisville Free Public Library, 1915).

² Libraries and Lotteries, p. 117.

³ Seventh Annual Report, Vol. VII (1911), p. 14.

⁴ Minutes Book, Louisville Free Public Library, Vol. III (September 10, 1913), p. 60.

⁵ Letter from Mr. George T. Settle, Head Librarian, Louisville Free Public Library, September 11, 1913.

Library Services, 1914-1919

Eastern Colored Branch Library was opened with appropriate exercises in its new permanent building January 28, 1914. John H. Buschemeyer, Mayor of the City of Louisville and President of the Board of Trustees presided.¹

For these exercises a detailed invitation was prepared:

The Board of Trustees
of the
Louisville Free Public Library
request the honor of your presence
at the opening of the
Eastern Colored Branch Library
Corner Hancock and Lampton Streets
January 28, 29, 30
at Eight O'clock
Children's Exercises, Saturday, January 31
at Two-thirty O'clock
1914²

The program on Saturday was rendered by school children and was directed by Miss Bernice Bell, Head of the Children's Department at the main library. The bottom of the printed program of the exercises bore a note to the effect that on Saturday afternoon the building was reserved exclusively for school children.³

After January 28, 1914, and for several years thereafter, Louisville enjoyed the distinction of being the only city having two colored branch library buildings.⁴

The Eastern Colored Branch Library Building, 60' x 150', es-

¹Blue, A Report to Honorable Thomas Jesse Jones, March 7, 1917.

²Invitation on file at the Western Branch Library, Louisville, 1955.

³"Children's Exercises," Program on file at the Western Branch Library, Louisville, 1955.

⁴Blue, A Report to Honorable Thomas Jesse Jones, March 7, 1917.

pecially adopted for library and social center uses, along with its site and equipment, cost \$31,024.31. When it opened it contained 3,850 volumes and was receiving 53 periodicals and newspapers.¹

A later compilation of the circulation of Eastern Colored Branch Library between January 28, 1914, and through the year 1919, is shown in Table 1.²

TABLE 1
CIRCULATION STATISTICS, 1914-1919

Year	Circulation
1914*	14,038
1915	25,980
1916	27,571
1917	29,227
1918	23,381
1919	24,501
Total	144,701

* 7 months

Work With Schools

With the Eastern and Western Library Branches working in close and rapid harmony, work with schools through library stations and classroom collections developed into a complex machinery which verified the administrative skill of those responsible. The branch libraries furnished reference materials for teachers and students of the high schools, ward schools, and other educational institutions. Information was looked up on all subjects and all kinds of topics. Close cooperation with teachers was sought through the establishment of classroom li-

¹Blue, A Report to Honorable Thomas Jesse Jones, March 7, 1917.

²Colored Branches (Louisville: Louisville Free Public Library, 1920).

braries. These books were drawn by the children for home use, under the supervision of teachers. By 1917, there were between 41 and 44 classroom collections in 11 school buildings. Service to schools increased in later years.¹

Library Stations

To further increase the benefit of the libraries, from seven to 10 deposit stations were opened at desirable points in the city under the direction of Mrs. Rachel Harris who was in charge of stations and school work. The number of stations increased in later years.²

Educational and Social Centers

Varied and widespread use was made of classrooms and auditoriums in the branch library buildings for meetings of educational and social uplift. The people were made to feel that the libraries belonged to them and that they could be used for anything that made for their public welfare. During 1916 and 1917, 498 meetings were held in the libraries with an attendance of 11,628. The following clubs met regularly in the buildings:

1. Banneker Reading Circle
2. Fisk Club
3. Dorcas Literary Club
4. Artisans' Club
5. Normal School Gymnastic Club
6. Physical Culture Club
7. Wilberforce Club
8. Y. M. C. A.
9. Douglas Debating Society
10. Athletic Association
11. Jefferson County Teacher's Association
12. Ministerial Alliance

¹Ibid.

²Ibid.

13. Parent-Teachers Association
14. Girl's Club
15. Mother's Congress
16. Story Hour
17. K. H. E. A.¹

A letter to Thomas F. Blue from a contemporary professional, George B. Utley, Secretary of the American Library Association, dated August 5, 1914, said, in part:

. . . to congratulate you and Mrs. Harris on the excellent work you are doing for the colored people of Louisville. This is sure to have a beneficial effect far outside of the City of Louisville and even the State of Kentucky. I was very much pleased with all I saw in Louisville on my recent trip, but saw nothing which interested me more or gave me greater satisfaction than to see the excellent work for the colored people which is being done under your capable supervision.²

More widely circulated news spoke of the fact that

Mr. Blue is courteous, obliging, and untiring in his efforts to render every service for the profit, pleasure and convenience of the many patrons of the libraries. He is held in the highest esteem by both white and colored citizens of Louisville. He has the distinction of being the first colored man in the United States to be appointed librarian of a public library exclusively for Negroes. As a recognition of his efficiency and faithful service, he was appointed librarian of the new Eastern Colored Branch Library in addition to his former duties, when it was opened in January, 1914.³

As a result of Mr. Thomas F. Blue's emphasis on trained personnel the libraries likewise served as training centers for both local and out-of-town students.

Early in the history of the two Negro branch libraries, apprentice classes were conducted with the assistance of department heads from the Main Free Public Library. At this time there were no facilities in the South for training Negro librarians and several cities sent persons to Louisville for training.⁴

¹Ibid.

²Letter to Thomas F. Blue from George B. Utley, August 5, 1914.

³"Editor's Note," Southern Workman, XLIII (October, 1914), 540.

⁴Libraries and Lotteries, p. 122.

In the meantime, the Annual Report of the Louisville Free Public Library concerning the two colored branch libraries for the year ending August 31, 1915, showed that combined they contained 13,655 volumes, and had a circulation of 104,771.¹

The one constant factor in the forefront and behind these praiseworthy accomplishments was Thomas F. Blue. One editor wrote highly of the assistants also:

The branches are under the direction of Mr. Thomas F. Blue, librarian, assisted by a corps of cultured, courteous, patient and able young women who leave nothing undone to make it pleasant for and to assist patrons in every way possible to secure information and such literature as may be desired.

Of the work done under the management of Mr. Blue and his staff, Mr. George T. Settle, City librarian, said a few days ago: 'The work of Mr. Blue and his helpers in connection with the colored branches, has been as great a success, I believe, as could have been under any management. The work has been of such absolute satisfaction to the Board that we have practically turned the whole matter over to Mr. Blue.'²

Statistics reported to the Bureau of Education on November 7, 1917, bear out the above praises with respect to the Western Colored Branch Library and the Eastern Colored Branch Library. In the tenth year the circulation, including stations and classroom collections, was 78,781. The attendance in 11 years was 526,656, and since the opening 8,658 persons registered as borrowers of books for home use.³

World War I. Patriotic Service and Promotion

In 1918 - 1919, Thomas F. Blue was granted a leave-of-absence to do Army Y. M. C. A. work at Camp Zachary Taylor, Kentucky. After

¹Eleventh Annual Report, Vol. XI (1915), pp. 21-22.

²"Along the Way of Harmony and Progress. Colored Branches. Louisville Free Public Library," The Life Culture Review, I (January, 1917), p. 412.

³Blue, A Report to Honorable Thomas Jesse Jones, March 7, 1917.

an absence of one year and one month, he returned to his library duties March 1, 1919. A logical promotion was to greet him soon thereafter. On March 12, 1919, as one of the recommendations of the Louisville Free Public Library Committee, the work with colored readers was made a department.

Library work with colored readers was organized as a department to be known as the Colored Department. Thomas F. Blue was appointed head of the colored department with a salary of one hundred dollars a month. Mr. Blue has been a member of the Louisville Free Public Library staff since the organization of Western Colored Branch Library.¹

Director of All Negro Library Work in Louisville, 1919-1935

From March 14, 1919 to the close of his career, Thomas F. Blue served as the director of all the Negro library work in Louisville. According to a published account in the June, 1920 issue of Special Libraries, several others through experience and special instruction had been promoted to specialized functions. Chief among these were: Mrs. Rachel D. Harris, assistant in charge of school and extension work; Mrs. Elnora McIntyre, assistant librarian, Western Colored Branch Library; Mrs. Elizabeth I. Finney and Mrs. Lillie S. Price, assistants at the Eastern Colored Branch Library; Miss Hazel Crice, Mrs. Elizabeth Pierce,² and Mrs. Mattie McElroy were substitutes.

School Services Extended to the County

Following the example of the Main Library, and by request, the work of the Colored Department was extended to Jefferson County, Kentucky, schools. Classroom collections were placed in 17 schools and

¹Minutes Book, Louisville Free Public Library, Vol. IV (March 12, 1919), p. 73.

²Thomas F. Blue, "Colored Branches of the Louisville Free Public Library," Special Libraries, XI (June, 1920), 147.

four deposit stations were opened during 1920. Visits to the county schools were also made the occasion for story telling by the library assistant in charge of that work.¹

Additional Library Services

For the year ending August 31, 1921, there were 75 centers (branches, stations, classroom collections) in 40 buildings, offering 21,394 volumes for circulation out of the two Carnegie branches.²

In 1921, when the Colored Branch Library of the Roanoke, Virginia Public Library was established, at the request of the librarian of that city, Mrs. Rachel D. Harris, senior assistant of the Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library went there to aid in organizing the branch. This out-of-state service was repeated in 1923 when the Dunbar Branch of the Lynchburg, Virginia Public Library was ^{privately} endowed established. In addition, the Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library was always called upon for suggested lists of books for purchase when colored branch libraries were opened in other cities.³

For the year ending August 31, 1922, there were 77 centers, 58 classrooms collections, 17 stations with a combined circulation count of 116,384.⁴

In response to a question frequently asked: "What books have

¹The Colored Department (Louisville: Louisville Free Public Library, 1927).

²Seventeenth Annual Report (1921), p. 13.

³Thomas F. Blue, "A Successful Library Experiment," Opportunity, II (August, 1924), 246.

⁴Eighteenth Annual Report (1922), p. 13.

you in the library by Negro authors?" the library prepared a booklet entitled, "Some Books and Pamphlets, Music, Magazines and Newspapers by Negro Writers, Composers, and Editors, [to be found] in the Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library." This list was followed by supplementary lists including later publications, compositions, and editorial works by Negroes. When material or information was wanted on some topic the slogan was: "Go to the Library."¹

From 1905 to 1924, the total number of books borrowed for home use from both Carnegie branch libraries was 918,983 and the total circulation from the Colored Department, branches, stations, and school room collections amounted to more than one million volumes.²

In October, 1924, under an arrangement with the Board of Education, the Colored Department, Louisville Free Public Library, opened and conducted thereafter a branch library in the Central Colored High School.³

Participation in Professional Library Conferences

When the American Library Association convened in Detroit, Michigan, June 26 - July 1, 1922, during the meeting of the section of Work With Negroes Round Table, Thomas F. Blue read a paper entitled: "Training Class at the Western Colored Branch."⁴

¹Blue, Opportunity, II (August, 1924), 245-246.

²The Colored Department (Louisville: Louisville Free Public Library, 1927).

³Ibid.

⁴Papers and Proceedings of the Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the American Library Association held at Detroit, Michigan, June 26 - July 1, 1922. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1922), p. 365.

A newspaper clipping, carrying no date, but reporting on the above conference published that "Mr. Thomas F. Blue of the Louisville Library was the only colored representative at the recent American Library Association meeting and the first to have a place on its program." (Editor's note)¹

The name of Thomas F. Blue was listed among those attending the Fiftieth Anniversary Conference of the American Library Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, October 4 - 6, 1926.²

Advance notices of a conference of colored librarians which was held in the Museum at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, Tuesday, March 15 through Friday, March 18, 1927, indicated that various phases of library development would occupy the attention of the 25 librarians coming from different parts of the South. The opening address was scheduled for ten-thirty o'clock Tuesday morning by Thomas F. Blue who had 80 library agencies (Carnegie buildings, classroom collections, stations) in his charge. His speech was on "Arousing Community Interest in the Library."³ Following are excerpts from this speech which give a portion of the human quality and the library service philosophy of the speaker:

A little boy came to the library for the first time. Looking around and seeing me he asked an attendant, 'Is that the library professor?' The attendant answering yes, the little fellow said, 'I thought he was something.' We must make the community feel that the library is something. . . .

On one occasion I was visiting some of the homes of the community, trying to get some long overdue books. As I was passing

¹Newspaper clipping, personal papers of Thomas F. Blue.

²Papers and Proceedings of the Forty-eighth Annual Meeting of the American Library Association held at Atlantic City and Philadelphia, October 4 - 9. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1926), p. 612.

³Daily Press (Newport News, Virginia), March 15, 1927.

I saw two little girls swinging on a gate and overheard one say to the other, 'That's the library man; he owns the library.' On the contrary, the people should be made to feel that they own the library. People are likely to be interested in what belongs to them.

In business, the objective is a satisfied customer; in the library it ought to be a satisfied patron and trained workers are necessary to give the service that satisfies. . . .

Keep the library in the minds of the people. Make them feel¹ that the library belongs to them and that it is really worth while.

Thomas F. Blue was publicized as the founder of the Negro Library Conference. In addition to the opening address and several other self-oriented as well as requested duties at the 1927 Library Conference at Hampton Institute, Thomas F. Blue read a paper on "The Library as a Community Center." The paper amounted to a brief summary of plans then in action in Louisville. Following are excerpts from the paper:

The community center is one of the outstanding features of the Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library. Each building has an assembly room and class rooms adapted to community center uses. . . . One of the needs was a suitable place to meet, free from unwholesome influences and open alike to all. This need has been met through the library community center. . . .

It has contributed to the public peace by providing a public meeting place, free from political and partisan influences.

It has contributed to the public welfare by providing for social workers, representing different denominations, a suitable meeting place free from sectarian bias. . . .

It has contributed to the welfare of the community by providing for our boys and girls a suitable place for amusement and recreation, without which many would be denied this privilege. . . .

It has contributed to the educational, professional, business, and social uplift of the community in that it has provided for teachers, doctors and business men and women an acceptable meeting place, where they can hold their conferences and discuss problems under pleasant and cultural surroundings. . . .

It has been a means of reaching other groups and making new readers. Frequently strangers who come to attend a meeting remain to join the library.²

¹Thomas F. Blue, "Arousing Community Interest in the Library," Paper read at the Library Conference, Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, March 15, 1927.

²Thomas F. Blue, "The Library as a Community Center," Paper read at the Library Conference, Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia, March, 1927.

A newspaper clipping, not identified and not dated, noted that:

Thomas F. Blue attended the annual meeting of the American Library Association in Washington, D. C. (May 13 - 18, 1929). Of an enrollment of 2,808, there were only two Negroes, Thomas F. Blue and E. C. Williams, librarian, Howard University. The picture was taken with President Hoover on Saturday afternoon and Mr. Blue had a conspicuous place in this group.¹

Between the first Negro Library Conference at Hampton Institute, 1927, and the Negro Library Conference held at Fisk University in 1931, in connection with the dedication of the new Fisk Library, a report of work done in Louisville was published on the authority of information obtained from Thomas F. Blue. The following was reprinted from the Herald-Post, Louisville, Kentucky:

It is gratifying to learn from Thomas F. Blue of the marked growth of the Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library, which is shown in its annual report for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1928. The report shows that there are ninety-four centers for the circulation of books for home use for colored readers, an increase of nine centers. This includes two Carnegie branch libraries, one high school, fourteen stations, and seventy-seven classroom collections in twenty-seven school buildings. There are 26,568 volumes in the department. The circulation of books for the past year was the largest in the history of the department.²

Another news clipping from the Louisville Courier-Journal, December 29, 1929, stated that

The Louisville Library is widely known for its work with the Negro population. In the last three months the Carnegie Foundation has sent two prospective librarians from Africa to the Louisville Free Public Library to get ideas for work with Negro citizens.³

Weekly news editors of the Negro Press gave commendable support to libraries, library conferences, and library dedications. The Pittsburgh Courier gave advance, during, and summary notices of the dedica-

¹Newspaper clipping, private home library of Thomas F. Blue.

²"Graduates and Ex-students," Southern Workman, LVII (November, 1928), 478.

³Courier-Journal (Louisville), December 29, 1929.

tion of the new Fisk Library and billed Thomas F. Blue as the founder of the first Negro Public Library in the world.¹ (See information regarding dates and/or buildings with respect to Galveston, Texas, and Louisville, Kentucky at the beginning of Chapter III).

A press notice presaged the dedication of the new Fisk Library and the Negro Library Conference to be held at Fisk University, November 20-23, 1931. The program promised to be informational as well as inspirational. Problems affecting public library service in a colored community were to be discussed by librarians actually involved in the work. "Making the Library Known to the Community" was to be the subject of one paper by Thomas F. Blue, who, as head of the Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library, had set the pace for methods of stimulating interest in books.²

On November 6, 1930, the Pittsburg Courier published elaborate headlines and a write-up about Thomas F. Blue's anticipated appearance on the opening program of the dedication of the new library at Fisk University. The headlines and write-up, plus clarifying insertions in brackets appear below:

Race's Pioneer Librarian on Fisk's Opening Program. As One of the Few Race Members of the American Library Association Thomas F. Blue Has Made Fine Contribution. Thomas F. Blue, Who Founded the First Negro Public Library, Carnegie Building, in the World, to Speak at Fisk University

Thomas F. Blue, foremost Negro librarian today and founder of the first Negro Public Library, Carnegie Building, in the world, will be one of the principal speakers at the Negro Library Conference in connection with the dedication of the new library building at Fisk University, November 20 - 23, 1930.

In 1905 the Western Colored Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library issued its first book to a reader and thus inaugurated [free] public library service to [Negro] readers. [See Galveston,

¹Pittsburg Courier, October 30, 1930.

²Ibid.

Texas, at the beginning of Chapter III. Under Mr. Blue's administration the library grew in popularity so rapidly that it was soon necessary to build a second library branch building to meet the demand [of Negroes] for service.

Mr. Blue has played a prominent part in the associations and conferences of librarians. As a member of the American Library Association he has contributed frequently on professional topics. At the Hampton Conference in 1927 he was one of the chief speakers at the library meeting. Because of his identification with the whole library development program, Mr. Blue was asked to become a member of the committee sponsoring the Negro Library Conference at Fisk University.¹

Among others, the committee included Louis Shores, Tommie Dora Barker, and Florence Rising Curtis.²

Here are excerpts from the paper presented at Fisk University, titled, "Making the Library Known to the Community."

In making the library service known to the community, three things will automatically contribute to that end:

First, a suitable location for the library . . .

Second, adequate equipment . . .

Third, effective service . . .

In the establishment of public libraries for our people in the South, where the service is so new and so untried, it seems to me that the one needful thing is to seek to make known to the people of the community the value and the use of the library and to that end the following are essential points:

1. Make the library a real bureau of information; a real center of education; a real place of culture.

2. Create a taste for good literature and supply the best recreational reading.

3. Place deposit stations in sections remote from the library; if the people cannot come to the library, take the library to the people.

4. Find out what books are helpful to them in their work and seek to supply their need.

5. Provide an interesting story hour for children.

6. Prepare attractive posters and bulletins.

7. Endeavor to attend important educational, social, and religious activities of the community. The presence of the librarian at these meetings is always a reminder of the library.

8. Send to the local papers lists of new and important books and news of real interest about the library. In fact, seek to

¹Pittsburg Courier, November 6, 1930.

²Personal papers in the Private Home Library of Thomas F. Blue.

keep the library in the minds of the people. Make the people feel ¹ that the library is indispensable and that it is really worth while.

A printed program of this conference for the day, November 22, 1930, showed that Thomas Blue presided over several sessions.

An article in the Library Journal made notice of the method used by the Negro Library Conference to begin a more active participation in the American Library Association.

A Negro Library Conference, the first one since the one at Hampton in 1927, was held at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, November 20 - 23, 1931 in connection with the dedication of Fisk's new Library. Seventy-one librarians, representing every state in the South and a dozen states in the North attended the various professional meetings and dedication exercises.

On Saturday morning "Arousing Community Interest," was the subject of a talk given by Thomas F. Blue. A short business session brought a decision to ask the American Library Association for a special section on Negro Library Service. Thomas F. Blue, head of the Colored Department, Louisville Free Public Library, was unanimously elected chairman of this meeting.²

It can be agreed without doubt that Thomas F. Blue was in full measure in the vanguard of pioneering library services in his occupational city, his state, and his nation. So varied and functional was his career that the following chapters will be delineated toward his contributions in apprenticeship training to Negro librarians and other varied services.

¹Thomas F. Blue, "Making the Library Known to the Community," Paper read at the Negro Library Conference, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, November 22, 1930.

²Louis Shores, "Negro Library Conference Held," Library Journal, LVI (January, 1931), 40.

CHAPTER IV

APPRENTICE TRAINING TO NEGRO LIBRARIANS

Among the contributions of professional significance attributed to Thomas F. Blue along with other librarians of the Louisville Free Public Library was that of providing apprentice training to Negro librarians with emphasis upon those in the South where no other recourse was open to them at the time. As library work started and grew, trained assistants were needed. It was necessary to train them, as they were not available otherwise.

Early Training in Louisville

Brief historical accounts show that

. . . the Main Library, Louisville Free Public Library, led the way in this work in 1905-1906 when regular instruction in library work was given to a class of twenty. Altogether, twenty-eight one hour meetings were held. Subjects covered were organization, book selection and buying, cataloging, and reference work.

The Board of Trustees, Louisville Free Public Library, in March, 1909, adopted regulations, qualifications, for admission to library service: a high school education or its equivalent, fair knowledge of books, good health, courteous manners, neatness of appearance and work, accuracy, reliability, general intelligence, and good judgment. The more general qualifications were to be tested by apprentice work and training in the library after the examination.

Instructions were given, first in the general aims and objectives of the library, its place in the community, and its duties to the public; and second, in the principal processes and functions of each library department.

In the Order and Accession Department the trainees learned the procedure followed in ordering books, how they were handled when they arrived at the library, what records were made of printed matter received, and how books are bound and repaired. In the Catalog Department they were taught a few of the essentials of cataloging: how to make author, title and subject cards, and the main principles of the decimal classification system.

In the Circulation Department they learned the method of getting books to readers quickly and making correct records of loans. In the Reference Department they had to become familiar with the reference works only occasionally in demand by the public as well as those frequently used. In the Children's Department, selection of juvenile books, relationships between the library and the schools, and methods of dealing with the library's youngest patrons were discussed.

Similar work was offered to Negro library trainees early in the history of the Negro library branches [1910]. Apprenticeship classes were conducted with the assistance of department heads from the Main [Louisville Free Public] Library. At this time there were no facilities in the South for training Negro librarians, and several cities sent persons to Louisville for training in the library apprenticeship program.¹

Training Classes

The first training class was conducted from September to December, 1909, for twelve weeks. (This was for whites at the Main library). Lectures were given by the librarians and heads of departments on the chief phases of library work. In connection with each lecture, problems were assigned; the work done by each person was examined and returned for corrections; and regular practice work was done by each member in each department.²

During the year, 1910, a course of 16 lectures on classification, cataloging and general library information was given to the staff of the Colored Branch Library.³

The annual examination for admission to the class which was scheduled to begin September 15, 1912, was held June 19, 1912 and was taken by 20 persons. Of these, five were preparing for positions in the Colored Branch Libraries by actual work in the Colored Branch Libraries under the direction of the Heads of the Departments (Main

¹Libraries and Lotteries, pp. 121-122.

²Sixth Annual Report (1910), p. 18.

³Seventh Annual Report (1911), p. 14.

Louisville Free Public Library) and the Colored Branch Librarian (Thomas F. Blue).¹

During the year, 1913, seven women served apprenticeship at the Western Colored Branch preparing for library service. Three of them were citizens of Louisville, one of whom was given an appointment at the Eastern Colored Branch Library; the other four were from out-of-town: from Houston, Texas; Cincinnati, Ohio; Memphis, Tennessee; and Evansville, Indiana. The annual examination for admission to the training class scheduled to begin in September, 1913, was held June 24, 1913. Three women were examined for apprentice work in the colored branch libraries.²

Four women served apprenticeship in 1914 at the Colored Library Branches preparing for library work, and two were substituting at the Louisville Free Public Colored Branch Libraries. Two additional women were examined for apprenticeship work at the Colored Branch Libraries. Further arrangements were made to accommodate three women from out-of-town who expected to take charge of colored branch libraries in their respective cities.³

A paper read by Thomas F. Blue at the American Library Association Conference in Detroit, 1922, characterized the Apprenticeship Training as

. . . a distinctive feature of the Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library and one that has been far reaching particularly as a Training Class for those who desire to enter the service.

The training Class was a 'child of necessity.' In those days,

¹ Ninth Annual Report (1913), p. 20.

² Tenth Annual Report (1914), p. 15.

³ Eleventh Annual Report (1915), pp. 21-22.

a public library for colored people in the South was something 'new under the sun.' Naturally a trained colored library assistant was a rarity.

The Western Colored Branch Library of Louisville, the first [Carnegie] branch library [building] established in this country needed assistants, so it was decided to train them. This business, like war time training, required haste. Local applicants for the Training Class were required to have a good high school education or its equivalent, and to pass [one of] the annual examinations. The class spent from four to six months in the study of library methods and practice work. Instruction was given by the head and senior assistant of the Colored Department and heads of Departments at the Main Library. The training was taken by thirty-four persons.

In establishing the Colored Department and in organizing a Training Class, the authorities of the Louisville Free Public Library did 'greater than they knew.' They not only made it possible to train all of the assistants in 'our own' two library branches, housed in Carnegie buildings, doing school, station, and county work with an annual circulation of over 100,000 volumes, but in the language of the Good Book, they [have] caused our fame to spread abroad. Our work was not only accepted at home but it was recognized away from home.

Aside from training our own assistants, we trained most of the young women who are serving colored library branches in the South. To be accurate, eleven young women from eight other cities took the training course. They were sent to Louisville for library training by the librarians at Houston, Birmingham, Atlanta, Evansville, Memphis, Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga. All of these women have served in libraries throughout the South. At present [1926] seven are serving in colored branch libraries at Atlanta, Nashville, Chattanooga, Birmingham, and Houston. From all indications they are making good.¹

Fundamentally, the Apprenticeship Training Program as oriented in Louisville made its pioneering impression on several professional training programs organized later in colleges and universities. Close reference to the Louisville Apprenticeship Training Program was made by Florence R. Curtis, director of the Hampton Institute Library School, at the American Library Association Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1926. A relevant area in her paper read at the conference said:

¹Thomas F. Blue, "Apprenticeship Training for Negroes in the Louisville Free Public Library," Paper read at the American Library Association Conference, Work With Negroes Round Table, Detroit, 1922. Private Home Library of Thomas F. Blue. Louisville. 1955.

. . . this, as I see it, is the field open to the Hampton Institute Library School, established just a year ago (1925) through the interest of the Carnegie Corporation with the cooperation and counsel of the American Library Association and enrolling a liberal number of students on scholarships granted by the General Education Board. It carried forward the work begun years ago in the special training class of the Louisville Free Public Library which prepared librarians for many public library branches in the cities. It began its service in the hope that it would build upon the good will and the cooperation of forward looking people, black and white, in the two great racial groups of our Republic.¹

In 1930, Louis Shores, among other things, included a tribute to the Louisville Apprenticeship Training Program. In order to determine just what the opportunities in librarianship were for Negroes and at the same time establish the status of the Negro in the American Public Library, he (L. Shores) sent a questionnaire to librarians in 80 cities selected from the American Library Association handbook and the United States Census' list of cities with large Negro populations. Seventy-four cities replied.

Among other opportunities Louisville alone, of these cities, provided training facilities for its Negro workers. During 1928-1929, however, there were so many applicants and so few vacancies that the Library temporarily discontinued the training class. The head of the Colored Department and his eight assistants had the same responsibilities and salaries as similar workers in the white branch libraries of the Louisville Free Public Library.²

Lectures of Thomas F. Blue

The personal papers of Thomas F. Blue along with most of the

¹Florence Rising Curtis, "The Contribution of the Library School to Negro Education," Library Journal (December 1, 1926), 1088. (Paper read at the Annual Meeting of the Professional Training Class Section of the American Library Association, Atlantic City, October 7, 1926).

²Louis R. Shores, "Public Library Service to Negroes," Library Journal, LV (February 15, 1930), 150-152.

original manuscripts of his lectures with respect to the Apprenticeship Training Program showed the following headings of his lectures:

1. Public Library Work With Negroes
2. Circulation Methods in Library Work
3. Classification and Arrangement of Books in a Library
4. Library Publicity
5. Louisville Colored Library Work

Provisions for an examination at the end of each course were included. No dates are on the manuscripts, but one showed a reference as late as 1931 (see also Appendix B).¹

In the lecture "Louisville Colored Library Work," Thomas F. Blue said that an apprentice course in library methods and practice work covering from three to six months had been taken by 29 local persons, 18 of whom had served in the colored branches of the Louisville Free Public Library. The same course covering from two to six months had been taken by 12 out-of-town persons representing eight states and 12 cities.²

It was not uncovered exactly when the apprenticeship program was discontinued permanently. The rise of professional library schools and the absence of references later than 1931 in the personal manuscripts of Thomas F. Blue, as well as no additional entries in the Annual Reports of the Louisville Free Public Library indicate that the apprenticeship training program came to an end during the early 1930's.

The next chapter will bring together information regarding the several auxiliary and varied services opened or promoted by Thomas F. Blue in keeping with his philosophy toward enriching the human personality through association with books and with the events often documented in books.

¹Original Manuscripts in the Private Home Library of Thomas F. Blue, Louisville, 1955.

²Ibid.

CHAPTER V

VARIED SERVICES

The services of the library, as Thomas F. Blue directed them, were not limited to the more or less academic principles of library services, not even entirely limited to the principles as outlined in his own manuscripts designed for lectures in his role of teacher-trainer in the apprenticeship training program of the Louisville Free Public Library. This man anticipated what the mid-twentieth century psychologists were referring to as the "development of the whole person." In addition to directing the "open shelf library system" which allowed every personality the greatest of freedom in the selection of books, he directed or permitted to be directed in immediate correlation with routine library services the following auxiliary services: city and county school collection rooms and book stations described in Chapter III; Negro History Week Programs; lists of circulating books and pamphlets; monthly book reviews; the Douglas Debating Club; social club meetings and budget structure; the Story Hour; comments and criticisms to other libraries; a host of historically significant speeches or papers; and a collection of funny jokes, cartoons, and sayings.

Negro History Week

An unidentified and non-dated newspaper clipping in the scrap-book kept at the Main Library, Louisville Free Public Library, reads that:

Negro History Week was fittingly observed in the Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library. Special effort was made by Thomas F. Blue, librarian, to provide suitable reading matter for the week's celebration. Attractive bulletins giving lists of outstanding books about Negroes by white and colored authors were on display at both branches, together with pictures and photographs of leading Negroes. A great deal of information concerning Negroes was given out and practically all of the books about Negroes were called for.¹

The original lists of books and pamphlets were found in 1955, on file in an envelope in the private home library of Thomas F. Blue. The lists included fiction, non-fiction, pamphlets, and music. Examples found on the lists were: W. E. B. DuBois (all works); Charles Chestnut, Conjure Woman; and Junis Wood, Negro in Chicago.²

Book Review Meetings

Monthly Book Review Meetings were held on one Friday of each month at 4 or 4:30 P.M. The meetings were held in the lecture rooms at Western Colored Branch and Eastern Colored Branch libraries. All persons interested in books were invited. Book reviews were given by citizens, branch library staff members, and Main Library staff members.³

Douglas Debating Club

Of the clubs that met under the direction of the staff of the Colored Branch Libraries of the Louisville Free Public Library, the Douglas Debating Club became the most prominent. The club was organized in March, 1909. Part of the Constitution defined the object of

¹Newspaper Clipping, Unidentified and Non-dated. Scrapbook on Microfilm in the Main Louisville Free Public Library.

²Original Lists in the Private Home Library of Thomas F. Blue, Louisville, 1955.

³Original Programs in the Private Home Library of Thomas F. Blue, Louisville, 1955.

this club to be the improvement of its members in public speaking, improvement in the use of parliamentary rules of order, and improvement in social as well as educational uplift. The club was composed of high school boys. Meetings were held weekly at the Western Colored Branch Library and a prepared program was rendered. To keep before the members the great current questions, a semi-annual public debate was prepared and given. A gold medal prize contest was held annually. Following are some of the thoroughly serious topics debated in the prize contests:

1. The Right of Suffrage Should Be Extended to Women
2. The North American Indian Has a Greater Opportunity for Development than the Afro-American
3. The United States Was Justified in Taking Up Arms Against Mexico
4. The United States Should Interfere to Stop the International Strife in Mexico.¹

"It gave them a sense of dignity to belong to the club," said Thomas F. Blue, "and they all came out remarkably under the new responsibility it imposed upon them."²

Social Clubs

Great use was made of the classrooms and auditoriums of the Colored Branch Libraries for meetings of educational and social uplift. The people were made to feel that the branch libraries were common meeting places and could be used for anything that made for their public welfare. The number of meetings for one peak year had reached 498 with an attendance of 11,628. In addition to the list of clubs in Chapter III under Educational and Social Centers, among the notable

¹Blue, A Report to Honorable Thomas Jesse Jones, March 7, 1917.

²Newspaper Clipping, Unidentified and Non-dated, Private Home Library of Thomas F. Blue, Louisville.

meetings were those of the Boy Scouts, Jefferson County Teachers Association, and the Annual Y. M. C. A. Conference.¹

Story Hour

The Story Hour and its companion Story Telling Contest were originated by Professor Joseph S. Cotter, then the principal of F. Coleridge Taylor School, donor of the Cotter loving cup on which the name of the story telling contest winner was engraved, and after whom a Louisville public housing project and a modern public school were later named. The Story Hour became the children's delight. It was held weekly at each Louisville Colored Branch Library under the direction of a trained story teller. A story telling contest was held annually between the two libraries and prizes were given to the children who could best reproduce a story told during the year. The contest was one of the big events of the year and children who listened as well as those who took part were keenly interested. At one time Louisville was the only city known to hold such a Story Telling Bee.

Aside from the pleasure that the stories gave, new experiences were brought to the children. Their imagination was developed and an interest was created in books and reading. The story telling contest prizes were given on a point system: 25 points for memory; 25 points for enunciation; and 50 points for interpretation. Special instruction to the story telling contest judges directed them that, "in making your decision, please do not consider the library from which the children come; but award on the merits of the contestant only." Money prizes were donated. Preliminary contests were held. Final contests

¹Blue, "Colored Branches of the Louisville Free Public Libraries," Special Libraries, p. 146.

were scheduled on the annual program of the Kentucky Negro Education Association, later re-named the Kentucky Teachers Association. The finalists in 1917 reappeared and re-told their stories before the convention of the American Library Association, held that year in Louisville.¹

Sense of Humor

Thomas F. Blue fed his sense of humor by keeping a record of funny sayings overheard at the branch libraries and other frequented places. The bulk of the funny sayings along with a scrapbook of jokes and cartoons cut from magazines may be found in his private library. Two examples of the funny sayings are:

1. Summer visitor: 'You are doing fine. Your shelves will soon be full of books.'
2. Little boy: 'I want something about George Rogers Clock.'²

Comments and Criticisms to Other Librarians

A leading example of how Thomas F. Blue was called upon by other librarians may be interpreted from a letter suggesting a list of books for a Negro home to be used in connection with a month's short course for extension workers. The letter requested his comments and criticisms.³

¹Libraries and Lotteries, p. 117

²Scrapbook, Private Home Library of Thomas F. Blue, Louisville, 1955.

³Letter to Thomas F. Blue from Emily V. D. Miller, Editor of Publications of the American Library Association, May 6, 1930.

Speeches and Papers

From 1905 to 1935 during the 30 years of the library career of Thomas F. Blue, every large grouping of persons gathered toward the purpose and principle of library service heard him deliver a significant speech or read a paper, either of which had been oriented out of his own pioneering experiences. His academic transcripts bore the records of one educated in logic and ministerial subject matter. In the early twentieth century meaning of the term, he was not a trained librarian. Through his speeches, papers, lectures, and efficient personal example, he measured to accomplish even more than the trained librarian. He became one of the pioneer makers of trained librarians. He was among those who ran the first experiments on the raw and untried precepts of library service. His findings went out to his contemporaries through his speeches, papers, comments, and criticisms. Excerpts from his major speeches and papers appear in Chapters III and IV. His major problem was that of solving problems.

Problems

Manuscripts, documents, write-ups, and interviews seldom spoke of problems of a personal nature. Theoretically, Thomas F. Blue was addicted to the fallacy of speaking of events as "naturally" when, from all probability they were man-made. Otherwise, his problems were those of his contemporary pioneering Americans, basically a battle to accelerate social change. He met his share of the battle with courage and effectiveness.

The first temporary but separate library over which he presided outgrew its capacities before a more permanent building could be com-

pleted. The services in the new building were so expanded as to prove a need for another building. On many turns the library services of two branch libraries were wedged into those of the Main Library, or systematically, the other way around.

He was in the phalanx of the comprehensive development of library associations in the appreciation and use of all human talents with respect to library association membership and participation. His occupational city led the way in the South in erasing the districting of library services on the basis of creed or other human features. During the 1940's branch libraries became just that, "branch libraries." No librarian worthy of the title ever decides that his library has or circulates enough volumes. Thomas F. Blue often remarked that there were not enough volumes written by or about Negroes. He realized that Louisville citizens needed more volumes on this subject so as to eliminate some of their superficial problems. The method used toward meeting a regional need for library apprenticeship training was unique in its originality and became a footnote to the quality of one man along with his associates to face problems with swift attempts to solve them.

CHAPTER VI

EXPIRATION

Thomas F. Blue became ill on Wednesday, November 6, 1935. He became worse on Friday night, November 8, 1935, and expired on Sunday, November 10, 1935, between 8 and 10 P.M.¹

On November 20, 1935, the Louisville Free Public Library Board of Trustees passed a resolution: Thomas F. Blue, March 6, 1866 - November 10, 1935. The wording of the resolution serves as a benediction to this study of a great American pioneer librarian.

Thomas F. Blue. March 6, 1866 - November 10, 1935
Resolution of the Library Board of Trustees
November 20, 1935

The death of Thomas F. Blue, Head of the Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library, has taken from the Library a trusted, loyal and highly competent administrator, and from the city of Louisville a recognized and respected leader in the civic, religious and educational life of the Colored People.

Mr. Blue was born in Farmville, Virginia. He prepared for the ministry, graduating in 1888 from Hampton Institute, Virginia, with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity. Further theological training was pursued later at the Richmond Theological Seminary.

Coming to Louisville in 1899 Mr. Blue assumed the Secretaryship of the Colored Branch of the local Y. M. C. A., filling this position with distinction until 1905.

From 1905 until his death Mr. Blue served with outstanding success as a librarian, achieving national recognition as a pioneer in this field of public service among Colored People. On September 23, 1905, Mr. Blue opened the first free public library for colored readers with colored attendants, a branch of the Louisville Free Public Library. In 1908 this branch moved to its new Carnegie building, being the first Carnegie free library for colored readers. In 1911, Mr. Blue opened Louisville's second Carnegie branch library for colored people.

¹Statement by Mrs. Cornelia Johnson Blue, personal interview, June 7, 1955.

In 1919 Mr. Blue received professional distinction by appointment as Head of the newly organized Colored Department of the Louisville Free Public Library, and continued in this position until his death on November 10, 1935.

No tribute to Mr. Blue would be complete without special mention of the position he achieved as religious leader. He never forsok the calling for which he first prepared himself, but continued throughout his life as preacher and active church leader.

All civic and educational affairs that concerned the colored people of Louisville found never failing interest and support in this true public servant and leader of his people.

It is with genuine regret that the Board of Trustees of the Louisville Free Public Library notes the passing of Mr. Blue. This expression of its esteem is spread upon the minutes of its proceedings, by resolution adopted on November 20, 1935, with the request that copies be sent to the family of Mr. Blue conveying the Board's sympathy in their bereavement.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees
Louisville Free Public Library

Joseph Rauch, President

November 20, 1935

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A. SAMPLE INTERVIEWS

Sample Interviews¹ with the wife, two sons, sister, brother-in-law, contemporaries, successors through 1955, and students of Thomas F. Blue.

The method used was non-directive and personally informal. All informants anticipated the interviews and readily related the following accounts.

Case 1²

My husband began this project in Louisville. Nothing like it had been attempted before in this city. We had a library in our home for our own children in which we tried to place the best in books and the best in music.

Mr. Blue was a versatile man, successful as a teacher, minister, librarian, business man, private citizen, husband and father.

Case 2³

My father kept scrapbooks of jokes and funny sayings; he had a wonderful sense of humor. I remember the vacations our family shared together during which time we traveled and usually went to a beach in Virginia.

I have never wanted to be a librarian but I do catalog my own books. I have Library of Congress cards for most of them.

Case 3⁴

We have a collection of my father's sermons which I consider one of our most valued possessions. They are timeless and thought provoking today, years after he delivered them.

Case 4⁵

Our father was a carpenter and architect. He constructed buildings and factories in Farmville. My brother Charles worked with him for a while but the work was too strenuous. Thomas graduated from Hampton Institute and the Seminary at Richmond, Virginia. He was trained for the

¹Interviewer, Millian Taylor Wright.

²Cornelia Johnson Blue, wife, June 6, 1955.

³Thomas Fountain Blue, Jr., son, June 7, 1955.

⁴Charles Sumner Blue, son, June 7, 1955.

⁵Alice Linwood Blue, sister, June 24, 1955.

ministry. I lived in Florida after he went to Louisville and he sent me Ten Dollars each month as long as he lived. His wife was very pretty and quite a charming woman.

Case 5⁶

Thomas Blue could be called a Conservative Liberal although he belonged to the Republican Party. He had no sympathy with Communism; on his death bed he asked that I use my influence in seeing that his two sons developed no such tendencies. He believed strongly in private enterprise and private initiative. Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt were the two persons most admired by him.

He was trained for the ministry but practiced library work. He preached at many churches and his sermons were always thought provoking.

He accumulated real estate property in his single days. He wanted no property not worth renting; no slums in his name; he managed his property on the principle that whoever rented it must see to its upkeep. He had no sympathy for landlords who tolerated slums as he was violently opposed to such. He had no sympathy with dancing, card playing, drinking or gambling.

Case 6⁷

I worked at the Main Library during a portion of Thomas Blue's lifetime. I did not know him well but I remember seeing him often. He was always so very polite. I had great admiration for Thomas Blue. He was a tireless worker. He blazed the trail for something that had not been done before.

Case 7⁸

I was in the training class in 1920. Thomas Blue gave the classes by himself. We used the "Library Primer" by J. C. Dana. We had classes, examinations, and worked in the library. It has been so long that I don't remember everything in detail. I worked at Western Branch Library and retired recently.

Case 8⁹

I took the pre-examination under Thomas F. Blue, and entered the

⁶Lyman T. Johnson, brother-in-law; lived with the Blues when he first arrived in Louisville, 1930. June 10, 1955.

⁷Ellen T. Harding, Head of the Kentucky Division, Main Louisville Free Public Library. June 8, 1955.

⁸Minnie H. McAfee Cooper Taylor; student; assistant at Western Branch Library; retired. June 9, 1955.

⁹Elnora McIntire Meriweather; student; assistant at Eastern Branch Library; the second successor to Thomas F. Blue; retired. June 9, 1955.

library apprenticeship training classes. He used books to teach from and gave some lectures. I remember especially how he stressed 'how to meet the public.' Our class lasted six months and during that period we did our apprentice work also. He was a fine man, marvelous in every way.

At first I worked at Eastern Colored Branch Library; later I became the second successor to Thomas F. Blue. Rachel Harris was the first successor and Naomi Lattimore became the third successor.

The building for the Eastern Branch was built by Andrew Carnegie funds but the colored citizens of Louisville donated most of the money with which the ground was purchased. We gave concerts to raise money. Our first piano was bought with Twenty-Five Dollars from proceeds of a concert. We did all of our own work, for example, mending.

When Mr. Blue got married he arranged a beautiful breakfast himself and invited two of us, Mrs. Harris and myself. Later, a reception was held.

I went to his house the morning Thomas, Jr., was born and Mr. Blue greeted me with: 'Mrs. McIntire, the Lord brought us a boy.' He had great ideas for his boys. Thomas, Jr., actually could read at three years of age. He would come to the library with Mr. Blue and pull books from the shelves to read.

Mr. Blue had a 'Virginia brogue' when he spoke. He was immaculate in his person.

Case 9¹⁰

I remember the pre-examination class given to those who wished to enter the library apprenticeship classes. I was in the class in 1921. Current topics were stressed in the pre-examination. One question was: 'During the recent World War, who was the commanding officer at Camp Zachary Taylor?' Another question concerned 'Key points in the City of Louisville.' How well you read was stressed. Some pre-examinees failed; others were selected from those who passed to take the apprenticeship training. After our pre-examination was over we worked in the library. I do not remember any classes.

Mr. Blue was a real librarian. He had the ideas a real one would have. He read widely; helped the community in every way; put the library on a basis that everyone would recognize as a real library.

I left Louisville to work as a substitute at the 135th Street Branch of the New York Public Library, 1922-1923. I now work at Central High School, Louisville.

¹⁰ Beulah Bolan, former student. Now a trained librarian, employed at Central High School Library, Louisville, Kentucky. June 9, 1955.

Western Branch Library has a very good Negro History collection, begun by Thomas F. Blue, which has proved helpful to many people, white and colored, who have been interested in Negro literature and art. There is also a collection of books in religion which he donated, especially for the use of ministers. The Ministerial Alliance Group still meets here in 1955. They were away only temporarily when flood waters flooded the basement in 1937. Other varied activities also still meet here: the Dunbar P. T. A.; Boy Scouts; Boy Scout Leaders; Housewives League; Pan Hellenic Council; also other organized groups, and we still have the Story Hour. At one time, all community activities took place here. This location was the center of the Negro population in Mr. Blue's time. The population has shifted into polynucleation now.

¹¹ Naomi Lattimore, Department Head and Supervisor of Western Branch Library and Eastern Branch Library with a staff of nine. She is the third successor, incumbent, to Thomas F. Blue. June 9, 1955.

APPENDIX B. SAMPLE LECTURE NOTES

Thomas F. Blue

Library Publicity

Aim of Publicity

To make known the services

To extend the use and usefulness of the library

To popularize the library

Automatic: suitable location
adequate equipment
efficient service
satisfactory
courteous
pleasing

Special Publicity

Guiding principles

Advertise only what the library can supply

Keep within the policy of the Library

Keep on a legitimate dignified level

Aim always at: attractiveness
effectiveness
timeliness

Types of Publicity

Outside the library

Inside the library

Outside Publicity

Newspapers (local)

Importance of kinds of contribution

News and prepared lists of latest or important books

Weekly columns

Exhibits, displays, posters

Where placed: store windows

Outside Publicity (cont'd)

Y. M. C. A.'s

Y. W. C. A.'s

Business places

Staff contacts

At important educational, religious, and social meetings

Use of staff-memo reminders of the library

Talks; addresses

Clubs

Reading circles

Educational gatherings

Young people's meetings

Announcements in movie slides

Publicity inside the library

Book displays

Book cover displays

Posters and bulletins calling attention to some special or
seasonable activity of the library
Examples:

Children's Book Week

Negro History Week

Negro Health Week

Special day and holiday posters and bulletins

Thanksgiving

Christmas

Easter

Mother's Day

Children's Day

Notable birthdays

Washington

Lincoln

Douglas

Bulletin Board

Information of important events

Current

Historical

Pictures

Current history bulletin

Notable monthly birthdays

Notable monthly events

Book lists

For definite grades

Special needs

Important books on special subjects

Lists of books on special days

Advertising magazines

Posted list of important articles in the magazine

Articles on Library Publicity

American Public Library - Bostick

Circulation Work in Public Libraries - Flexner

Selling the Branch Library to the Community - L. Marthing
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