

A M E R I C A N   C O N N E C T I O N   C O N T I N U E D

THE PANJAB AFTER DICKINSON

That we have more modern methods in the Punjab is largely due to the happy accident of our American connection. It was due to the suggestion of the Forman College, voiced by the late Sir James Ewing, then Vice-Chancellor, that the University Library was reorganized by an American expert, Mr. Asa Don Dickinson, and that the methods then introduced have spread widely over the Punjab and beyond.

I am glad to see that this connection still in a way continues. As a regular reader of *The Modern Librarian*, I have an idea that this Association owes a great deal to its Chief Editor, Dr. Velte, Chairman of the Council. To him and to his colleagues our congratulations are due for another year of successful work and for the organisation of this Annual meeting.<sup>1</sup>

Thus declared Dr. A. C. Woolner, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Punjab, concluding his presidential address to the second session of the Punjab Library Conference, held at Lahore from 28 to 30 April 1932. As reported by *The Modern Librarian*, "it was a great success; greater than the previous conferences including even the All-India session held at Lahore in 1929."<sup>2</sup>

That Asa Don DICKINSON, Sir James EWING, and Friedrich Mowbray VELTE all were Americans is a great tribute to the United States of America, which provided guidance and inspiration for the development of library service in India and her neighboring countries, where America is lovingly called as the Land of Libraries.

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Modern Librarian*, 2(July 1932):194. Hail America, the Land of Libraries! Confirmation of what was first learnt through Khurshid that the suggestion (to invite Dickinson to Lahore) was made by the Forman Christian College, Lahore.

<sup>2</sup> *The Modern Librarian*, 2(July 1932):172. Facing page 140 appears a group photo taken on the occasion.

A study of the successive issues of *The Modern Librarian* convincingly demonstrates that the revival of the library movement in the Panjab beginning with the year 1929 was to a large extent due to the sustained efforts of Friedrich Mowbray Velte, a noble American scholar-librarian, who was the creator and the first Chief Editor of the journal and also the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Punjab Library Association, the honorable position he held for many years.

The account of the work and works of Asa Don Dickinson has been succinctly reported in our earlier publication *Contributions of Asa Don Dickinson (1876-1940): First American Library Pioneer in British India* (Columbia, MO: International Library Center, 1990).

An attempt will be made in the following pages to present some highlights of the library movement that was continued in the Panjab by the colleagues and students of that great American library pioneer, Asa Don Dickinson.

## Velte reports on the Panjab Library Movement

Dr. Fredeick Mowray Velte addressed the conference on "The Punjab Library Association, its History, Aims and Objects." Velte said:<sup>1</sup>

The Library Movement in the Panjab dates from the selection in 1915 of Mr. Asa Don Dickinson of Pennsylvania University [?] to re-organise the Panjab University Library on modern scientific lines. The President of this Conference Mr. A. C. Woolner played a very large part in this appointment [stress added], and has always been an outstanding leader in all movements for library nurture and development in this province. We are, indeed, fortunate to have him in our midst on this occasion to guide us with his enthusiasm and his experience.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Dickinson, who was in the Panjab for about a year did a notable piece of work. He introduced the Dewey Decimal Classification System and the open access shelf system in the University Library and set a model thereby, which, smaller libraries, if at all up-to-date, have eagerly followed. He trained librarians in the most recent library methods and instilled in them the idea that they were to be not merely custodians of books but friends and guides of those using their libraries. He gave the librarian a new standing and a greater respect for his task and showed him that in his work imagination, scholarly habits, tact, and many other forms of the highest wisdom were essential. And to initiate a real library movement in the Panjab he founded the Panjab Library Association.

After his departure it collapsed into what might well be described as a "defunct enthusiasm," and it remained moribund until October 1929 when some librarians in Lahore were inspired to form the "Librarians' Club." This small organization with admirable daring took upon itself the heavy responsibility of holding the seventh session of the All-India Library Conference in December 1929.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *Modern Librarian* 2 (July 1932):141-43.

<sup>2</sup> Did he? Cf. Khurshid. Of course, Woolner took active part in many library conferences, over some of which he even presided!

<sup>1</sup> There was no continuity. Did Velte contribute to this revival? Just as Borden influenced Principal Clarke of the Baroda College, Dickinson

The conference proved a great success and the Panjab Library Association came to life again. Its objects as stated were "to further the establishment, extension and development of libraries and to increase the usefulness of public, college, school and other libraries and to make them a vital factor in the educational life of the communities they are intended to serve.

Velte presented in brief the objects of the Association:

1. To further the establishment, extension and development of libraries.
2. To provide better administration of libraries by giving advice and assistance to library authorities in the organization and administration of libraries.
3. To provide more wide-spread love of reading among the people by conducting lectures, cinema shows, and exhibitions for children and adults in the use of books and libraries and on other popular subjects.
4. To increase efficiency in library service by uniting all persons engaged or interested in libraries by holding conferences and meetings for discussions on subjects concerning library work.
5. To propagate adult education by helping in the establishment of night schools for those who are beyond the school-going age.
6. To issue magazines and books on library subjects.
7. Finally, to conduct courses in library science and to issue certificates of efficiency in library work."

According to Velte many of the objects were being fulfilled.

---

might have exercised some real influence over Woolner and as a consequence the latter might have been converted to the new Religion of Library Service! Both Dickinson and woolnera worked together to bring about true metamorphosis of the Library of the University of the Panjab at Lahore.

### THE PANJAB LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

A Report submitted on behalf of the Library Association, Lahore to the All-Asia Educational Conference held at Benares on December 26-30, 1930. *The Modern Librarian* 1 (Jan-Feb 1931): 55-58. Probably prepared by Velte.

#### Mr. Dickinson's Work

"The library movement in the Punjab dates from the year 1915 when the University of the Panjab engaged the services of Mr. Asa Don Dickinson, Librarian of the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., to reorganize the University Library on modern scientific lines. Mr. Dickinson who was in the Punjab for about a year did memorable work. He started a library training class and invited librarians from all parts of the Punjab to join for training in library work. His call was very well responded to. A large number of librarians from various colleges and public libraries and even some booksellers joined the class. [It was a heterogeneous class!] He gave them a course of practical work in librarianship and with their help reclassified the books in the University Library on the Dewey Decimal Classification System [America's influence!] and prepared an up-to-date dictionary card catalogue [once again America's influence!]. The library was changed from the closed shelf system to the open access system. [Great advancement]. It was the intention of Mr. Dickinson to extend the opening hours of the University Library from eight to twelve, but on account of the tremendous work he had to do in the reorganization of the library within a short period he could not accomplish all that he wanted to do during his stay here.

"For the guidance of librarians all over the Punjab in the re-organization of their libraries, Mr. Dickinson, with the assistance of the late Lala Mukand Lal Bhatia, Assistant Librarian, Panjab University Library, brought out the *Punjab University [Library?] Primer*,<sup>1</sup> which is an excellent handbook for inexperienced librarians in the public, college and school libraries of India.

"To initiate a library movement in the Punjab, Mr. Dickinson founded the Punjab Library Association. This Association did a [!] considerable

---

<sup>1</sup> Dickinson, A. D. *Punjab Library Primer*. Lahore, Panjab University Library [1916?].

work for some time but could not exist for long after the departure of Mr. Dickinson.

#### The Foundation of the Library Association, Lahore

"In October 1929 some librarians in Lahore held a meeting and formed the Librarians' Club. A month after its foundation this small organization took upon itself the heavy responsibility of holding the seventh session of the All-India Library Conference in Lahore [first series]. The Conference was held in December 1929 and was a great success. At the conference a provincial library association was formed with a view to further the establishment, extension and development of libraries, and to increase the usefulness of public, college, school and other libraries, and to make them a vital factor in the educational life of the communities they are intended to serve.

"The Association holds meetings from time to time in Lahore at which papers on subjects concerning library work are read, followed by discussions on the subjects of the papers. Librarians, members of library committees, representatives of various public, college, and school libraries and other ladies and gentlemen who are interested in library work or in the use of libraries attend these meetings. [America's influence. Velte's contribution]. By discussion and comparison the members of the Association utilize the combined experience of all those in the locality who are interested in the use and administration of libraries.

#### The Modern Librarian

"From November 1930, the Association has started the issuing of "The Modern Librarian," a monthly journal for the benefit of library workers and library readers. The journal has as its Chief Editor Dr. F. Mowbray Velte who worked for a brief time in the Cataloguing Department of the Princeton University Library and now is the Librarian and the Head of the English Department in the Forman Christian College, Lahore. A few prominent librarians in other parts of India have also been requested by the Association to join the editorial staff of the journal.

*The Modern Librarian* intends to do a two-fold service. Firstly, to bring home to the librarians the fact that they can render a great service in the political, social, and intellectual uplift of their countrymen. Schools and colleges are necessary for teaching boys and girls how to read, but real education and culture can only be attained through wider knowledge of books in libraries. The librarian,

therefore, fore, is a very important factor in the building up of the nation.

"Secondly, to guide the library readers in the use of library books, nearly one half of each issue of the journal contains reading-lists, book-reviews and such materials as will guide library readers in the study and choice of books and in the selection of reading-courses. We want your co-operation in making these pages more profitable to readers by contributing to our magazine booklists and book-reviews and interesting articles, and by popularizing it among the members of your libraries and enrolling them as subscribers to this journal.

#### Training in Librarianship

"The University of Panjab is rendering a really valuable service by the establishment of a Library Training Class which holds its sessions in alternate years. About a hundred graduates have been trained in librarianship from the year 1915 to this day. We have in almost all important libraries trained men working. In spite of this we do feel that there is a necessity for more wide-spread knowledge of this important science. There are a large number of untrained men working in small libraries in the Punjab who cannot join these classes. For such men and for other literary men and women who want to have courses in this science to help them in the selection of the best books for their reading, we are feeling the necessity of starting correspondence courses. But for this heavy work we realize our shortcomings. The library profession in India is not yet attractive to the more able and highly educated. In the early stages we shall have to start library institutions and magazines on an All-India basis. We have an All-India library journal and if it receives loving cooperation at your hands, we shall think of starting an All-India Correspondence School of Librarianship with prominent librarians of the important libraries in India as the conductors of the courses. But all this depends, as it has been said before, upon your cooperation and help, which we expect you will give us in an unstinted measure and which we beseech of you in the name of this ancient land of ours which once had the highest civilization and culture in the world.

#### Work in the University and College Libraries

"The Panjab University Library and college libraries in the Panjab are organized on up-to-date lines. The University Library has about eighty thousand volumes and a large sum of money is spent every year in the purchase of new books. Unlike the University Library, the college

libraries have closed stacks, but the tendency is now towards open shelves and in several college libraries greater opportunities are being given to the readers for free access to the shelves and the day is not far off when open stacks will also be provided in the college libraries instead of closed ones. Opening hours in the University Library are eight, though the need is being felt for recommending to its governing body to provide greater opportunities and facilities to the readers for reference work in the library rooms for longer hours during the day and in the evenings under the supervision of a reference librarian whose sole business ought to be to guide the readers in the study and selection of books.

"Opening hours in the college libraries extend from six to nine. It is being felt that college libraries should also provide greater opportunities to students for reference work in the library rooms during and some hours after the college hours. Library-service in college libraries is steadily improving. Greater facilities are being provided to students in the selection and study of books. Publicity work in college libraries is also being popularized, and college librarians like their colleagues in public libraries are not now unaware of the necessity of advertising and displaying books in order to attract readers to their use. College librarians occasionally post lists of new books on the bulletin boards, display recent additions on separate shelves and some librarians exhibit paper covers of books, instead of throwing them into the wastepaper basket. Some of these covers are very beautiful and contain short tempting notes about the contents of the book and are placed on a board at the entrance to the library. These attract a large number of readers.

#### Work in Public Libraries

"Public libraries in the Panjab are doing fairly good service. They generally open for eight hours a day, although the Library Association, Lahore is impressing upon their authorities the necessity of giving greater opportunities to their readers for quiet study in the library rooms by extending the library hours. Public libraries in the Punjab are generally subscription libraries but no subscription is charged for study in the library rooms. The Sir Ganga Ram Business Bureau and Library and the Library of the Industries Department are free public libraries and books are lent to readers for home use on depositing the price of the books. No subscription is charged from the borrowers. The Sir Ganga Ram Business Bureau and Library is doing a useful free service in answering queries from the public, made personally or by post,

regarding commercial and business matters and in guiding young men in the choice of a vocation in life.

#### Work in School Libraries

"The library movement in the Punjab is now being extended to school libraries. They have been so far following unscientific methods in the organization of their libraries. Means are being adopted now to make them conscious of the necessity of re-organization in their libraries and of improving library service and methods. As soon as a fair number of them have joined the Association we will have to start summer courses for teacher-librarians.

#### Library Service Bureau

"The Library Association has been feeling the necessity of a library service bureau in order to supply standard material to school, college and public libraries at cheap rates for the re-organization of libraries on modern lines. So far in India we have been generally getting our library supplies from America and England. Sometimes we have to depend upon unscrupulous local suppliers who have no knowledge of standard library supplies and the improvements that are made in them from day to day in America and England.

"In India we have no such library supply house as the Library Bureau and Gaylord Brothers in U.S.A. and Grafton & Co., and Libraco in England. The supplies that we get from these library supply houses are dear and small libraries in India cannot afford to purchase them. To remove this difficulty the Library Association, Lahore has recently appointed a committee of experts among the local librarians to organize a bureau which will be run by the Association. To run this bureau we also want your cooperation and help. We shall be pleased to have guidance from expert librarians in other parts of India who we hope will not lag behind in this important matter and co-operate with us in this venture.

#### Conclusion

"In conclusion we appeal to all library workers and other educationists gathered here for mutual co-operation and help. It is a regrettable fact that with the exception of a few enthusiasts scattered in different parts of India, library workers generally are apathetic. We have not yet the spirit of work which animates the librarians in America and England and in some other parts of the world. It is hoped

that library conferences which we occasionally hold in different parts of India and the library journal which this Association has started will do something in awakening library workers from their slumber.

"Let us repeat at the end that it is by mutual co-operation that we in India can succeed in such ventures as the library journal, library service bureau and the correspondence school of librarianship.

"We hope we can rely on your co-operation and help in these matters. We send you our warmest greetings and best wishes for success in the sacred cause for which you have gathered in the holy city of Benares."

## AMERICA INSPIRES THE PANJAB

### CONTRIBUTION OF THE PANJAB TO LIBRARY SERVICE<sup>1</sup>

RAM LABHAYA, B.A.

Librarian, Punjab Public Library, Lahore

"The Library movement is a modern institution and constitutes one of the most effective means for mass education. America and other countries of the West realized its importance long ago and have derived a considerable benefit from it. In India this movement is of recent growth and is making a fairly rapid progress. This does not mean that there were no Libraries in India before the Library movement began here. On the other hand it may be asserted without fear of contradiction that India which is noted for her ancient civilization and culture has always had a splendid system of Libraries. During the Vedic times probably there were no [not?] so called Libraries in the country. Perhaps there were no need for them, because education was imparted in those days by word of mouth and knowledge was conveyed from generation to generation orally. To facilitate the transmission of knowledge in this way the Aryans had invented a wonderful system of summarizing, *that is*, the Sutra style. One Sutra consisting of a few words only contained a great amount of knowledge that could otherwise be dealt with in several chapters, if not in a book. So the custom of writing books was perhaps not prevalent then. Then came the Buddhist age when the regeneration of the masses took place under revolutionizing teachings of the Buddha. To reach the masses writing became a necessity and so inscribing books on birch bark and palm leaf began with the Bhikkhus. Consequently each monastery became a vast store house of manuscripts and thus monastery Libraries grew up all over the country. The Universities of Taxila, Nalanda, and Vikramsila became the repositories of knowledge as embodied in books and scholars like Fahien, Huien Tsang and Itsing came from foreign countries in India to quench their thirst of knowledge. The Jains copied their Buddhist brethren in this respect and founded what may be called temple Libraries. Some of these splendid Libraries rich in ancient knowledge can still be seen at Pattan and other places in Gujarat. During the period of Hindu revival Sanskrit again came to the forefront and with it there was a renaissance of arts and literature. Temples sprang up all over the country and they were endowed with treasures of learning. Similarly kings and rajas who patronized learning and literature had splendid collections of books in their palaces. Raja Bhoja of Dhara and King Harsha of Kanouj may be cited as

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Modern Librarian* 4(January 1934):62-67. Direct quotation.

examples. Under Muslim rulers who had a great love of knowledge, libraries got a favourable soil for their growth. Many fine libraries came into existence and were associated with places of learning. Almost every respectable state had its own collection. Sultan Jalal-uddin Khilji is said to have established an Imperial library at Delhi and placed it under the charge of Amir Khusu [Khusro?]. Mohammad Gavan, the chief minister of Bahamni Kingdom, built a fine library at Bidar. The Mughal Emperors who were well known for their culture had royal libraries under special officers. Humayun was so fond of books that he converted his pleasure house into a library whose high steps proved fatal to him. Even learned families of reputation had their own particular collection.

"After the dismemberment of the Mughal Empire in the confusion that followed, a large number of valuable collections were wantonly destroyed. During early British rule under the guidance of European scholars serious efforts were made to save them from destruction, but a large number of such manuscripts were sent out of the country to adorn the shelves of foreign libraries. The loss that the country has suffered by their large export to foreign countries, by their wanton destruction at the hands of foreign invaders during the long course of history and by their having perished on account of insects and the tropical climate of the country, is indeed irreparable. The number of manuscripts that have escaped the ravages of time is still fairly large in the country. It is estimated that India still possesses over one lakh and a half of manuscripts which are treasured in her libraries, such as the Bhandarkar Research Institute, Poona; the Madras Oriental Library; the Theosophical Society's Manuscripts Library Adyar; Sanskrit College Library, Benares; Khuda Bux Library, Patna; Saraswati Mahal Library, Tanjore. These libraries were perhaps not in any sense the free public libraries that we know today, though in effect they served the same purpose, for access was always given to those that could benefit by such access.

*"The modern library movement in India began with the rise and development of the Library System of the Baroda State [emphasis added] some twenty-three years ago. A running sketch may, therefore, perhaps not be out of place. The Baroda library movement as it is generally called is a pioneer movement in our country and the credit of [for ?] top belongs to His Highness the Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad, the enlightened ruler of Baroda. It is said that the Maharaja in the course of travels in Europe and America was deeply impressed by the valuable work done by the free public libraries of those countries and their tremendous influence on the culture and the civic life of these people.*

So he made up his mind to extend to his own subjects the benefit of similar institutions. Accordingly he secured the expert services of Mr. W. A. Borden, Librarian of the Young Men's Institute, New Haven, U.S.A. and formerly a teacher in the American Library Association [!]. In 1910 the Library Department was established under the librarianship of Mr. Borden who established and organized a network of free public Libraries throughout the state. At present the Library Department controls some fifty town libraries and some 700 village libraries, besides about 200 newspaper reading rooms. The Central Library is equipped with a free open shelf library<sup>1</sup> and a free reading room. It has also a separate section for ladies and children. The country section has organized a travelling library [service] which caters for the intellectual needs of rural readers by means of magic lantern and slides [not stated well.]

"Leaving India now let me come to the Punjab. The Punjab prides itself in having four principal libraries and one first rate University Library at its capital, besides many college and departmental libraries. Of the three public libraries the oldest and the largest is the Punjab Public Library. It was established in 1884 at the instance of the Punjab Government and is open to the public free of charge. It is almost wholly financed and managed by [the] Government. It is a provincial institution and seeks to contribute to the intellectual advancement of the province by rendering accessible in one place valuable information that may be required for historical research and by providing on an adequate scale for the public means of general reading in various fields of literature and popular science. It specializes in having official publications and almost all provincial publications. As it officially gets almost every publication published in the province, it may legitimately be called copyright library for the Punjab. It is housed in an ancient Mughal building with the modern annexe containing the Oriental Section. The total number of volumes is about one lac and fifty thousand. It has almost reached its limit of accommodation in the present building and it is hoped that it will shortly be housed in a new building designed on modern and up-to-date lines as soon as the financial situation of Government improves. The other three public libraries are the Dyal Singh Library, the Dwarka Das Library and the Sir Ganga Ram Library. The first is run by the Dyal Singh Trust, the second by the Servants of the People Society founded by the late L. Lajpat Rai and the last by Sir Ganga Ram Trust. The Punjab is deeply indebted to these three prince patriots--Sir Dyal Singh Majitheia, L. Lajpat Rai and Sir Ganga Ram who gave practically all that they had for for the services of the province. The Dyal Singh Trust is

---

<sup>1</sup> An important point to note.

running besides a library, a first rate school, a first rate college, and a first rate daily newspaper viz. the Tribune. He has done for the intellectual advancement of the province what Carnegie did for his country--America. Lala Lajpat Rai's services to the country in general and the Punjab in particular are too well-known to be repeated here. Sir Ganga Ram was a noted retired Government engineer who applied his fertile brains to irrigation and agriculture. By his adventurous experiments in this virgin field he earned a princely fortune which he gave away in charity for public benefit. The trust established by him is now running besides a library, a fine hospital, a widow's home, an industrial school for ladies, a Hindu boys' career society, an asylum for Hindu disabled and a number of other institutions. Sir Malcolm Hailey, now the Governor of U.P. and then the Governor of Punjab, once said about him, "Sir Ganga Ram earned like a hero and spent like a prince." The Dyal Singh Library is now housed in a beautiful building of its own and is rendering useful service to the province. *The Dwarka Das Library was first established as the Library of the Tilak School of Politics founded by L. Lajpat Rai on his return from America in 1920 [emphasis added].*

"Later on it was renamed the Dwarka Das Library in memory of his close friend and coworker, Lala Dwarka Das, an advocate of the Lahore High Court. This Library is now housed on the second floor of the Lajpat Hall, built in his memory on the plot of land donated by him to the Servants of the People Society. It specializes in political literature. The Sir Ganga Ram Library is developing on the business and commercial side.

"The Punjab University Library was established in 1908. In 1915 the Punjab University invited Mr. A. D. Dickinson, an American expert to reorganize its Library on modern lines. Mr. Dickinson's appointment as the organizer of the Punjab University Library marks a new epoch in the history of the libraries of the province. Not only did he overhaul the University Library completely and introduced therein modern methods of classification and cataloguing, but he also collected together a band of young and enthusiastic local librarians and infused in them the new library spirit. Equipped with modern ideas regarding the science and art of library work, those young enthusiasts introduced reforms in their own libraries. We find that the majority of the libraries of Lahore are now being run by the Dewey Decimal System, first introduced by Mr. Dickinson in the Punjab University Library. For the guidance of the librarians and library workers in the province, he wrote a small book called the *Punjab Library Primer* which was published by the Punjab University in 1916. The Punjab is very grateful to Mr. Dickinson for

the admirable way in which he placed before it the high ideals of Library service both by precept and example. <sup>1</sup>

"A reference may be made to the All India Conference of Librarians which took place at Lahore in 1918. This conference was summoned by the Government of India in response to the growing public interest taken in libraries and the problems represented by them. It was attended by the representatives of the Local Governments, the Universities, the departments of the Government of India and the leading public libraries in the country. The main recommendation of the conference was the promotion of reciprocity between libraries of all kinds in the country and the recognition of the principle of inter-borrowing between them. To give effect to this recommendation a comprehensive scheme was evolved by the Government of India. India was divided under this scheme into a number of circles within which facilities were proposed to be adopted for the circulation of books and periodicals through an equal number of distribution centres, each centre being used as a bureau of information and a borrowing agency for its own circle and also for intercircle purposes. As far as my information goes, this central library scheme was not taken up in any part of India except in Punjab. In 1929 the Punjab Public Library, Lahore undertook under the orders of Government the functions of the Central Library for the circle consisting of the Punjab, the Indian states located in or near the Punjab and the North West Frontier Province. The scheme elicited a fairly good response and as many as thirty libraries from all over the province responded to the invitation and later on joined the scheme. The scheme was worked out for about two years and achieved a fair measure of success during this short period when all of a sudden it had to be abandoned under the orders of Government on account of financial stringency. Those who wish to know more about this Central Library scheme and its working in the Punjab are referred to my paper on the subject read at the third Punjab Library Conference held at Lahore in May 1933 published in the *Modern Librarian* of July 1933.

"A reference has been made to the Library training class started by Mr. Dickinson in 1915 in connection with the reorganization of the Punjab University Library. As mentioned before, he gathered round him a number of local library workers and trained them in the latest library methods prevalent in America. He fired them with the new library spirit which manifested itself in bringing about a library awakening in the Province. Imitating the Punjab University Library almost all the college libraries underwent a transformation in this respect and

---

1. America's direct contribution.

consequently they were reorganized on the modern system. The demand for trained library workers arose not only from all parts of the province, but from other provinces as well. So since 1915 the Punjab University Library has been holding library classes and as many as a hundred Librarians, mainly graduates, have qualified themselves and are at present holding responsible posts in University, college and public libraries in India. My friend, Khalifa Mohammad Asadullah B.A., F.L.A., who is at present holding the highest library post in the country, is a fine product of the Punjab and of the Punjab Library Training class. (emphasis added).

"No survey of the Punjab libraries will perhaps be complete without a reference being made to the rural libraries in the province. Ours is an agricultural country where the number of villages is about 90 percent. Therefore we cannot possibly hope to raise the intellectual level of the country unless we remove illiteracy from the villages where the majority of the people live. It is a matter for pleasure to state that a serious effort is being made in the Punjab to establish and maintain rural libraries. The problem is being attacked from two independent sides. There are rural libraries established and maintained by the Rural Community Board and there are others which are being maintained by the Punjab Co-operative Society. The Rural Community Board is a non-government organization having on it heads of beneficent departments of Government, such as Director of Public Instruction, Director of Public Health, Director of Agriculture, Director of Information Bureau, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Secretary of the Transferred Departments, Secretary of the St. John Ambulance Association, Secretary of the Red Cross Society, and the Secretary of the Boys Scouts Association. The Minister of Education and the Inspector of Vernacular Education are its President and Secretary respectively. These libraries were started in 1925 with the maintenance grant of Rs. 60,000 annually out of the provincial revenues for the purchase of books. Another sum of Rs. 50,000 a year was spent by Government on account of allowances given to the teachers of village schools who acted as librarians. The total number of village libraries on the grant-in-aid list in the province on 31st March 1933 was 1594. The number of small town and rural libraries maintained by the Punjab Co-operative Society is at present 48. A sum of Rs. 3,000 is spent annually on these libraries which contain books in the provincial vernaculars mainly on co-operation and allied subjects. Both types of these libraries are very popular and are doing useful service at places which are situated far away from the centres of learning and light.

"A reference may also be made about the new venture in the province, I mean the travelling libraries. If people cannot go to books let books go to [the] people. To carry out this principle the system of travelling libraries has been brought into existence and is rendering a valuable service in the West. It is one of the most effective methods to stimulate love of reading where people are not active enough to benefit from libraries. An effort was made in this direction in Lahore, mainly among ladies, by the Servants of India Society. Certain library centres were created in different parts of the city and they were supplied with boxes of books. The boxes were placed in charge of a lady who of course did this work as a labour of love. She distributed these books to the ladies living in her neighborhood. Sometimes those ladies met at a particular place and held talks on books and religious and social topics. When all the books were read, they were inter-changed and thus the boxes travelled from one centre to the other.

"I cannot end this paper without making a brief mention of the Punjab Library Association and the *Modern Librarian*. The Punjab Library Association, though perhaps the youngest of all Indian Library Associations, has the highest record to its credit. During its short existence it has done splendid work in popularizing the library movement not only in Punjab, but in India as well. It was started as the Lahore Librarians' Club by a band of young Library workers in Lahore. It was renamed as the Punjab Library Association. Since its inception it has had three annual provincial Conferences where important papers on libraries and allied subjects were read. In 1929 it invited the All India Library Conference to Lahore and achieved a great measure of success.

"Perhaps the greatest achievement of the Association is the creation of the *Modern Librarian*, a quarterly journal published by the Association under the editorship of my friend, *Doctor Velte* [emphasis added] of the Forman Christian College, Lahore, who is a distinguished scholar and an enthusiastic worker in the cause of Library progress. He has made the *Modern Librarian* what it is today. It is the leading, perhaps, the only Library journal in India, Burma and Ceylon. It has earned a good name for library service not only in our own country but abroad as well. The very fact that it is being considered seriously to be run in future by the Indian Library Association which is shortly to be born of the present All Indian Library Conference, is a testimony to the glory of its highest achievement.

## **The Panjab--Library Cooperation**

*The Modern Librarian* published the papers presented at various library conferences held in Lahore and elsewhere in India.

A fine scheme of interlibrary cooperation (loan as well as acquisition) is discussed by Ram Labhaya, Librarian, Punjab Public Library, Lahore, on pages 160-164 of the July 1933 issue. It was an outcome of the All-India Conference of Librarians held in Lahore in January 1918.

"The Hon'ble Mr. J. A. Richey, then Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, Mr. A. C. Woolner, M.A., C.I.E. then Registrar of the Punjab University; my friend and teacher, Mr. Labhu Ram, then Librarian of the Punjab Public Library, and the late Mr. Mukand Lal Bhatia, then Assistant Librarian, Punjab University Library, were representatives from the Punjab". (p. 161)

Punjab Public Library was designated to be the Central Library for the region. Financial stringency proved to be the rock on which the ship of the plan got wrecked!

## VELTE CONTRIBUTES through THE MODERN LIBRARIAN

The third annual Punjab Library Conference was held in Lahore from 13 to 15 April 1933. Velte, as the Chairman of the Association addressed the delegates and gave a report on the activities of the Association. (The *Modern Librarian* 3:123-25, April 1933.) The preceding year had been very bad financially. The financial stringency had hit hard the libraries. Even The *Modern Librarian* had to suffer. It had lost some subscribers. According to Velte, its very life was imperilled. However, the library workers were able to keep the movement going on. The interest of the people in libraries was sustained.

The *Modern Librarian* was the most tangible achievement of the Association. It had improved in quality and scope. Velte said:

It has been very well received, especially in the United States of America and we have been much inspired by words of encouragement from American and British subscribers. Our Indian subscribers also are very appreciative, and have praised us more than we deserve. [p.124]

The Association and its journal had identical objectives. The journal published a large number of articles on various library subjects and reports on libraries from all over India. In that respect it was an all-India journal. However, it paid more attention to near at home, the Panjab.

In its articles, the journal spoke in terms of Indian library conditions. Velte was right in this respect. There was no point in merely describing and dealing with conditions which were foreign totally and had no bearing on the conditions at home. "We must adopt our teaching of these matters to our circumstances and our needs," Velte said.

He added:

The *Modern Librarian* as the organ of the Library Associations of India must endeavour to popularise libraries by developing an interest in reading of the right kind. Hence our emphasis on book reviews and the occasional presence in our pages of less technical and more purely literary articles.

We do want to educate people by making them desire to read. [p.125]

Concluding his address Velte said:

If we can succeed in doing this (to battle for the best in reading matter and try to elevate the popular taste in literature) not merely will the Library Movement prosper, but the Province will progress both intellectually and spiritually.

*The Modern Librarian Continues to Serve*

By October 1932 the journal *The Modern Librarian* had completed two years of its successful service to the nation. In his editorial of the first issue of the third year Velte expressed his satisfaction over the success achieved and urged for greater effort in the years to come. He thanked his supporters and invited their further cooperation.

Finally Velte said:

Verily the Library Movement in India has been built up on the efforts of many and on that foundation of united effort only can it rise to its ultimate full stature. We have built, it is true, very slowly, but we have built, it is to be hoped, to endure. With this hope we enter upon a new session of effort in *The Modern Librarian*.

## America Continues to Inspire the Panjab

### Velte and *The Modern Librarian*

Sant Ram Bhatia, Librarian, Forman Christian College, Lahore, wrote a paper in 1936, entitled the "History of Libraries and the Library Movement in the Punjab,"<sup>2</sup> wherein he brought out the significance of the contribution made by two Americans--Dickinson and Velte. He said:

"The Punjab, particularly its capital city, Lahore is fortunate in possessing some of India's best libraries. The Punjab Public Library is India's second biggest library, the first being the Imperial Library, Calcutta. Besides the Punjab Public Library, Lahore possesses the Dyal Singh Public, the Dwarka Das Public, Sir Ganga Ram Public, the Punjab Vedic, Lahore Gymkhana and College libraries.

"Although the Punjab is proud of its libraries and the modern system of classification and cataloguing, which have been adopted by almost all libraries, we cannot unfortunately claim to have ideal library conditions in the province.

. . . . .

"The first step towards the organisation of a library movement in the Punjab was taken by Mr. Asa Don Dickinson who in 1916 founded the Punjab Library Association. This institution, however, did not survive on account of his departure and for twelve years no further progress was made. In October 1929 at the invitation of Mr. Rattan Chand Manchanda, Librarian, Haily College of Commerce, Lahore, a group of librarians formed themselves into a "Librarian's Club" and only a month later it shouldered the heavy task of sponsoring the All-India Library Conference in Lahore. This Conference was held in December 1929 and was a great success. A provincial library association was formed with a view to further the establishment, extension and development of libraries and to increase the usefulness of public, college, school and other libraries and to make them a vital factor in the educational life of the communities they are intended to serve. In November 1930, the association started the *Modern Librarian*, a quarterly journal for library workers and readers, under the editorship of Dr. F. Mowbray Velte, Prof. of English Literature, Forman Christian College, Lahore.

---

1 *The Modern Librarian*, 6(January 1936):87-95. This is a direct quotation.

The aim of the [sic] *The Modern Librarian* is to initiate a real library movement in the Punjab.<sup>1</sup>

"The *Modern Librarian* is now in its 6th year and nearly one half of each issue of the journal contains book reviews, lists of latest books and such material as will guide library readers in the study and choice of books and in the selection of reading courses." [p. 95]

---

<sup>1</sup> Note the absence and presence of the definite article in the title of the journal.

## THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT<sup>1</sup>

Dr. A. C. Woolner, C.I.E., M.A., D. Litt., F.A.S.B.  
Vice-Chancellor, University of the Panjab

A. C. Woolner was a great patron and promoter of the library movement in India. He presided over the second session of the the All-India Library Confence held at Lucknow in April 1935. His presidential address was thoughtful as well as thought-provoking. He must have derived a great deal of library inspiration from Dickinson. The full address follows:

Our friends ask us with languid interest what is the Library Conference? They realise, I suppose, that there are libraries scattered about the country. They might even suppose that people particularly concerned with these might have some common interests to discuss, just as there might be a conference of Bridge Engineers, or of people concerned with Light Houses. Of course, those matters would be regarded by the Philistines as of much greater importance. A broken railway bridge or a light house that fails to function may be the cause of serious loss of life and property. The lack of bridges may hamper trade and administration, the lack of light-houses makes navigation dangerous. But Libraries, after all, say too many men in the street, what do they matter? Closing libraries does not hamper trade, they say, or cause an epidemic.

Peasants, traders, lawyers and even school masters seem to get on quite happily without any books or with very few. Libraries are regarded as a luxury for the learned or as a conventional appendage of a University or of a Secretariat.

To many it would seem absurd to suggest that the transport of ideas and information is more important than the transport of goods and passengers, that the diffusion of knowledge was more important to the administration than easy communications, or that the warring beams of knowledge penetrating the fogs of prejudice and the darkness of ignorance are more essential to human life than navigation. Or even if homage is paid to knowledge in the abstract, our friends may not

---

<sup>1</sup> The "Presidential Address" delivered at the Second All-India Library Conference held at Lucknow University from 19 to 22 April, 1935, *Indian Library Journal*, 3(November 1935):12-17. This is a direct quotation.

realise the role that can be played by libraries in the diffusion of enlightenment.

So then our Library Conference has two aspects. It is indeed a conference of persons particularly concerned with Libraries to discuss the many problems that arise in the actual management of collections of books. Those problems are much more numerous than is realised by the general public and there has been a steady growth in the West of the special literature dealing with those problems. A great deal of thought has been devoted to numerous aspects of library work--the planning and equipment of Library buildings, the organization of Library classification, cataloguing and the care of books, assistance to readers from the child in a Juvenile Section to the researcher in some abstruse subject, circulation of books from a library or between libraries, travelling libraries, bibliography and the training of professional librarians.

To some of these aspects we shall return. Many of them with others will be discussed in the papers which will be read in this conference. For the more technical aspects, the Indian Library Association acts as a storehouse of information and as a council of advisors.

Over and beyond all this, however, is the other aspect of the Conference. That is to promote the Library Movement, to report progress and rally all available forces in a renewed campaign, in support of that movement.

What is the Library Movement? To members of this conference that is an unnecessary question, but for the outside world we should have our answers ready.

The Library Movement, as I understand it, demands more libraries and better libraries all over the country, not only to meet the existing demands of people who can read but also to increase that demand and foster the reading habit.

Like enterprising merchants of less beneficial wares we have at once to create the demand and organise the supply.

Some people may imagine that good libraries follow the demand for books automatically and that until the demand becomes insistent there is nothing for public authorities or for philanthropic benefactors to do in the matter.

They may say that a poor country which is largely illiterate has no need of a library movement. To this audience, I need hardly say that such ideas are illusory. The need of books and the capacity to use them do not by themselves produce a good library service. It is in a country where only a few can afford to spend much on their private collections of books that the need of public libraries becomes all the [more?] greater. *It is only by giving full opportunities to the literate and to the educated that we can hope to dispel the cloud of illiteracy and the ignorance it entails.* //Was this sentence underlined in the original?// Q. The whole history of the library movement in other countries shows that a system of public libraries, maintained even by compulsory taxation, has not only catered for an existing demand but has fostered and vastly increased the habit of reading among the middle and poorer classes. Nor has this reading been merely a devouring of fiction as an escape from the tedium of daily life, but largely solid serious reading whether for information or for the development of intellectual life.

*Of course, education is also necessary. Magnificent Libraries in a land where nobody could read would stand like monuments waiting for future generations to explore them.* They would resemble the hieroglyphic records of Egypt or the Cuneiform libraries of Iraq. For centuries the script and languages had been forgotten and not a single inhabitant could read a single word.

Libraries do not run classes to teach men the alphabet and grammar of the languages in which their books are written. Of education in the country, we may make two observations from this point of view. In the first place, the education that is given in school and college does not provide adequate reading matter for its products. Thousands of students pass their examinations, sell their text books and that is an end of their reading, except perhaps of newspapers and various codes. Even in the schools, there is often very little to read, very little that is worth reading. Afterwards in a small town or during holidays in a village there is nothing to read. A graduate may find himself thirty miles from any sort of library or even book-stall.

The second observation we may make is that our system of education teaches men to read but fails too often to give them any real love of reading or even the power of intelligent reading for themselves.

There are, of course, many factors, which produce this result. It would take us too far afield to attempt their analysis or discuss their remedies. Yet we are all aware of the immense difference between cramming facts and phrases for a pass examination and reading as a voyage of discovery, reading from curiosity and for delight, reading for information and reading to gain knowledge as one of the keys to powers.

Though we are not here to reform education, yet we may emphasise two points. The ability to use a library, the extent to which a graduate or matriculate demands library service is an acid test of the reality of his education. The second point is the same thing at an earlier stage, namely, that a good library (even though it be only a small one) is quite as important as laboratories and is in fact the most important part of the equipment of a school or college. It is for this that a building is required, while classes can often quite well sit in the sun or under trees. The value of a good library and use of a library as a teaching tool is not sufficiently understood by many teachers. It seems to be hardly understood at all by many educational authorities. It is much better to maintain four institutions with good libraries than six with inadequate libraries or ten with hardly any libraries at all.

Some of the main subjects of the library movement are to make people realise the importance of educational and public libraries, to break up the general apathy of the public and of Governments with regard to this matter, and to make them realise that a niggardly policy in this regard is false economy.

If we wish to quote examples of what is done elsewhere it is not necessary to speak of the richer countries like Great Britain or the United States of America.

The time has not come when public authorities in India will cheerfully devote a crore of rupees to the building and equipment of a great library, such as those that His Majesty the King Emperor opened recently at Cambridge and at Glasgow. A description of American libraries may make the Indian librarian's mouth water in vain.

I will quote only two examples. The first is of the Slovenians, a small people in Eastern Europe, one of the ingredients of Yugo-Slavia, the kingdom of the Southern Slaves. Of these Slovenians, who have their own Slavonic dialect, there are only

about one and a half million (1.1 million in Yugo- Slavia,) and half of those in Slovenia live in villages less than 500 people. The countryside is not wealthy; the chief town Ljubljana (or in German Laibach) is not very famous. Yet I find it recorded in a book<sup>1</sup> published last year that "most of the larger villages and all towns have public libraries, reading rooms and little theatre groups. Most homes, city and village alike, have bookshelves with books on them."

One book club had over 40,000 subscribers, another nearly 30,000, two over 20,000. Juvenile book clubs distribute 100,000 books a year among 23,000 children between ten and fourteen."

My next example is Baroda. Every member of this Conference will know something of what has been achieved in that State by the enlightened policy and personal interest of His Highness of Gaikwad. The Library movement in Baroda is part of a carefully devised programme of mass education inaugurated and developed by His Highness. By 1907, elementary education was made compulsory for boys and girls throughout the State. It was soon realised that "universal education required as an essential supplement to it a network of free public libraries which would keep literacy alive and enable men and women in rural areas to have access to sources of knowledge not hitherto open to them." His Highness insisted that "libraries should not limit their benefits to the few English-knowing readers but should see to it that their good work permeates through to the many" so that every citizen in the state "may enroll himself in the people's university--the library." A scheme of free public libraries on a grant-in-aid basis was introduced in 1910 and there is now a network of prant, town, village and travelling libraries which serve over 60 per cent of the population of the State." [!] <sup>1</sup>

The latest figures I have seen (1931-32) show for a population of two and a half million, 45 town and district libraries, over 800 village libraries, a dozen libraries for ladies and children and nearly 200 reading rooms.

The focus and centre of all these has been the central library at Baroda, first organised by the late Mr. W. A. Borden whose work was carried on and developed for about twenty years by Mr. Newton

---

<sup>1</sup> Adamis. The Native's Return.

<sup>1</sup> vide Introduction by the Dewan of Baroda, in *Baroda and its Libraries* of Newton Mohun Dutt, 1928.

M. Dutt. The number of readers in this system is about eighty thousand and the circulation figure about four and a quarter lakhs.

These two examples may serve to indicate what has been found possible in Eastern Europe and in Western India. We must admit that the general average in India falls below this standard.

The general object of the Library movement then is to throw off the dead weight of apathy and indifference, to awaken interest in the value and importance of a good library service as one of the most essential means of cutting roads and making clearings in the dense jungle of ignorance.

It is not only a question of preserving literacy among the masses who go to school or among the greater masses who should now be induced to go to school. There is also the need of providing better facilities for the smaller numbers whose reading and thinking can go much further and for the few exceptional minds of original power who may start their reading in a village library but become leaders of thought or leaders in public affairs.

Even those who are so to say brought up in the purple and enjoy the higher teaching of a University (or take part in it) come constantly to a point where they find the resources of their University library inadequate. Many are forced to go to Europe to find the books they need. Students of Indian (not to speak of Asiatic) subjects can frequently find more library material in London or Paris than in India and are generally in a better position there than a student of European subjects anywhere in India.

The needs of the country then can be regarded along two broad lines. There is the need of a network of *little libraries*, there is also the need of greater libraries at Universities and at Provincial capitals with one great national library for all India, of which all India may be proud. Baroda has given a lead in the formation and organisations of village libraries and travelling libraries. Every Ministry of Education should include a library department or at least a branch of Education Department dealing entirely with the development of libraries. This should be managed by an experienced librarian. Something has been done in some parts of India in the way of using a school library as a public library. This method is capable of great expansion. The library of any school or college should be available not only to those who are learning to read but also to those

who have been trained. Some system of contribution by the village or town would help to improve these libraries. One of the valuable features of the Baroda system is that only about a third of the cost of the state-aided libraries is borne by Government. Another feature that can be developed is that of Travelling libraries. This principle need not be confined to places where there is no library. On the contrary, book-boxes of say twenty new books can be circulated to local libraries in order to give their readers a fresh stimulus. The organisation of this method of circulation should be one important duty of the Library Department in each province and larger state.

Towns, especially the head-quarters of districts, can well afford to provide better public libraries than most of them do. Unfortunately when funds are short, the library grant is one of the easiest to cut. Town councillors and officials fondly imagine that no harm is done, not realising that the harder the times the greater is the need of knowledge and intelligence. Dr. Thomas explained at the last conference what has been effected in some other countries by Public Library Acts.

At nodal points at the capitals of provinces and in University towns greater libraries are required. These should be centres of the Library movement and a source of inspiration to local institutions. A system of exchange should bind up all the greater libraries in India.

In the appropriate centre for each of the important Indian languages there should be a copyright library for books in that language and other publications in that area.

In one centre there should be a general copyright library for all India, maintaining a collection of the more important publications of every province and state.

For copyright libraries, of course, legislation is required. Authorities may be afraid of the cost of to [!] increased accommodation and staff that may be necessary. Nevertheless these are the ordinary demands of literate countries. These demands are bound to be met before very long, and power should be taken now to secure much valuable material which will become of great historical interest before it is too late. In India there is a race between civilisation and the white-ant aided by other insects. This general national library should also comprise collections of books in European languages on a scale that has not yet been attempted in this country. The large libraries of Universities, learned societies and technical

institutions or technical departments of Governments will complete the picture.

None of these should be watertight compartments. There should be a system of inter-borrowing, according to particular needs of books and documents and free exchange of ideas and experience in the technique of library work.

It will be obvious that with so large a programme of library development in such a vast country as India, no single association can maintain all the propaganda that is required, or tackle all the numerous problems that are involved.

A conference like this may meet every second year to take stock of the general progress, to discuss problems and recommend fresh advances with words of encouragement for the workers in the districts. The Indian Library Association can deal, and I hope will be increasingly successful in dealing, with a whole range of technical problems, with the linking up of the greater libraries, and with the uplift of the Librarian's profession, which involves the proper training of the Librarian. It should become the appropriate body to advise Governments with regard to the lines of Library Legislation. As it finds its feet and gains influence, it should speak with greater authority in support of libraries and librarians and tap with greater assurance at the door of financial departments.

For local propoganda, for spreading our doctrines into smaller towns and villages, for adjusting general plans to local circumstances and arousing individual enthusiasm, and for this we need local Library associations all over the country. There are several already doing excellent work, but more are needed.

For both, that is for local activities and for the central organisation, there is need of more money. Small libraries and librarians enjoying modest emoluments may be loath to tax themselves for the general cause. It is like taxing missionaries in order to promote missions. We must tap other sources. One important side of our general propoganda must be to convince the public of the importance of the work that is being attempted by these Associations. We must appeal for assistance to all who will make some sacrifice for a national cause, for bequests and donations from the wealthy, for modest subscriptions from thousands of others who can read and realise the value of that gift.

The Madras Library Association is now seven years old with over six hundred members and the last annual report shows abundant activity. The Punjab Library Association is well established and has issued a useful journal the MODERN LIBRARIAN. The Public Libraries Association based in Andhra has also done excellent work and published an interesting magazine. Our last Conference at Calcutta has given a stimulus to the formation of Library Association in Bengal. It is hoped that our visit on this occasion to Lucknow will afford a similar stimulus to a Library Association for the United Provinces.

If indeed the meetings of this conference had no other result than leaving a line of Associations in the track of our migration round India, they would be amply justified. This anticipation has been one of the sources of the pleasure felt by the Council of the Indian Library Association in accepting the invitation of Lucknow for the Association and this conference to meet here on this occasion. On behalf of the Library Association and of members of the Conference, I wish to express our high appreciation of the enthusiasm and cordiality of the Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University and all other members of the Reception Committee.

Our thanks are specially due to the University Librarian, Dr. Wali Mohammad, and those who have assisted him in making excellent arrangements for our reception and for the work that lies before us.

Our visit to Lucknow is certain to leave us pleasant recollections. I hope it will also be remembered by something useful achieved from among the many items of our programme, some step forward taken in the progress of a movement which we regard as of vast importance for the future of all India.

**America Inspires the Panjab**  
**Moti Sagar promotes the library movement**

*Appreciation of Dickinson and Velte By Ratanchand Manchanda*

Ratanchand Manchand, Secretary of the Library Association, Lahore wrote an obituary article on "Late Sir Moti Sagar and the Library Movement" in *The Modern Librarian*, 1(December 1930):28-30 showing how Moti Sagar had helped to promote the cause of the library movement in India, especially in the Panjab.

"In 1929 some library enthusiasts took upon themselves the responsibility to organize the seventh session of the All-India Library Conference [First Series] in Lahore. They had no resources except their own enthusiasm, which had no bounds. Ratanchand Manchand says:

"To the help of the meek and humble adventurers came the Lord Himself. In a province where a [!] library movement was [as] strange as fiction, this small group of enthusiastic librarians *who had been shown the torch of light some years back by Asa Don Dickinson, an American librarian engaged by the University of the Panjab for reorganizing its library on the modern scientific methods*, (emphasis added throughout), sought the help of their friends and colleagues in the educational line at that critical juncture.

"The call was very well responded to. *There came in Dr. F. Mowbray Velte [note the mention of Velte as the first one], Professors S. N. Das Gupta, A. K. Siddhanta, (an alumnus of America) [and] M. S. Bhatti, who took up the work in right earnest and since then have been the standard bearers of the cause of the library movement along with a small group of enthusiastic librarians.*"(p. 28)

Velte Promotes Library Movement in South Asia

Dr. F. M. Velte was the Librarian of the Forman Christian College. He must have been the old type of "Honorary librarian," or the Professor-in-charge of the Library, holding all the executive powers, while the so-called "Librarian" functioned merely as a clerk--only a laborer. He was teaching English literature as his primary responsibility. This tradition was bequeathed to India by her superior masters, the British imperialists.

Velte presented a report of the Forman Christian College for the year 1932-33 and signed it as the "Librarian."<sup>1</sup> In addition to performing the editorial work of *The Modern Librarian* and the preparing the book reviews, Velte rendered library service also by giving professional advice on various methods adopted by leading libraries for fostering reading habits amongst the students. Mr. K. Sellaiah, Librarian, Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai, Ceylon, wrote to Velte inquiring about the library methods. Velte's response was published on pages 143-44. It is worth reading. It constitutes valuable library literature, a great contribution of Indo-American library cooperation.

How to Foster Reading Habits.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. K. Sellaiah, Librarian, Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai, Ceylon, wrote to the Librarian, Forman Christian College, Lahore, inquiring the various methods adopted by the Library for fostering reading habits amongst the students. Dr. Velte, Librarian of the College gave him the following reply which was reproduced for the readers of the *Modern Librarian*.

"I have received your letter of the 13th March, 1933 and shall reply to the best of my ability in the light of our experience in the College Library here.

"Perhaps the most difficult problem facing a college librarian in North India is that of inculcating reading habits in the student body. He cannot succeed without the co-operation of the college staff, and this they are frequently very slow to give him. It is the duty of the staff constantly to suggest reading supplementary to the courses taught

---

1 *The Modern Librarian*, 3(April 1933):144-45.

2 *The Modern Librarian*, 3(April 1933):143-44.

and to link up their teaching intimately with such supplementary reading. This is the first step towards making students library-minded.

"It is important for the Librarian himself to make his library attractive by creating in it as far as possible a home-like and comfortable atmosphere. It should look as little like a class room as possible, should have attractive pictures on its walls, and be provided with such tables and chairs and other furnishings as give the maximum of utility with the maximum of real comfort. If students learn first to seek rest and quiet from the dullness of class room in the library, they will soon turn to the books as the next step. The silence rule, however, must be sternly enforced; the library should not be allowed to degenerate into a centre for gossip.

"It is important that the Librarian watch the book lists and make attractive additions to his stock each year. There is a tendency to confine purchases of books of a serious and sombre nature--very good books, but books that the average student turns [away?] from with a certain amount of terror. Books must be purchased which are up-to-date, attractively bound, and of a lighter nature in addition to more serious books. The reading of these lighter books--I do not mean trash by this--will lead to the formation of the reading habit and students can thereafter be persuaded to venture into more serious fields of reading. But the annual purchase of text-books, histories of literature and the like, will not induce boys to read: they need stuff that is less stodgy.

"All new books should be well advertised. This can be done by reviews of a stimulating nature in the college magazines. It can also be done by maintaining a special shelf or cupboard for new accessions where they are permanently on display. It can also be done by taking the paper covers--the dust covers--which are often very attractive and pasting them on a board near the entrance of the library in such a way as to provoke attention.

"It is useful also to have several 'Books you would enjoy' boards obtainable from the American Library Association on which are posted names of books that would interest the student body. These names should be changed every month or two. Another good device is to make a monthly selection of articles from the magazine to which you subscribe and to post a list, advising students to read these articles.

"We have also found of value the small booklet which I enclose [name not given]. If the staff check up on these books occasionally, the students will begin to read more.

"In addition we are about to introduce library study groups for the First Year. In these groups certain books will be recommended and the students will sit in the library and read quietly together under supervision. The scheme has not yet been initiated but we look forward to it with interest.

"There is much more that might be said in this matter but I believe I have given you a general idea of our plan of work. I trust it will be of use to you."

[ FOLLOW THE EXAMLE OF BARODA ].

Paper by Ratanchand Manchand on his visit to Baroda. Based on his direct observation and study. Conditions in the Panjab compared with those in Baroda.

By a Visitor

"I have had a short visit to Baroda--the only State in India which has inaugurated a real [emphasis added] library movement and has established a net-work of free public libraries. Although time and circumstances did not permit me to travel in the state to see that net-work of libraries which the Maharaja of Baroda has established and I had to confine myself to libraries in the metropolis, I could gather from the spirit of library workers and the work done by them there a notion of the work that was being done throughout the length and breadth of the State.<sup>1</sup>

"In the following pages I shall try to give you glimpses of different phases of the library movement that the Maharaja has inaugurated in his state, side by side comparing it with the library conditions in our own province [Punjab] wherever possible. To those who want to read a full account of the work done by the State I should suggest the name of Mr. Dutt's classic on the subject,<sup>2</sup> an excellent work, containing all phases of the library movement in Baroda and a useful handbook for library workers everywhere.

"It is said [why this kind of hearsay?] that some twenty years ago<sup>3</sup> the Maharaja of Baroda while travelling in the United States of America was deeply impressed by the wonderful work done by free public libraries in moulding the character, life and culture of the people of the West. Like our own Punjab University, he engaged the services of an expert American Librarian Mr. W. A. Borden, Librarian of the Young Men's Institute, New Haven--to organise a library department in Baroda.

---

1 Ratanchand Manchanda (Hailey College Library, Lahore) "The Library Movement in Baroda and Its Comparison with Library conditions in the Punjab," *The Modern Librarian*, 1(January and February 1931):61-66.

2 Dutt, N. M. *Baroda and its libraries*. Baroda: Central Library, 1928.

3 The account was written in 1931. "Twenty years ago" would take us to 1911 or so. However, the foundations were laid in 1906, or even earlier.

"Mr. Borden having founded the Central Library in the capital city planned to establish a net-work of free public libraries throughout the state, and started a training class to coach men and women in library work to take charge of them. On Mr. Borden's recommendations<sup>4</sup> the Government of Baroda founded a system of grant-in-aid to rural and urban libraries similar to that we have in the Punjab Education Department for schools. By the initiative of the Government and by private enterprise there have been established now about eight hundred free public libraries, with a stock of six lakhs of volumes and a circulation of four lakhs of books in a year amongst seventy thousand readers in rural areas alone. Besides these there are two hundred newsrooms which possess newspapers and magazines only.

"Just as in the Punjab religious societies, philanthropic persons and the public in general have taken a most important part in <sup>2</sup> establishing a net-work of schools throughout the province, taking advantage of the grant given by the Education Department. Similarly the people of Baroda have also not been slow in taking advantage of the facilities afforded by the state for the establishment of libraries for their culture. When times become normal<sup>3</sup> shall we in the Punjab divert [attract or direct?] the attention of the Education Department to this important phase of educational work, as important as schools, which has so far been comparatively ignored?

"The Maharaja of Baroda realized that the idea of establishing a school at a certain place without supplementing it by a public library was trying to build a house on sand without foundations.<sup>4</sup> The purpose of a school, thought he, is to teach boys and girls how to read and that of the library to supply the material for reading. Unless the education of the boy and girl, who has finished his or her education in school is supplemented by a library he or she generally lapses into illiteracy. He becomes as dangerous to society as a half-educated doctor for his

---

4 Baroda already had a grant-in-aid system. It was not founded on Mr. Borden's recommendation. No doubt, the system was considerably improved as a result of Borden's guidance and direction.

2 Formal education vs. informal education. The former was a means of employment, getting a job. There was a demand for it. It was felt to be a real need, a necessity. Hence more support for formal education.

3 Why not normal in 1931? Civil disobedience movement led by the Indian National Congress?

4 Not a good analogy! It could be "roof."

patients. The Government of Baroda therefore are establishing a library in every village possessing a primary school.

"In Baroda as soon as a boy or girl leaves the school he or she becomes a member of the public library where, unlike our public libraries, nothing is charged for borrowing books for home use and continues his or her education throughout life. People so educated become true citizens of the state.

"The government of every state, more or less, depends for direction upon the intelligence and sense of discrimination of the people. This intelligence and sense of discrimination is exhibited by their vote for their representatives sent to municipalities and legislative councils. What to talk of illiterates there are a number of people everywhere who are not illiterates in the literal sense of the word, but having no cultural education they have no sense of discrimination between right and wrong and therefore follow blindly and without the exercise of judgment the leadership of those who would corrupt justice and endanger public safety to meet their own ends.

"To enlighten the masses in this sense of discrimination between right and wrong the Government of Baroda have given them the boon of free public libraries throughout the length and breadth of the state. The education and culture attained through the medium of these libraries make them prosperous--healthier, more industrious and wiser than those who do not have such culture.

"The village library in Baroda is generally the best building in the village. It is the intellectual centre of the inhabitants of the village --a meeting place for the discussion of local as well as national subjects. On the walls of the library is found a chart containing statistics about the village, e.g., the population, the number of literates and illiterates, occupations in which they are engaged, etc. [Is this true of all the libraries or just a specific library. Which one? Vaso?]

"In remote places where there are no library facilities for its inhabitants or libraries of which [such?] places [that] do not contain sufficient number of books [to?] meet the demand of readers, a system of *travelling libraries* have [has] been established, so that no one in the state should be handicapped by his geographical location to [get?] access to library books. There are five hundred boxes in the central library each capable of holding fifteen to thirty books. To books are added indoor games and amusements as well as stereoscopes and

stereographs depicting beautiful scenery on [or?] varied phases of life in different parts of the world for children. These boxes are dispatched at the state's expense to any library, school, factory, hospital or to any responsible person who undertakes to distribute the books in his locality. The travelling libraries have a stock of eighteen thousand volumes. About sixteen thousand volumes are circulated in about two hundred centres in a year.

"In spite of free and compulsory primary education in the state the majority of the people are still illiterates.<sup>1</sup> Such people cannot make use of the facilities afforded by the state for self education and culture. To meet the needs of such people the state has established a *Visual Instruction Department*, which carries on its work by means of popular lectures, illustrated by cinematographs and magic lanterns, radiopticans, picture postcards, stereographs and stereoscopes. These shows are very popular and are attended by huge crowds of men, women and children.

"Another phase of the library movement and another quest of the library worker is concerned with getting the people to desire to read books. It is a problem of promoting national intelligence by creating among the people a wide-spread love of reading. It is no fault of librarians or library trustees, we say, if people do not make use of the facilities afforded for them. Libraries in Baroda make use of the educational and other agencies of the state, schools, colleges, clubs, factories, hospitals, etc., in creating among children and adults a desire for reading. Attention of the people is diverted [directed?] to the best works of fiction, the most thrilling and interesting of the biographies of great men, best books dealing with health and longevity in life, the most subtle of modern mystery stories, the best publications of historical events and the best books dealing with various professions, carpentry, agriculture, dentistry, photography, etc. [Books in Indian language?]

"Cannot the librarian solve the unemployment problem by creating among boys a love for manual work and a desire to occupy themselves in various industries?<sup>1</sup> In Western countries as soon as a boy leaves his school he generally joins a factory or technical school where he gets his professional training. It is no doubt true that the Government here has not afforded enough facilities for technical work for educated young men. But we cannot also deny that educated young men in India are

---

<sup>1</sup> Very important. 80 percent still illiterate. cf. Rice

<sup>1</sup> He is not a magician. He is a man, after all is said and done!

generally averse to technical work. How many young men join the Dying Institute of Shadara, the Hosiery Institute at Ludhiana, and [the] weaving institutes at Lahore, Amritsar, Layallpur, and several other places? "Shall we get employment after learning the work?" they enquire, if anybody suggests to them to join these institutions. Why it is so? Because the spirit of enterprise, the dignity of manual work, and the desire for independent professions has not been created in them either by the teacher or the librarian.

"In Children's Library and Playroom at Baroda you will find games made by the children themselves on the initiative of the librarian who gives them toy making books written for children. Mr. Dutt, the Curator of the Baroda Libraries, showed me toy ships and other beautiful wooden and metal toys made by the children themselves which I was wonderstruck to see. He was proud to say that these children will some day become good mechanics and artisans.

"The Library Association of the State holds conferences at various centres to arouse interest among the people in libraries and in their use. It makes people realize in the first place the necessity and pleasure of books which contain knowledge of what is going on in the world, and in the second place that there are libraries which have resources at their disposal to give that knowledge and that pleasure. These conferences also invite the attention of the social workers, educationalists and the public in general to this important aspect of social and educational work. With these conferences library exhibitions are held where the attention of the people--men, women and children is directed towards the use of libraries. A Library Day<sup>1</sup> is also occasionally held throughout the state. On that day the importance of the establishment of libraries is brought home to the minds of the people and money is collected for the establishment of new libraries and to support those that already exist. The Association is running a cooperative society, which purchases wholesale books, periodicals and library supplies and distributes them among the libraries in the state. It has recently published a Classified catalogue of 8,000 best books in the Gujarati language, a Directory of the libraries of Gujarat, a scheme of classification for Gujarati books and author tables.

"To compare it with [our] own city--Lahore, for instance, there are thousands of people, living not in the rural areas but within a stone's throw of our most important libraries, who do not know what change in their life, a new sphere in their horizon, what marvels in building

---

<sup>1</sup> Vasant Panchami.

their character and what pleasure to their daily life they can add if they use the richest treasures that are stored in their libraries. How many libraries in Lahore do any sort of publicity? How many of them create desire among their readers in the use and selection of books? None!

"Library trustees in the Punjab do not realize what trained, efficient, well-paid and missionary spirited librarians can do in moulding the civic life, culture and happiness of the citizens. They do not know what change the right sort of librarian can bring in the political, social and industrial development of the country by changing the horizon of the young men and women by placing in their hands the right sort of books. They do [not?] know what huge work there is for the staff in a library of the Western type.

"A public library in Lahore recently, I am ashamed to say, did not allow its librarian to take a course of training in librarianship because after getting the training he will be in a position to get a better job and will leave them.<sup>1</sup>

"I have enumerated here briefly the essence of the library movement in Baroda. This is what we want to inaugurate in the Punjab. We are simply urging in the Punjab as they have done in Baroda that there should be a library in every town and village in the province as a supplement to the school to give every one opportunity to make his life happier and more useful to himself and to his town, to the society to which he belongs, and to his nation. [cf. Borden--a better citizen, etc.]

"In these days of political and social unrest when people want a larger share in the working of the government, when young men are feeling the burden of the chains of society in matters of marriage, caste system and such other social customs, when the development of home industries is becoming an imperative necessity to employ hoards of young men who come out of schools and colleges every year, in one word, the whole political and social outlook of the people is on the verge of a drastic *change* there is more great [greater?] necessity for a diffusion of knowledge in the people by the establishment of a net-work

---

<sup>1</sup> It is noteworthy that Borden worked in Baroda from 1910 to 1913. Dickinson came to the Punjab just two years later. The fruits of Borden's labours in Baroda were there to see even in 1932! The librarian from Lahore makes a contrast and concludes that the Punjab has made no progress at all!

of free public libraries throughout the country than was ever before in the history of India.

"When we recognise what an important part the libraries are going to play in moulding this outlook of the people for those drastic changes, we should recognise the important role of the librarian, who has to play the most important part in it. Librarians ought to be given the same recognition in a public way as is being given now to professors in colleges and universities and the work of the librarian should not be considered as that of a caretaker but that of a teacher, professor or a missionary and *his work that of educating the people,*

"In this part of the article I have tried to give you a broad glimpse of the library-movement in Baroda comparing it wherever possible to our own. In the next part of this article I shall try to compare it with the working our own public libraries."<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> In spite of my best research, the second part could not be located anywhere in the library literature. Was it ever published? Where? It is just possible that it might not have been published at all!

Dr. Friedrich Mowbray Velte, Chairman of the Council, Punjab Library Association, presented an address to the First Punjab Library Conference held in Lahore from 27 to 29 March 1931. It was a thoughtful, thought-provoking and illuminating address and was published in full on pages 136-138 of the March and April 1931 issue of *The Modern Librarian*.

The following words of Velte's inspiring message relate to Baroda. Referring to the valuable articles published in *The Modern Librarian*, Velte said:

"I can assure you that there have been some articles of real worth. Let me call your attention to the articles on the Baroda Library Movement...I devoutly wish that we had something like it in this province. Standards of living and standards of acting rise with a rise in standards of thinking and in Baroda a studied effort is being made<sup>1</sup> through the library movement to raise not merely the town but the village standard of thought. Some of you I trust will be led by my remarks to study that movement carefully and to think out ways and means whereby we can do likewise. (p. 138)

---

<sup>1</sup> Mark the present continuous tense! Khurshid implied that the movement died in Baroda and reappeared in the Panjab. There can be only one Mecca in Islam. But for a Hindu, God pervades the entire universe! That is a partisan statement.

## **The Panjab--Leaders**

**Rattan Chand Manchanda<sup>1</sup>**

Memorial Number of ML

[by] Dr. F. Mowbray Velte

The sudden death of Mr. Rattan Chand Manchanda in the prime of his life [how sad!] has removed from our midst one whom we could ill afford to lose. For among Lahore librarians Mr. Manchanda<sup>2</sup> occupied a leading place in consequence of his grasp of Library problems and his efficiency as a library administrator and of the charm and cheerful enthusiasm which so greatly characterised him in all phases of his life and work. The library, which was for long his charge, has been for many years a model for other libraries in town and was alive and progressive in an eminent degree. To his task he brought a zeal for service and a kindness of spirit which made him an inspiration to others. He had high plans for his library, for himself, and for the cause of libraries in India as a whole; and was very anxious to fit himself by further study and research for even finer labour.

He was a founder of the Punjab Library Association and to no one does this movement owe more in loving service generously given. As first Chairman of the revived Library Association and first editor of *The Modern Librarian* I can testify to the unflagging energy with which he urged me to a fuller fulfillment of such tasks as were committed me and to the tremendous contributions which he himself made without stint or discouragement. It will be hard without his flaming spirit to keep alight the torch which he first lighted and which he nursed through all manner of adversity. He was indomitable of heart and doughty in resourcefulness.

And with it all he was a good and loyal friend on whom one could at all times rely. We honour him as one who has meant much to us both as a fellow-warrior for a worthy cause and as a dear friend whom we can never forget. He would not ask a lengthy panegyric--in fact he would ask none at all--for his main desire was not personal prominence but to advance a cause to which he devoted every moment of his life. And as such we shall remember Rattan Chand Manchanda.

**Baroda inspires territories beyond--The Punjab**

---

1 *The Modern Librarian*, 10, Memorial Number (July-September): i-ii.

This is a direct quotation.

2 Manchand was his personal name!

*The Modern Librarian*, Vol. 6, No. 1, October 1935, noted "with great pleasure" (p.2) the preparations being made in Baroda to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Rule of the Gaekwar of Baroda and the Silver Jubilee of the Baroda Central Library. *ML* commented editorially:

It is further a happy coincidence that the Diamond Jubilee of the Maharaja who is the proud father of Library Service in Baroda and as such, has nobly laid the lines on which such work must proceed in other provinces--falls at the same time as the Silver Jubilee of Library Department (p. 61).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Library Development in India: Khurshid comments

Khurshid maintains that just as in other parts of the world, in India too, the library development was the outcome of the concerted effort of library associations in the region:

The library development of India ... [p. 200] has been so uneven that only one center, because of library activities in the area, could emerge as a mecca for librarians of the country. After Baroda, Lahore became the mecca of librarians with the coming of Dickinson. As a result, the Punjab Library Association was formed and the second Indian publication on library science was published from Lahore. The publication was the *The Punjab Library Primer* (1916) by Dickinson.

Khurshid says in his footnote: "The first publication was *Hints on Library Administration in India*, by B. H. Mehta (Surat, 1913). See L. G. Parab, "Library literature in India," in *Library Movement in India*, ed. by P. N. Kaula, p. 21."

Here Khurshid is correct and impartial, a rare phenomenon indeed! However, even here he is correct and impartial only in a very partial and limited manner. Generally, the writers on the library movement in India, especially from the Panjab, ascribe the credit of writing the first book in library science in India to Dickinson for his *Panjab Library Primer*. In fact, one reviewer of this *Primer*, (i.e. the writer of the review which the present author got from a newspaper clipping pasted onto the copy of the book deposited at the New York Public Library) had said: "Until this book was written there was only one library manual in India. And only one copy of that. It was a copy of Mr. Dana's library primer--one that Mr. Dickinson took out with him."

If this information, which amounts to a wild claim, to say the least, was conveyed by Dickinson to the reviewer, it was a misrepresentation of facts and distortion of truth. Dickinson's work was at best the second, even that for authorship only.

The following facts are to be considered in this connection:

Bombay University had deputed its librarian-designate to England for formal training as early as 1913. He must have brought some books along with him as well as some new knowledge on libraries. Borden too must have brought many books on library science to India. Kudalkar too

worked and lived abroad, especially in the United States for about a year. He had met Dewey in person. *Library Miscellany* of Baroda had already appeared in several volumes, featuring numerous articles on libraries and librarianship. In view of these facts the following remarks of the reviewer are not justified: "Now the students in the Punjab have at their disposal a large amount of information--the wisdom of Messrs, Dana, Dewey, and Dickinson."

It is an irony that the reviewer has overlooked the fact that "B" (in Borden) precedes all the D's.

Khurshid continues:

"Although the Association founded by Dickinson was short-lived, its impact is discernible from the developments that led to the formation of a Librarian's Club in 1929<sup>1</sup> to shoulder the task of organizing the seventh All-India Public Library Conference held at Lahore in December, 1929. The Punjab Library Association was not only revived as a result of this conference but also the publication of a quarterly journal, *The Modern Librarian*, as its organ was inaugurated in 1930. This journal continued until 1947 when it ceased publication because of the partition of the Indo-Pakistan sub-continent.<sup>2</sup>

"A new series of this journal was started in Pakistan in December 1949 by the so-called [why?] All-Pakistan Library Association. This renewed publication also could not survive after July 1950.

"Even before the Punjab Library Association of Dickinson's time was founded, another association called the Andhra Desa Librarians [!] Association had come into existence (1914) through the efforts of

---

<sup>1</sup> We do not agree. There was a long gap of time between 1916 and 1929. It cannot be said that the foundation of the Punjab Library Association under the guidance, direction, or inspiration of Dickinson in 1915/16 was the direct and immediate cause of the formation of the "Librarian's Club" in Lahore in 1929. Many other developments, especially in Madras and Andhra, already noted by even Khurshid, had taken place prior to this event. The Andhra Desa Library Association was established as early as 1914. Even the Madras Library Association was founded by that time (1928). I believe Velte must have taken the leadership! So, America came once again to lead!

<sup>2</sup> Watch out how a Pakistani speaks! Pakistan was the outcome of the division of INDIA. "Indo-Pakistan" sub-continent was not a political entity that could have been divided! Khurshid would have very much liked to have divided the Indian Ocean too!

Venkata Narasimha Sastry and Iyyanki Venkataramanayya, who were impressed by the Maharaja of Baroda's Statewide Library Services and wanted to establish popular libraries in the Andhra Desa through this Association.<sup>1</sup>

"It secured government grants for libraries and created a popular movement only next in importance to Baroda."<sup>2</sup>

"It has been publishing a monthly journal in Telugu since 1916, called *Granthalaya Sarvaswamu*."

---

1 M. A. Gopinath, "Library Profession and Its Evolution," *Library Science with a Slant to Documentation*, 4(September 1967):266. Khurshid's evidence here is secondary! He knew of the *Indian Library Journal*. We don't know why he did not refer to it. It contains references to the Andhra Desa Library Association. To talk of 1914 by a reference (even that secondary) of 1967 is not a research worthy of the University of Pittsburgh.

2 Khurshid's reference--Chakravarty, *Library Movement in India*, p. 8.

**Khurshid on library training in the Panjab--**  
**Cf. Moid-- Panjab Training --**

**Politics of Partition--**  
**Partiality of Pakistanis**

No wonder Anis Khurshid proclaims the library training in the Panjab to be the "maiden attempt (1915) at formally introducing library science into the curriculum of a University in the East." [p. 8] On p. 13 he beautifully owns it and declares it as a baby of Pakistan! Pakistan was not born until August 14, 1947, and yet a course in library training inaugurated in 1915 is claimed to be a part of Pakistan! It is not listed under India but under Pakistan. This attempt just fits into the general pattern of the attitude of Pakistanis toward India and her contributions! On the same page (13), below the statement of the year--1915--Khurshid puts a note--"discontinued" but still he claims it for Pakistan and does not give due credit to India.

[There was an undesirable attempt on the part of another Pakistani librarian named Moid to besmear India in his paper submitted to the University of Michigan.]

//////////The following not connected//////////

Melvil Dewey had sent a special message for this Banaras Conference. *The Modern Librarian* (March and April 1931, p. 113) called it the "most inspiring" one. The Journal named Dewey "the father of the library movement" and quoted from his message:

In a life full of inspirations I still found a new thrill in reading your notice of the All-Asia Educational Conference and specially about its library service section....

...Naturally the system [of classification] first published in 1876 was from the standpoint of our American libraries.... But we need specially to cover Asia more adequately and hope we shall have your active co-operation in making the Decimal System still more widely useful. Give a message of warm congratulations to your All-Asia Conference. It is the beginning of a movement certain to grow steadily in usefulness to great people who live in the countries which were the cradle of the human race. (pp. 113-114)

By a resolution the Conference recorded "its appreciation of the efforts of the Punjab Library Association to publish *The Modern Librarian* as an organ to espouse the cause of the library movement in India." (p. 116)

## PANJAB--CONFERENCES

### Baroda Inspires the Panjab

The first Punjab Library Conference was held at Lahore from 27 to 29 March 1931. Lala Ram Chand Manchand was the Chairman of the Reception Committee. Honorable Sir Jogendra Singh presided. A Book Exhibition was organized, which was opened by Begum Shah Nawaz. The proceedings were reported extensively in the March and April 1931 issue of *The Modern Librarian*.

Lala Ram Chand Manchand delivered an illuminating address. He quoted extensively from the writings of Friedrich Mowbray Velte, demonstrating the influence exercised by that great American scholar-librarian.

The seventh session of the All-India [Public?] Library [Libraries?] Conference was held in Lahore in December 1929. As a healthy outcome, the Punjab Library Association was founded.

The President remarked:

In order to proclaim to the world the birth of the Library Association in this Land, with aims and ideas similar to those they have in America...we decided in November last to provide the Association with an organ as its mouthpiece and to proclaim the advent of a new and novel movement to our countrymen. The organ was named *The Modern Librarian*, with Dr. F. Mowbray Velte, one of our leading literary men and a true educationalist, as its Chief Editor. [p. 122, 123]

The leaders of the Punjab Library Movement were anxious to inspire the people of the Land of Five Rivers and beyond. They themselves were originally inspired by the leaders of the Baroda Library Movement, who had derived their inspiration from the U.S.A., the Land of Libraries.

Lala Ram Chand Manchand said:

In our own city the trustees of the Dyal Singh Public Library have allotted a separate room for ladies and children. We hope other public libraries will follow their example. The most important feature of such an enterprise is to have

someone in charge of the room who shall be suited to the work--a woman of culture and of pleasing manners who loves children and delights in helping them in the use and selection of books. Such a librarian gives "atmosphere" to the whole undertaking. In Baroda such an undertaking has been most successfully carried out, where under the supervision of a woman librarian the children's room has been furnished not only with easy books in the vernacular languages but also with games to attract children to the room. The Mahila Library or ladies room is also fully equipped with literature in the vernaculars and the English language for their recreation as well as study in domestic sciences.<sup>1</sup> (pp. 127-128)

The speaker then dealt with the problems of adult education and rural libraries. He said:

The Census Report of the Punjab will give you an idea of the colossal illiteracy that prevails in our province and as long as that is not removed and the torch of knowledge lit and kept agoing in every village how can we Punjabees rank with the advanced countries or even with advanced provinces and states, e.g. Baroda,<sup>2</sup> Mysore, Bengal, and Madras.<sup>3</sup>

Guṇigaṇagaṇanārambhe na patati kaṭhini  
sasambhramā yasya.  
Tenāmbā yadi sutinī vada vandhyā kīidṛṣī nāma.

And finally Sir Jogendra said:

The Maharaja of Baroda has provided every decent village [p. 129] and town with a library....By this time the advancement in this direction has almost reached the level of advanced countries of Europe and America. The ruler of the Mysore state is also following the example set by the Maharaja of Baroda....The people of Andhra Desa, Madras and Bengal have already caught the spirit and have joined the movement and we

---

1 The speaker wanted the women folk to be well-versed in domestic science and not, say, political science.

2 Baroda led the list.

3 The speaker overlooked the Andhras, probably including them in Madras! Sorry, he mentions them in the next paragraph. It is to be noted that the Andhra did not constitute an administrative unit until 1953?

in the Punjab will not be before time in following the example [sic]. (Pp. 128, 129)

Lady Abdul Qadir welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Reception Committee. During the course of her address, she said:

The Punjab Library Association is publishing *The Modern Librarian*, a quarterly journal, which is a mine of information regarding libraries and their working and is being edited under the chief editorship of Doctor Velte, of the Forman Christian College, who is a distinguished scholar and an enthusiastic worker in the cause of library progress.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Panjab Library Conference, 1--Resolutions**

Eleven resolutions were passed at this Conference which addressed, among others, the following problems:<sup>1</sup>

1. Establishment of free public libraries and reading rooms by each Municipality in the Punjab;
2. Provision of lecture rooms by public libraries and arrangement of popular lectures frequently;
3. Longer hours for the libraries;
4. Appointment of Reference Librarians;
5. Emphasis on training for librarians;
6. Establishment of Grant-in-aid system for public libraries; and
7. Improvement in the pay and status of librarians.

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Modern Librarian*, 1(March and April 1931):142-44.

That Dyal Singh Public Library, Lahore, had made "admirable arrangements" for children is confirmed by a resolution passed at this Conference (p. 195).

Bansberia had a children's library.<sup>1</sup>

It is observed that such conferences provided a forum for library workers to express themselves, to inspire their audiences, and to appreciate the work of co-professionals here and abroad.

---

<sup>1</sup>*The Modern Librarian*, 3(October 1932):194.

**Panjab Library Conference, 2, Lahore (28-30 April 1932)**  
**America Inspires the Punjab--The Library Conferences**

Page 131 of vol. 2, April 1932, of *The Modern Librarian* contains an announcement of a forthcoming library conference in Lahore. Velte was the chief organiser. The notice read as follows:

**Library Conference**-- A Conference of the representatives of school, college, public and university libraries and other educationalists interested in modern library progress will be held in Lahore on April 29th and 30th 1932 under the presidency of Mr. A. C. Woolner...Vice-Chancellor, University of the Punjab. Librarians from all over India have been invited to attend the Conference. Delegates attending the Conference should correspond with Dr. F. Mowbray Velte, Chairman of the Council, the Punjab Library Association, Forman Christian College, Lahore.

It was the second session.

**Panjab Library Conference, 2 (1932). It was a great success.  
Velte writes on Library training--its need.  
Panjab--Training--Panjab Library Association**

The "Editorial" appearing in no. 4 of vol. 2 of *The Modern Librarian* dated July 1932, pp. 167-68 by Velte was a report on the second session of the Punjab Library Conference.

Velte tried at the Conference to get the librarian's training course at the University reestablished. According to him, the Punjab Library Association had been receiving numerous requests from young graduates for library training, which was not available anywhere else.

Dr. Velte recorded the innumerable instances of appeals for such training which the Association had received through the year and requested that the Punjab University Librarian's Training Course which had been allowed to lapse for two years, be conducted once more, since nowhere could our young librarians obtain better facilities for training or more excellent teaching than under the guidance of Mr. Labhu Ram, the University Librarian.

**The Panjab--Leaders**  
**Mrs. Harper of Moga**

Pages 157-60 of the third volume (July 1933) of *The Modern Librarian* carried an article by Mrs. A. E. Harper, M.A., entitled "The Educational Use of School Libraries." It was read at the Third Annual Punjab Library Conference held at Lahore from 13 to 15 April 1933. Evidently this Mrs. Harper is the same who was referred to by Velte as "Mrs. Harper of Moga" in his "Editorial" on this Conference that appeared on page 135 of this very issue of *The Modern Librarian*.

**Baroda Inspires through Conferences--18 November 1931**

Newton Mohun Dutt presided over the Third All-Bengal Library Conference in 1931. During the course of his address, he narrated the excellent progress made in the Panjab. He reported as follows:<sup>1</sup>

"Excellent progress is being made in the Punjab. The campaign began as far back as 1916, when Mr. A. D. Dickinson was invited from America to re-organise the Punjab University Library and to introduce courses of lectures on library training, *which are still being held* [emphasis added.] His excellent primer, *The Punjab Library Primer*, may be heartily commended to all library aspirants. The Punjab Government have recently instituted village libraries, of which there are no less than 1,600. They are attached to upper and lower middle schools, but are available, not only to students but to the village folk at large. These libraries are maintained by the district boards with the assistance of government grants. The librarians are expected to give lectures and talks to the people in general, as well as to assist literate people in the use of the libraries. For this purpose, in addition to ordinary books, etc., supplied by the district boards, the best available literature on agricultural, co-operative and health subjects and other topics of special interest to the village community is supplied by the Rural Community Board, which also provides the librarian's allowances."  
(P. 74-75)

---

<sup>1</sup> Newton Mohun Dutt, "History of Indian Libraries from earliest times to the present day" [Presidential address delivered at the Third All-Bengal Library Conference held at Calcutta on the 18th November, 1931], *The Modern Librarian* 2(January 1932):69-76.



**America's Contribution -- Library Training in the Panjab**

Forman Christian College conducted informal library training. The Assistant Librarian of the Lucknow Christian College received training for two months during May and June 1932.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *ML* 3(April 1933):145.



**Baroda inspires the Panjab**

**Punjab influences India**

*Anurajana*. Ripple-effect.

Punjab's contribution to the promotion of library literature in India through the publication of *The Modern Librarian*.

The Imperial Library, Calcutta, continued to contribute "Book Reviews" of good current books published in India to the special section of *The Modern Librarian*.

Library Conferences--Contribution of the Panjab

The Library Service Section of the All-Asia Educational Conference adopted the following resolution appreciating the work done in the Panjab: That this Conference records its appreciation of the efforts of the Punjab Library Association to publish the *Modern Librarian* as an organ to espouse the cause of the Library Movement.

It is important to note that the study of such literature was regarded as conducive to the promotion of the efficiency in library administration.

Panjab's Contribution to Library Literature

By the beginning of the third volume, *The Modern Librarian* had the following as subtitle (or descriptive addition to the title): "The Modern Librarian, a quarterly journal of library science, covers every phase of school, college and public library work and has a circulation throughout India, Great Britain and the United States of America."

\*\*\*\*\*

*Modern Librarian*--Contents

"Book reviews" formed a substantial part of each issue of the journal *Modern Librarian*. Imperial Library made a significant contribution toward this.

Many American librarians had sent their papers to the All-Asia Educational Conference, Banaras, which were later published in the *Modern Librarian*. For example, "The Education of School Librarians in America" by Sarah C. N. Bogle, Secretary, Board of Education for Librarianship, American Library Association, pp. 71-74 of vol. 3, no. 2, Jan. 1933.

Pp. 74-78 of vol. 2, no. 3, Jan. 1933 contain an article by Newton Mohun Dutt on "The Library Movement in Baroda, 1910-1932, illustrated." Such papers spread far and wide the message of Baroda Library Movement. And thus Baroda exercised a tremendous influence throughout India! There was no limitation of time or space.

Panjab--Library Literature Baroda's influence--Lit. Punjab  
Literature--Velte--*Modern Librarian*

With the beginning of Vol. 6, *The Modern Librarian* appears in a slightly changed format. The size is "reduced so as to bring it in harmony with the idea of an easily handled periodical." The paper is better, and a more readable larger type style is used. This may be a wishful thinking of the new editor! Evidently Velte recedes in background and S. S. Saith assumes the major role. Of course, Velte is still associated with the paper, but merely as a writer of book reviews. We wonder if this was deliberate on the part of Velte, i.e. whether he wanted some Indian librarian to assume the leadership or did the Indians play a dirty trick on him and grab the paper. We are not sure.

ANALYSIS OF VOLUME SEVEN, 1936-37 OF *The Modern Librarian*

Does not contain much on American libraries and librarianship. The approach is more or less local. Many articles are devoted to the description of various university libraries in India. Book reviews are continued, some of them very good.

An important article is by Motibhai N. Amin--"The Library Movement in Charotar." The place where the name of the author is customarily given is blank--it is purported to be an anonymous writing, but the index page and the section "Contributors to this issue" describes and details Amin.

This article by Amin, pp. 30-38 of the issue number one, volume seven, October 1936, gives the well-known story of Baroda, with some errors in the dates! It is difficult to determine if this is an editorial error. For example, on page 30, Maharaja Sayajirao's tour in America is mentioned. The date is given as 1908. This is wrong. It should be 1906.

"Charotar" is defined by Amin as "Petlad and Bhadran Talukas of the Baroda State, Kaira District of the British Government, and the whole of the Cambay State, all located in central Gujarat" (p. 30).

Incidentally, Kumria, R. R. is now (7th volume) the editor of *The Modern Librarian*.

Since Motibhai himself wrote this article, probably his modesty did not permit him to mention his name even where it ought to have been mentioned. He begins thus:

For continuation see *Baroda library leaders--Motibhai*.



## LIBRARY LITERATURE

### *The Modern Librarian*

By the time the fourth volume (October 1933-July 1934) of *The Modern Librarian* was published, its Office was shifted to H. R. Library, D.A.V. College, Lahore. And the Journal had the following descriptive subtitle: "COVERS EVERY PHASE OF SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND PUBLIC LIBRARY WORK, AND HAS A CIRCULATION THROUGHOUT INDIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

### **VELTE**

Velte was an acknowledged library leader. The "Library Notes and News" column of *The Modern Librarian* reporting on the First Panjab Library Conference recorded:

Professor S. N. Das Gupta appealed to the generosity of the Public and told the story of a few sincere workers among whom the name of Dr. Velte was [to be] specially mentioned, who have shouldered this responsibility and made the movement a reality with a Journal of its own which in the words of Begum Shah Nawaz was the best and the first of its kind in India. <sup>1</sup>

### **Eulogy of Velte By Editor Sant Ram Bhatia<sup>1</sup>**

"We take this opportunity to thank all those who willingly shared the hard work required to build up the journal. Among such persons Dr. F. M. Velte's name stands first. It was he who did all the spade work and gave the journal a proper shape. Owing to unfortunate circumstances [his daughter's illness] he finds it difficult to return to India. But *The Modern Librarian* still occupies a big place in his heart. He has been sending us thought-provoking and illuminating cuttings from American papers and we have made use of them with pleasure and benefit. We hope he will continue sending us useful literature."

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Modern Librarian*, 1(March and April 1931):110.

<sup>1</sup> *The Modern Librarian*, Editorial 8(October 1937):1

*Indian Librarian* born in independent India-- Library Literature--Evils of Partition. Death of *The Modern Librarian*

*Evils of Partition*

Library Literature: The Modern Librarian

India's partition and the creation of Pakistan killed this journal too. Had the editor Sant Ram Bhatia remained in Lahore, even after 1947, *The Modern Librarian* might have continued to live, because that great dynamic library leader in the person of Sant Ram Bhatia gave birth to a new journal in India (after he migrated to that country), naming it the *Indian Librarian*, which is still running (in 1983) and has completed thirty-eight years of its dedicated functions devoted to library service.

A subsequent note:

Sant Ram Bhatia is no more in this world and the fate of the *Indian Librarian* is unknown at the moment. MLN Oct. 4, 1986.

**VELTE**

There are only four citations (references) under Velte in *Library Literature, 1921-1932* (A.L.A., 1934). [Even here the initial "F" is not expanded. I do not recall where I got "Frederic \* or Friedrich I must have gotten it from SLS Library, Columbia University. UMC Library has a copy of Velte's doctoral dissertation.]

1. The Library and its readers, *The Modern Librarian* 1:23-26, 1930.
2. The poetry of John Masefield, *The Modern Librarian* 2:93-97, 1932.
3. The Punjab Library Association; its history, aims and objects. *The Modern Librarian* 2:141-43, 1932.
4. Some lay impressions of the American University Library. *The Modern Librarian* 1:4-7, 1930.

Portrait. *The Modern Librarian* 1: facing p.102, 1931.

There are four entries under Dickinson too in the above references extra material

Books in the Missionary Research Library ///dup///?

Forman Christian College

*The Presbyterian Church of America in the Punjab; an account of the service rendered to the most virile province in India* (The substance of the Report of....Forman Christian College for<sup>1</sup>  
//////////missing//////////

Dutt, Surendra Kumara

*The history of the Forman Christian College.*

Selections from the records of the College, 1869-1936.

[Lahore, Northern India Printing and Publishing Co.,  
1936. 73p.

---

<sup>1</sup> It may be noted that the predominant Christian faith in Lahore at that time might have been the Presbyterian!



The Modern Librarian, 9(April-June 1919):133

(Book review section)

A work by Velte reviewed by A. M. Khan. The title of the work is *A Study-book of narrative and descriptive prose*, Lahore, Ram Lal Suri and Sons, 1939(?) 202 p.

The letter (by Princeton President) is an evidence of the interest taken by American educators in the development of Indian libraries and of the way America contributed toward the development of libraries and librarianship in this part of the world.

America contributed toward the promotion of library service in India also through her alumni educated at great educational centers in the U.S.A. Velte was an American. He studied at Princeton and presented a vivid picture of its fine university library through his article entitled "Some Lay Impressions of the American University Library."<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Modern Librarian*, 1(November 1930):4-7.

## Panjab Library Leaders--A. K. Siddhanta

Prominent leaders of the Indian library movement were in direct contact with educators and librarians of the U.S.A. Through correspondence they derived guidance and inspiration. Prof. A. K. Siddhanta, a prominent library worker and promoter of books and reading who had obtained the degree of S.T.M. from Harvard and was the Managing Editor of *The Modern Librarian*, received the following letter from John Grier Hibben, President of Princeton University. The letter was dated 15 September 1930 and read as follows:<sup>1</sup>

My dear Mr. Siddhanta:

I have just returned from my summer vacation and find your letter of July 30th. I am greatly interested in your effort to improve and extend the Library Service in India. I am emphatically of the opinion that the Library is the heart of the University and without an adequate Library all education is of little avail. Nothing, in my mind, is of greater importance for India than the establishment of libraries in as many of the intellectual centres as possible.

With my warm regards and best wishes,

Faithfully yours,

John Grier Hibben,  
President

A president of such a prestigious American university as Princeton supporting the library cause in India so well must have been a great source of inspiration to all the readers of *ML* and would have strengthened the hands of the promoters of the library movement in India.

Yet another evidence is provided by Prof. A. K. Siddhanta who studied at Harvard and earned the degree of Master of Sacred Theology. He was the first Managing Editor of the *Modern Librarian* and one of its founders. Writing under the title "The Library as a Community Servant" in *The Modern Librarian*, (January and February 1931,

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Modern Librarian*, 1(November 1930):19.

1:46-49), he gave his impressions and reflections of American libraries of all types based on his direct experience. He inspired his readers by making a comparative study of the pathetic conditions prevailing in Indian libraries at that time in contrast with the developed stage of American libraries. He says:

Needless to say that India is not yet privileged with many such real libraries or librarians. Her libraries are often known only to those who have accidentally come across them [,] and as to librarians, they are at their best either benevolent autocrats or well meaning clerks. As such, they excite in us a sense of pity, rather than of respect (P. 46).

Siddhanta's observations were based on his own experiences. They came from an observant, library user and not from a professional librarian. He makes quite clear in the very beginning that he speaks with some authority as one who has already experienced. For he says: "Let us take the methods adopted by the library with special reference to my own experience both in India and America" (P. 47).

Prof. Siddhanta derives his data from all types of libraries in America, e.g. Harvard University Library, Free Public Library of Newark, St. Louis Public Library, and the New York Public Library. This is a detailed and direct report of what an Indian student observed and assimilated in the United States. Having returned home, he tried in his own way to bring about similarly helpful conditions in India.

Concluding, Siddhanta says: "Indian libraries in general have failed to reach the community or to serve them because they are not run efficiently on right lines. The public libraries in India are perhaps the worst culprits in that line" (P. 49).

Here one can bring in Datta who wrote the book on ancient Indian libraries having been inspired by his studies at Columbia. I have already noted this fact and have written a note.

\*\*\*\*\*

Siddhanta--Obituary

**A Panjabee Library Leader Passes Away**

"Notes & News" in the April 1934 issue of *The Modern Librarian* reports the death of Prof. A. K. Siddhanta, who was a strong pillar of the edifice of the library movement in the Panjab. His life and work are especially noteworthy in the history of the library movement in India and in the field of Indo-American library cooperation. Siddhanta was a worthy product of a great American University, Harvard. The journal says: "He prosecuted his studies abroad while a poor man, rubbing floors and cleaning utensils in people's homes in the United States of America. The whole of his life was a tale of real self-sacrifice and self-denial. He proved himself to be a true son of motherland and true friend of his fellow men" (4:141).

A. K. Siddhanta rendered a great service to the cause of the library movement in India. He belonged to a class of hardy students who studied in the U.S.A. while earning their daily bread through blood, sweat, and tears. These students imbibed the true spirit and virtue of the American libraries and librarianship and served the cause of the library movement in India upon their return home. This is one of the many significant ways America contributed toward the development of library service in India. This kind of study through self-help was possible only in the United States and not in the United Kingdom. Only the rich and affluent among the Indians could afford studying in the U.K. The American educational system even today differs so much from the British. India which copied so many British practices and traditions had hardly given any facilities to her young children to study as well as maintain themselves until quite recent times. In India the situation has been either you are a full time student or no student at all! This was true especially of Sciences. Of course, there has been a system of "private candidates" but they could not get any formal and systematic schooling.

AMERICA INSPIRES [An unrelated idea]

M. S. Bhattu from the Forman Christian College contributed an article entitled "The Library as a Nation Building Institution" to the first issue of *The Modern Librarian* (1:10-11). Evidently this College had made a significant contribution toward the development of library service in India. It was an American-sponsored educational institution. This is one more example of how America contributed toward the growth of libraries and librarianship in India.

All-India Public Libraries Conference, 7, Lahore, 1929-- (first series)-- Advocates promotion of American Library Literature--

AMERICA INSPIRES

Guidance from America Sought

It is interesting to note that the seventh session of the All-India Library Conference held in Lahore on 27 December 1929 passed the following resolution: "This Conference requests library authorities to provide all available literature on library science and on the library movement published in the United States of America and other advanced countries with a view to increase the efficiency of library administration."<sup>1</sup>

Another resolution appealed to "all libraries and persons interested in the library movement to subscribe to the *Indian Library Journal* and to send their library contributions to the same." (p. 20).

At that time this was the only library journal published in India, at least in English. top Indo-American Library Fellowship

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Modern Librarian* 1(November 1930):20. This was the first series. It included the word "Public" too.

## EVILS OF PARTITION

### Library Literature: The Modern Librarian

India's partition and the creation of Pakistan killed this journal. Had the editor Sant Ram Bhatia remained in Lahore, even after 1947, *The Modern Librarian* might have continued to live, because that great dynamic library leader in the person of Sant Ram Bhatia started a new journal in India (when he migrated to that country), naming it the *Indian Librarian*, which is still running (in 1983) and has completed thirty-eight years of its dedicated life devoted to library service.

A *Subsequent Note*: Sant Ram Bhatia is no more in this world and the fate of the *Indian Librarian* is unknown at the moment. MLN 4 October 1986.



## Punjab--Library Literature

### Library Periodicals: The Modern Librarian

*The Modern Librarian* was an early leading library journal of India. Its first issue was published in November 1930. It bore the following subtitle: "A Monthly Journal of All-India Library Service." It was "PUBLISHED for the BENEFIT of LIBRARY WORKERS and LIBRARY READERS" (cover). The Editorial Board consisted of the following library leaders:

Chief Editor: Dr. F. Mowbray Velte, M.A., Ph.D. (Princeton);  
Managing Editor: A. K. Siddhanta, M.A., S.T.M. (Harvard);  
Assistant Editors: Sant Ram Bhatia (F.C.C. Library), Des Raj Sabarwal, (High Court Library).

It was printed and published by Ratanchand Manchanda, Secretary, Library Association, Lahore. Annual subscription was Rs. 2-4-0 (or four shillings or one dollar).

Below are given the contents of the first issue:

"The Children's Library"--Mrs. Anandibai Prabhudesai [Baroda]  
"Some Lay Impressions of the American University Library"  
--Dr. F. Mowbray Velte, M.A., Ph.D.  
"Libraries in Bombay"--Ratanchand Manchanda  
"The Library as a Nation Building Institution"--M. S. Bhatti, M.A. [Lahore]  
"Training in Librarianship"--R. M.  
"Europe's Culture Gone West"  
"Abstracts from Foreign Library Journals"  
"Shearings"  
"Great Novels of All Time"  
"What to Read in Biography"  
"Books for Boys and Girls"  
"Book Reviews"  
"Correspondence"  
"Croydon Public Libraries"--Annual Report  
"All-India Library Conference" (1929)--Resolutions  
"Queries."

The contents presented above demonstrate the wide coverage attempted by the journal and the value of the topics discussed. They also speak highly of the greatness of the contributors.

The pioneer library workers of the Panjab made an outstanding contribution to the growth of the library movement in India by launching this great literary adventure. They had practically no funds at their disposal. It was merely their enthusiasm for serving the country through libraries that they took up this great undertaking. It was simply "a labour of love."

The aims and objectives of the journal are well-stated in the first "Editorial." *The Modern Librarian* was started to:

- 1) "initiate a real library movement in the Punjab",
- 2) "promote mutual education of librarians",
- 3) "work toward more numerous and better organized libraries in all our large cities",
- 4) "work toward more wide-spread education in smaller and more sequestered corners of the Panjab",
- 5) "labour definitely for a new conception of the librarian's value to the community",
- 6) "create a nation of readers in India, readers who can translate what they read into action, into a rigorous striving after the best for their country and for themselves."<sup>1</sup>

The second number of volume one of *The Modern Librarian* (December 1930) says in its "Editorial":

The Editors of this modest journal have been more than delighted with the reception which the first issue received.

... We are concerned it is true in the main with library problems and library movement, but these problems are problems which as readers should very vitally concern you.

... Our first issue was financed largely by local publishers and booksellers. (p. 1)

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Modern Librarian*, 1(November 1930):1.

Number one of volume two (October 1931) of *The Modern Librarian* claimed that it covered "every phase of school, college, and public library work and [had] a circulation throughout India, Burma, and Ceylon" (cover). It started as a monthly, but beginning with volume two, it became a quarterly. In contrast it may be noted that the *Pustakālaya*, a Gujarati library journal from Baroda started as a quarterly but was turned into a monthly immediately.

## American Inspiration Sustained

### The Panjab Conferences

Many leaders of the library movement in India felt identity with their fellow-workers in the U.S.A. At the seventh session of the All-India Library Conference held at Lahore on 27 December 1929, the following resolution was passed:

This Conference places on record its deep sense of loss and sorrow at the sad and untimely death of Lala Lajpat Rai, Sir Mutthias Chetiar and *John Cotton Dana of New York.*<sup>2</sup>

By another resolution the Conference requested "library authorities to provide all available literature on library science and on the library movement published in the United States of America and other advanced countries with a view to increase the efficiency of library administration". (p. 20)

It is important to note that the study of such literature was regarded as conducive to the promotion of the efficiency in library administration.

[Note] Somewhere I have read a speaker advocating the study of library literature by public leaders or administrators so that they become aware of the importance of library service.

---

<sup>2</sup> The same author whose book was plagiarised by Dickinson! *The Modern Librarian*, 1(November 1930):20.

## **BARODA VS. THE PANJAB--LEADERSHIP**

### **Mecca for Librarians**

Khurshid argued in his study entitled "Standards of Library Education in Burma, Ceylon, India, and Pakistan," that only one centre could serve as the Mecca for librarians in India and that after Baroda, Panjab became the main base for the operations of the library movement in India. But it is not true. Even as late as December 1930 Baroda was still reigning supreme in the library world. Panjab could not provide any librarian to head the Library Service Section of the All-Asia Educational Conference! This is only one example.

The very first resolution passed by this Conference was worded as follows: "This Conference places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the death in December last of two eminent American Librarians, Melvil Dewey, known as the father of the modern library progress, and W. A. Borden, Late Director of Libraries, Baroda State." (p. 195)