

1936-1949

Maenqa Branch History 1936-1949



History

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III CAHUENGA BRANCH LIBRARY

IV 1936 - 1949

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Mrs. Anna-Marie Hook

**August
1949**

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CHARTS.

As can be seen on the chart of the CIRCULATION BY MONTHS Cahuenga does not believe in staying in a rut as the months move along! No two months on a level, varying from dizzy heights to abysmal depths!

The dotted lines show the years of the post-depression to pre-war years. The declining drop from the high circulation in the depression years portended a better economic situation offering jobs for those who wished to work. But the work, cutting down the leisure time, affected reading habits and the circulation tended to droop.

The extreme drop in circulation in August 1944 was due to the closing of the branch for the first time for the staff members to take a two weeks vacation because of the great difficulty with staffing.

Each year since 1945 the circulation has been steadily rising. The red line for 1948/49 has been labeled and its progress can be traced to the highest peak since the period of the dotted lines denoting the depression and post-depression years. The severe drop in May 1949 is attributable to the effects of the Freeway on the branch.

It is to be hoped the colored line for next year will feel the magnetic pull of the dotted lines area when the depression years made the library a vitally busy place. If this circulation can be achieved again without an economic depression all will indeed be well!

Year	Circ.	Gain	Br. Lib.	Event
1935/36	290,851	-35,679	Miss Bowler	
1936/37	275,005	-15,846		
1937/38	272,583	-2,422		
1938/39	277,781	5,198		
1939/40	260,444	-17,337		
1940/41	280,897	20,453	Miss Seymour	Los Feliz closed Oct.
1941/42	240,384	-40,513	9/1/40	1/40

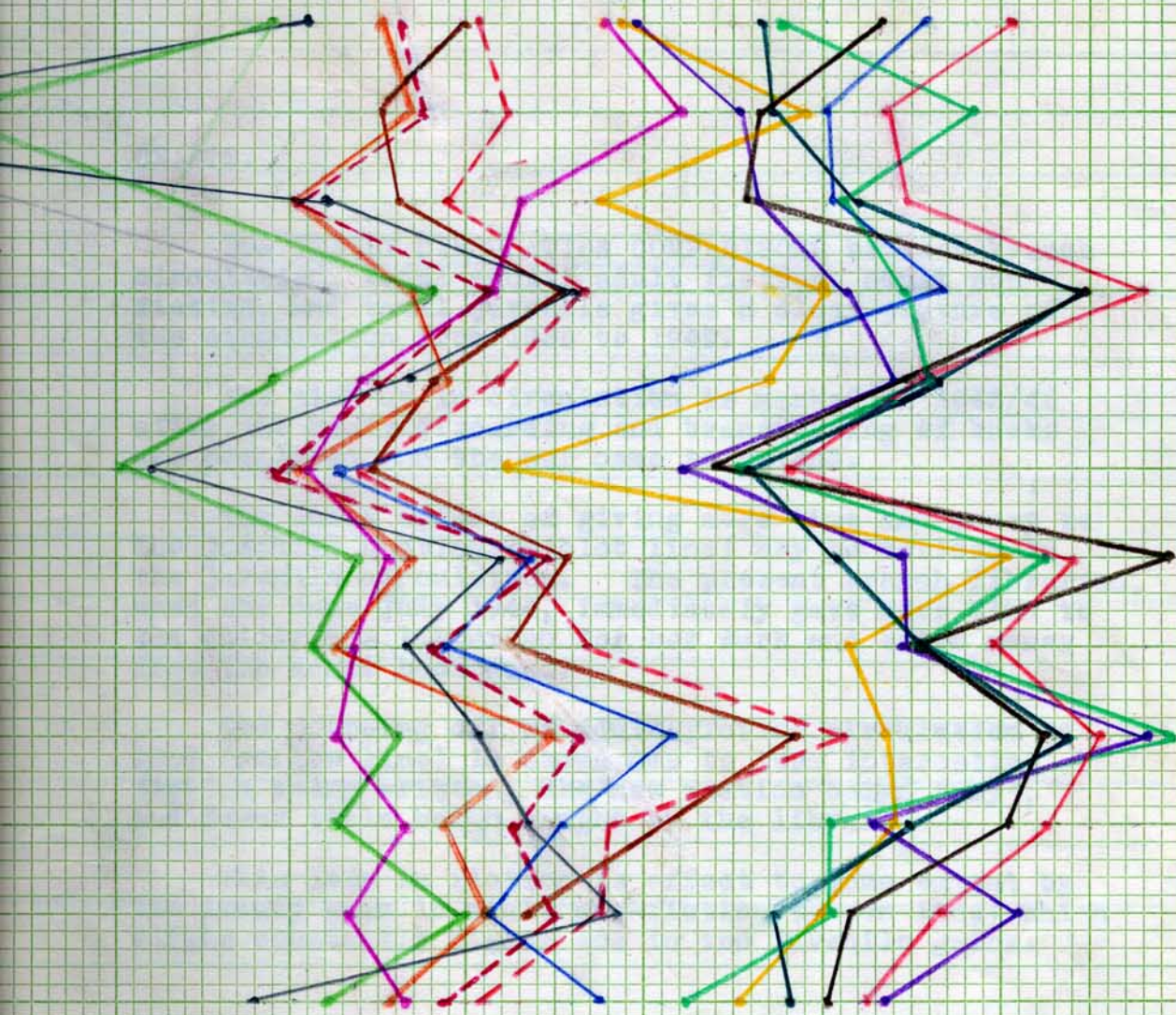
Year	Circ.	Gain	Br. Lib.	Event
1942/43	208,150	-32,234		
1943/44	200,405	-7,745		
1944/45	181,331	-19,074	Mrs. Hook Jul.1/44	Br. closed for vac.
1945/46	194,395	13,064		Heavy disc. & tr. of bks.
1946/47	207,336	12,941		
1947/48	219,205	11,869		
1948/49	223,503	4,298		Freeway constructed

1675
2850
4025
15200
16375
17550
18725
19900
21075
22250
23425
24600
25775
26950

iii

July
August
Sept.
Oct.
Nov.
DEC.
JAN
FEB
MAR.
April
MAY
June

10 SQUARES TO THE INCH
No. 5780-10
MADE IN U.S.A.



CIRCULATION BY MONTHS

To Oct 1940 Bowler
1940 - Jan 1944 Seymour
1944 - Book

30
8
22

FURNINGE | 44/45 GREEN | 45/46 PENCIL | 47/48 Light Brown | 46/47 DOTTED MAGENTA | 48/49 DOTTED RED

CHARTS.

The YEARLY CIRCULATION COMPARISONS between branch circulation, total adult, adult fiction, adult non-fiction, and total juvenile gives a clear picture of the circulation from 1936 to 1949.

The pick-up in circulation is marked in 1945/46 after the heavy discarding and transferring of books was completed and the war came to an end.

The quick effect of giving more time and money to the juvenile section (violet line) may be noticed in the juvenile circulation. The present branch librarian, when she came July 1944, immediately gave more time to the children's librarian for her work and extra money from the adult book fund.

The dropping off of adult fiction circulation in 1948 (yellow line) is shown due to less interesting fiction being written, the new fiction being "pay", and fewer titles being bought by the library.

This loss in fiction is offset to some extent by the steady gain in adult non-fiction (green line) which climbs constantly higher and in the juvenile gains.



New Registration

1948/49

	48/49		48/49
	3,746		
	ca		ca

The registration chart is no more consistent than the circulation chart, ^{showing a nice} ~~Variety is shown here also.~~

1947/48

	47/48		47/48
	3,207		
	ca		ca

The closing of the Los Feliz Branch in the fall of 1940 brought a flurry of new registration for that year.

1946/47

	46/47		46/47
	3,490		
	ca		ca

1946/47 showed the great influx of registrants as the people in the armed forces and war work returned to civilian life.

1945/46

	45/46		45/46
	3,102		
	ca		ca

However 1948/49 shows an increase over the high mark set in 1946/47.

1944/45

	44/45		44/45
	2,198		
	ca		ca

Mrs. Hook
Br. Lib.

1943/44

	43/44		43/44
	2,322		
	ca		ca

1942/43

	42/43		42/43
	3,096		
	ca		ca

1941/42

	41/42		41/42
	3,071		
	ca		ca

1940/41

	40/41		40/41
	3,403		
	ca		ca

Miss Seymour
Br. Lib.

1939/40

	39/40		39/40
	3,269		
	ca		ca

1938/39

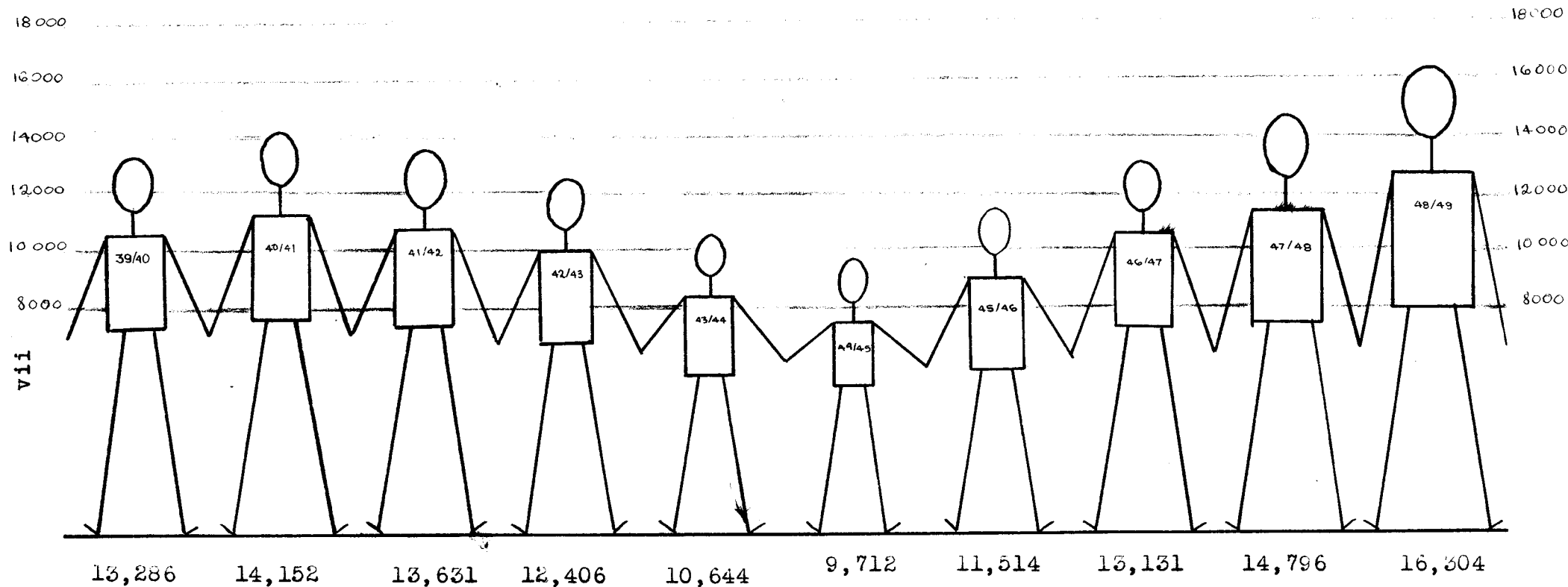
	38/39		38/39
	3,107		
	ca		ca

1937/38

	37/38		37/38
	3,001		
	ca		ca

Miss Bowler
Br. Lib.

BORROWERS AT CAHUENGA



Ruskin, the great writer and art critic, stated that the most beautiful and balanced line is the letter S, or any part thereof. Cahuenga's figures (circulation and registration figures, we hasten to add!) believe Ruskin as they describe a graceful curve in their course as the years march by.

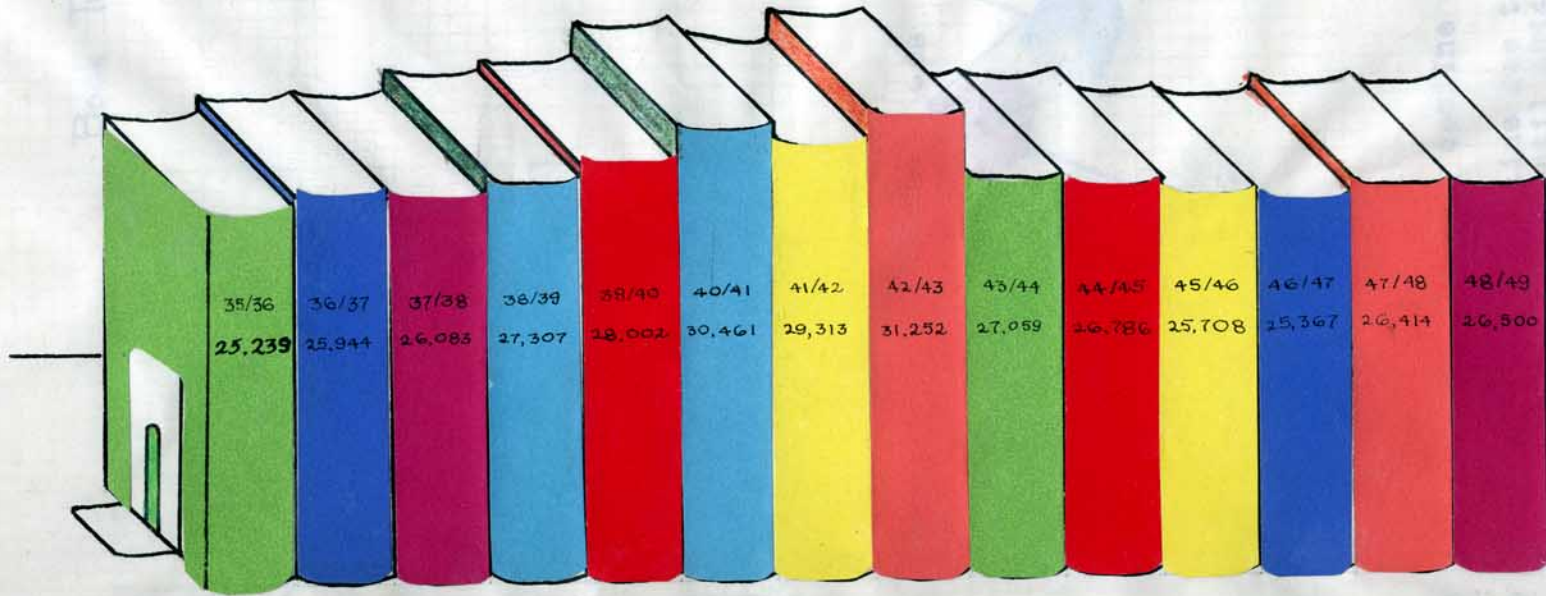
1940/41 was the year when the Los Feliz Branch was closed and brought more borrowers to this branch, lifting the spirits of the second man from the left!

The concave part or trough of the curve reached its nadir during the war years, 1942 to 1945, then steadily rose to the peak of today, 1949.

BOOK COUNT

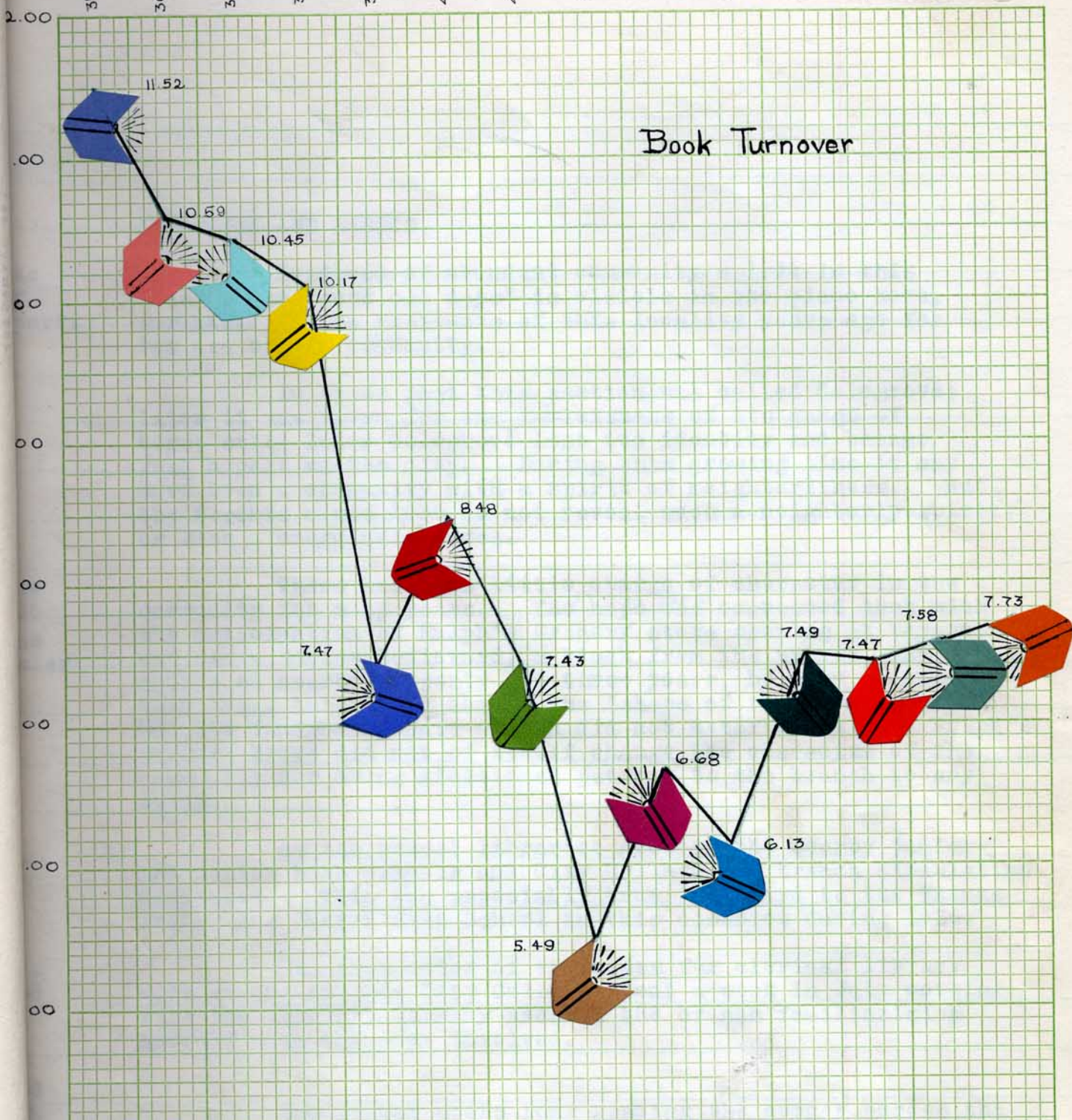
Book count

Scale: 2mm = 1000 books



The reason the count of books remains low is because there is no space for more books. Eagle-eyed, the branch librarian watches the shelves to pull off a book for each new one ordered! This situation is not a right one. A branch should be allowed some percentage of space in which to grow.

Book Turnover



1939/40 the Post-depression decline due to loss in circulation.

1942 to 1945 ~~Wax~~ years decline due to loss in circulation and, until 1944, a tremendous surplus of books stored in basement.

1947 to 1949 Turn over of books is again rising showing the use of books is increasing and a larger collection is needed.

COMMUNITY AND EVENTS.

Evidence of abundant community spirit in this area in the "good old days" is visible in the piano here, purchased by the residents of this locality years ago for the use of the community.

In times past this section was called Colegrove; later it was known for the lawlessness of its gangs of boys; still later Colegrove lost its identity and became just a part of the city. During this growing time it may have been a community with a spirit of neighborliness. But the reports since 1936 do not reveal such a neighborly spirit. or such a coordinated area.

There has been little change of character in the community for many years. ~~The hope was expressed~~ ^{It was hoped} that with the anticipation of Ralph's Grocery store opening at Vermont and Santa Monica Boulevard, a block from the branch, and an option on nearby property for three years, held by Montgomery Ward Inc., this would change the "shape of things to come". But the Montgomery Ward option did not materialize; and Ralph's Grocery Store did not of itself change the character of the community nor bring additional patrons to the branch to any extent.

As the school libraries grew in the nearby junior and senior high schools and City College the branch circulation decreased. This was especially true in regard to the Thomas Starr King Junior High School in this district during 1936.

The instructor of the class for clerical library aids at Los Angeles City College spent a week in July working with the clerical library aids in the branch familiarizing herself with the work involved.

The liquor store long gracing the corner across the street from the branch was established October 1938. It was closed May 1st, 1939 due to selling liquor to minors---but not for long! There's lots of life in the old place yet! Bottles, beer cans, etc., indicate the use of liquor on library premises after branch hours. Effects of the purchases made there by the public have always been a problem for the branch. Breaking the law closed the store, not lack of business!

As sales went up in the liquor store the circulation in the branch continued its downward course.

Miss Roberta Bowler, the branch librarian until August 1940, became assistant city librarian and Miss Helen Seymour took charge of Cahuenga in October of that year.

In spite of the closing of the Los Feliz Branch in the fall of the year and the flurry of patrons descending on Cahuenga, causing an increase of 20,400 in round figures in circulation, the flurry did not settle into a regular routine patronage of the branch, if the circulation figures are correctly gauged. Like a flurry of snow it melted leaving only a small imprint of its having occurred---a few remaining Los Feliz patrons continuing to use Cahuenga. This result is amazing as the distance to Cahuenga is not great and the reason for the discontinuance of the use of the branch by the majority of them is mystifying--unless they wanted what they wanted when they wanted it!

By listening carefully, as 1940 wore on into 1941, one could hear the rumblings of the coming struggle of World War II. These were days of voluntary enlistment---days when ears were glued to the radio---days of tremendous interest on the part of civilians in obtaining work in industrial and war plants---all of these interests took up the slack in leisure time leaving little time for reading. And with the increasing decimation of the reading public the circulation went plunging downward.

Daylight saving and black-outs were started as war was declared. The sirens warning of black-outs blared forth their signal and all lights, auto and otherwise, were blacked out by military order. ^{To warn} danger nearing Los Angeles, or more often to cover the movement of troops and armaments, these ghastly and unearthly black-outs lasted anywhere from a few hours to most of the night. As a result people were not out at night. The library hours were changed to the strange ones of eight thirty in the morning to five at night.

The army took over Griffith Park forcing the Los Feliz Woman's Club to use the branch auditorium for their meetings. At this time the East Hollywood-Silverlake Coordinating Council used the branch auditorium but their meetings had dwindled to occasional meetings of a few executives.

A Civilian Defense Registration Center began in the auditorium on December 7th, 1942. The beginning war years brought changes indeed. The government order evicting all Japanese meant the evacuation of these people from their settlement nearby. The Japanese children were excellent users of the branch. The Negroes, who for the most part moved in to this vacuum, made little use of the library. This had a

great effect on the use of the branch and consequently on its circulation which became scanter by the year.

The great losses in circulation at this time were, according to the branch librarian's report, due to: "1. Enlistment and draft. 2. Evacuation of Japanese. 3. Continual increase of employment. 4. Black-outs."

When the present branch librarian came, July 1944, she was informed by a previous branch librarian that the Cahuenga area was not a well knit community with a group or organization through which to work. This means difficulty in reaching the people who are potential patrons. Their use of the branch depends on their locating it. That the branch is on a busy thoroughfare and above the level of the street, visible for some distance around, is advantageous in this case. It has a helpful eminence that cannot be belittled.

In the area close to the branch are two colleges, City College and Chapman College. During the war years the campus at each college was meagerly populated due to most of the men and many of the women being in the services. Year by year the number of pupils dwindled on the campus at City College in a marked degree, it being the larger college.

A detachment of soldiers on Chapman College campus made use of the branch. Quonset huts dotted that campus. This group was a joy to work with, being grateful for everything done for them.

During the summer of 1944 Chapman College moved to Whittier and the Pacific International College with a small enrollment moved in.

Everything at this particular time contrived to pull down the circulation and the use of the branch: a greatly decreased summer session convened during the summer of 1944; the number of night school classes dropped from 100 classes to about 35; and a very much smaller college enrollment continued during the year of 1944/45. All of these problems along with those with the civilian population outlined above contributed to the grim situation into which the new and present branch librarian stepped July 1st, 1944.

The Pacific International College moved in the spring of 1945 to the south part of Los Angeles and the detachment of soldiers left, leaving only their quonset huts behind on the campus for future use.

The increased accessibility of books due to the re-arrangement of books worked out by the new branch librarian, the fashioning of a clean collection, and the general reorganization was like a shot in the arm causing the use of the branch to soar until the 1945/46 year, when the branch turned in the third largest gain among the branches after many years of large and continued losses. The patrons were pleased with the "new Look" given the branch and expressed themselves warm-

ly.

Chapman College returned to its campus from Whittier, and the number of pupils increased at City College, thus the college area resumed a more normal appearance, the students again making the regular inquiries at the branch for books and assistance with their assignments.

The civilians ^{gave} were giving up their wartime jobs gradually as they were able to blot out the hideous mental pictures of the happenings in the gigantic struggle which had just passed.

To help erase the past the ~~library~~ interior of the branch was painted during the fall of 1947!

The library class from Chapman College, accompanied by the librarian, visited the branch in March of 1948 to see other ways of meeting library problems than in a college library.

The 1948 report states "the Cahuenga area shows a cross section of a large city. This is a loosely knit area with no groups or organizations to work with to coordinate the people---yet there are a lot of people in this section.

"With each year since the war the district has changed. It is very much alive, and activity is the keyword. There are machine shops set up in small store buildings with machinery to make metal parts. Unfortunately no two of them [are] adventuring along the same line, hence their interest and demand on the branch are varied, and the problem is to answer the full gamut of queries. There are the makers of automotive and tooling parts, lamps, chandeliers, and lampshades (not silk ones), class pins and insignia, and plastics of all kinds; there are machine-shops, picture-framing shops, cabinet shops, print shops and furniture factories, to name a few... Also, small industries having to do with chemical formulas flourish here.

"This branch serves several colleges: City College,... has started an active [four year] teacher training course; Chapman College; Golden State University, located a block from the branch; and Immaculate Heart College is on the fringe of the district served by this branch. There are eight or nine grammar schools and a senior high school. One junior high school is in the immediate district, but pupils are served from three nearby junior high schools as well.

"Four hospitals are within walking distance, and nurses make use of the collection of books here.

"Numerous artists and writers, including many radio script writers, live in this area. This branch being on the

edge of Hollywood numbers many people from the moving picture studios, who come to trace unusual questions about scenery, costumes, customs, and other film problems. And a few blocks from the branch is the Monogram Studio.

"The well-to-do from the beautiful Los Feliz Hills to the north use the branch. A small slum area may be cleared away by the new Freeway. And a Negro section close by brings a few colored patrons into the branch. Probably, though, the major service given in this branch is to the average American people. They live in modestly comfortable homes, and while not watching the pennies too carefully they are not spend-thrifts.

"The Barnsdall Park, with its adult craft activities, is a part of this area, and the Yellow Bus Depot, to top it all and lend an industrial air to the immediate neighborhood, occupies half a block where homes might house potential readers.

"The Freeway cuts diagonally across the territory this branch serves... The Freeway is no longer one of the proposed ones but is now under construction. The Los Feliz and Hyperion library stations are in our postal zone.

"Activities since the war appear to have taken a new lease on life and are zooming along, and the people involved find their way to the branch with their queries of HOW, WHAT and WHY."

The Freeway cutting through Cahuenga's area has become a reality in 1949. It connects the Valley through Hollywood with downtown Los Angeles causing repercussions in the use of the branch. The manager of Jerry's market, a super market about eight blocks away, has felt the impact and estimates that 900 customers have moved away due to the Freeway. In one building along forty-eight families had to move when the city condemned the land.

This truncation shows up in the schools also. At Dayton Heights, a nearby school, approximately seven pupils in the A 4 grade are expected in September. The other classes have thirty pupils enrolled as against the prevalent forty.

By May or June, however, all patrons moved who had to move because of the construction of the Freeway in this area.

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STAFF CHANGES AND CHANGES IN THE BRANCH.

As jobs were available and people went back to work following the depression years circulation losses ensued. In January 1937 one professional staff member was dropped, reducing three librarians to two, and adding a clerk typist, making five of them. However, this being the W. P. A. era there were added to the regular staff two W. P. A's. in March 1937 who cleaned books and did other clerical tasks. They were "very useful" comments the branch librarian.

Dropping the professional staff member for a clerical worker in March necessitated reorganizing the work, requiring, as time went on, the children's librarian to be at the adviser's desk in the afternoons and evenings. By June the W. P. A's. were increased to four, which provided some alleviation.

of

In speaking ~~for~~ the need for professional staff versus clerical, the report states, "The branch librarian was amazed in visiting a Kansas City branch comparable to Cahuenga in hours and staff but with smaller circulation, to find that all of the staff with the exception of two pages were of professional grade". The problem of completing tasks is deduced from this comment and the report also shows that one of the W. P. A's was lost by the wayside reducing the number to ~~to~~ three for 1938.

Joyfully a gain was reported in the fall of 1938 for the first time in four years resulting in a yearly gain ~~for~~ in June 1939. Ceasing to give renewals ^{at this time} must have eased the work somewhat even though another W. P. A. worker was lost reducing the number to two.

The joy ^{as well as the} and gain in circulation was short-lived, for ^{with} in the winter ^{of} 1939 ~~report note of the continuing loss in circulation and registration is entered~~ ^{again reared its head.}

For the records: in June 1940 there were four W. P. A's. and in October of the same year there were two.

In August 1940 Miss Bowler, the branch librarian, became assistant city librarian and Miss Helen Seymour began as branch librarian October 1940.

During the next years---THE WAR YEARS---the problem of staffing and running a branch was almost problem number ONE. The reports of these years comment on the difficulties of obtaining help, especially messenger clerk help, and the terrific turnover of staff shows the problem. Youngsters not out of high school obtained jobs paying \$150.00 a month, while the pay in libraries did not move upward in unison with that elsewhere.

Trials of staffing seemed to reach their peak in the November 1942 report. The lack of messenger clerk help and obtaining good clerk typist help played havoc with the work. Seven hours a day of clerical work done by each of the professional staff members is mentioned. Some of this was undoubtedly due to a cut in staff (deduced from the records) of two clerk typists and the addition of thirty hours of messenger clerk time---a total cut of fifty hours.

At this time, when the need for them was greatest, the W. P. A's. were discontinued. Wages being high (elsewhere than in the library) and jobs available, all who could and would work were going into well paid fields.

And still the war continued! Turnover among the clerk typists and messenger clerks was bewailed! Continued losses in circulation during this period resulted in loss of clerical help. Another cut of thirty hours of messenger clerk time and the circulation continued its downward trend!

The homes of the evacuated Japanese at this time were gradually being filled with Negroes and Mexicans but they, not being the readers the Japanese were, did not aid the circulation.

As the war years continued the November report states, "High school and college people are not using the branch as they once did, because they are either working or are in Army and Navy Schools".

This report bemoaned the cut in staff mentioned above and found the remaining staff circulating almost two more books per hour per person than in 1940 with five clerical library aids (clerk typist grade) AND four W. P. A's. in 1940 who were were not counted in the statistics.

Miss Seymour was transferred June 30, 1944 and did not write an annual report for the time prior to that date.

In December 1944, the year the new and present branch librarian was appointed, a clerk typist was added and twenty hours in messenger clerk time was deleted---actually adding twenty hours of clerk typist time.

The circulation for this one more year, 1944/45, continued falling due to the heavy discarding of soiled books, the transferring of non-circulators, and the rearranging of books out of their usual places where they had been for years, in order to make them more accessible. This along with the closing of many classes at City College and fewer pupils there, AND, of course, the WAR, aided the decline for one more year. However the patrons, becoming used to the general overhauling, began to be vitally interested.

During 1944/45 the branch librarian gave additional time to the children's librarian for her work as well as additional funds from the adult book budget to purchase more children's books.

This increase of time and money given to the children's section this first year of "THE GREAT CHANGE" became immediately effective in an increase in the juvenile circulation.

The difficulty of working out schedules was still a war hazard as the messenger clerks kept their jobs so short a time---some not showing up, procuring a better paying job between the time they applied and the time they were to begin! The messenger clerks on the staff were always wanting time off and, because one didnt dare lose them, time had to be given. Vacancies went unfilled for days at a time. It was a hair-graying procedure!

The next year, 1945/46, due to the changes instigated, showed an excellent increase---the third largest gain among the branches.

Due to this bouncing gain a clerk typist was added and an increase in messenger clerk time of thirty hours was given the branch in March of 1947.

And again due to a good increase the following year an additional clerk typist was added April 1948.

In February 1948 the basement workroom was opened up for the use of the staff as there were too many persons to be accommodated on the main floor.

When the details of this last clerk typist position were worked out in detail in setting up the job, it was discovered that a professional ~~position~~ person was needed. This being so, in July 1949 an additional professional position (librarian) and the deletion of three-quarters of messenger clerk time was authorized. This means an additional ten hours on the over-all time.

This addition to the professional staff means that the adviser's desk can be completely covered, greater help in reference work can be given, as well as aid to the patrons in their selection of books.

Each succeeding year since 1945 a sturdy and healthy gain has been accruing until June 1949, and while there is a gain for that year, it is a slim one due to the new Freeway. However, by May of 1949 the lowest ebb of circulation due to that cause should have occurred.

BOOK COLLECTION AND HOUSING IT.

After requesting additional book stacks for a long time they were added in 1937 at the back of the desk. The branch librarian reports: "This will leave very little room for expansion but will take care of the present collection".

There were 25,944 books in 1937; today, 1949, there are 26,500. Only two book stacks have been added in the intervening twelve years. This has not permitted a collection to expand adequately to meet the growing needs of the community.

The branch librarian in her June 1937 report included a plan similar to the one recommended by the present branch librarian. The plan outlined the opportunity for present and future expansion and recommended the use of the auditorium as a children's room. The plan is included here as it is essentially a good one and, with minor changes to meet the change of emphasis in the work, would still meet the need for "lebensraum".

"Following is an outline for expansion which could make use of the entire building with present floor space -

I. AUDITORIUM

Convert into children's department and intermediate reading alcove.

Has

1. Separate entrance
2. Windows
3. Heat

Needs

1. Redecorating
2. Floor raised to west end level

II. WORKROOM (at foot of stairs)

Convert into

1. Magazine storeroom
2. Workroom for children's department

III. READING ROOM (west end of building)

Use for reference room containing

1. Reference books
2. Bound magazines
3. Current and circulating periodicals
across west end of room
4. Pamphlet files
5. Catalog

IV. PERIODICAL ROOM

Convert into librarian's office

V. STACK SPACE BEHIND DESK

Shelve non-fiction

VI. CHILDREN'S ROOM (east end of building)

Shelve fiction

VII. OFFICE

Convert into workroom

VIII. BUILDING AND GROUNDS

1. Furniture refinished
2. ... "

We comment: The furniture still needs to be re-finished. Time marches on but furniture refinishing, it seems, does not!

Beginning with these early reports the constant and great need for necessary equipment to do the job runs like a dark thread. Strange that there is not the alertness to allocate enough money for equipment to adequately do a job!

The above plan for using all the branch space to adequately meet the demands of this community is still needed, with a few minor changes, to meet the changed services that have developed.

During 1937 the biographies were reclassified out of their section in the 92 classification and scattered throughout the collection depending on the activity the biographee was engaged in. For small book collections, such as branches, this was a difficult arrangement and the branch librarian, Miss Bowler comments: "The change in biography classification is working havoc with one of our best browsing sections. In many cases the newly classified books are lost to the reader who likes biography just as many others like travel or fiction. We have noticed especially a whole shelf in 812.092, biographies of actors, standing untouched since their transfer".

The present branch librarian felt this also and later brought the biographies together in the biography room.

Work on the music analytics continued, the branch librarian writing: "This is one of our most valuable aids". Today the information file and the biography file are the most

important to make available the needed information. All of these analytical files have proved to be most helpful for the latter day branch librarian who fell heir to them. She was grateful for the files she found here in lieu of the ones she left.

In 1942, because the books were so crowded on the shelves, about 2600 of them were stored, or rather piled on the chairs in the auditorium in the basement. Due to lack of help at this time the discarding and transferring of them was not completed.

The first effort of the new branch librarian in 1944 was to get the branch looking alert and cared for. Because of the rapid decrease in circulation over many years, the new branch librarian desired to make the books more accessible, or rather more comfortable of access to the people. Books were crowded on the shelves and fitted in so tightly that it was almost impossible to pull a volume out, with others pushed in on top of the shelves. The books were soiled and dirty; these were ruthlessly discarded, while others which had not circulated well were transferred. Eyes were closed to the large auditorium filled with ~~stack~~ the books gathering dust, as well as the many boxes of shelflist cards for books discarded before the new branch librarian came, awaiting the withdrawal of their catalogue cards. But the important thing was the face-lifting which the branch needed.

With the problem of an overcrowded branch, to take out and down all the little cluttering announcements, notices, etc., to try for a wide sweep, for spaciousness to befool the eye so that the branch would not look crowded, seemed the part of art and wisdom. Removing the cluttered things, swinging a large table with long straight lines into the children's room among all of the round tables with curved lines, achieved serenity and anchored the children's room, removing the jumpy sense due to all the curved lines of the furniture. The next important step for serenity and spaciousness was the use of one color scheme in the major portion of the branch for posters, displays, etc., instantly unifying the whole branch and giving a sense of wide horizons.

Displays were set up and the biography room started, to make for the much needed space on the regular shelves. Old stacks were brought up from the basement and placed in the magazine room to meet this pressing need. This room was begun because more shelf room HAD to be obtained. The problem then arose of which group of books should be shelved there. Finally it was decided the biographies might be the best. These have been lifted out of their regular classifications, where they were to a great extent lost as Miss Bowler pointed out in her report in 1938. The books were labeled "B" along with the shelflist and catalogue cards. Shelving these biographies gave much more room on the regular shelves. Where the shelves had been crowded they began to present a free and easy appearance.

It is hoped that all records are correct which have been handled since July 1944, with the advent of the new branch librarian and the many changes wrought. Whenever changes have been made in shelving books, the symbols have been so designated, not only on the books themselves but on their corresponding shelflist and catalogue cards as well---and on ALL of their catalogue cards!---AND as the work went along!

After the main floor was in fairly good order, thought was turned to ~~the~~ two "stale" projects needing attention. With the rearrangement of books for accessibility and the emphasizing of the biography room cared for (work which had to continue over a period of years), the second year, 1945/46, two other problems needed solving. One was the disposal of the 2600 books stacked on chairs in the basement auditorium in solemn, albeit dusty state. These were culled through, transferred, discarded and catalogue and shelflist ~~xxxx~~ records were withdrawn.

The other "stale" project was the slaving over the numerous boxes packed with shelflist cards for books which had been discarded by the previous branch librarian for which the catalogue cards had not been withdrawn from the catalogue. Since the branch had been understaffed there had not been time to complete the process and the shelflist cards reposed in BOX AFTER BOX! These two "stale" projects which the new branch librarian fell heir to were carried through to completion by the beginning of 1947.

A branch that is old has more old irregular records as "time marches on". During recent years every effort has been made to correct these old incorrect records as they appear. This emphasis was stressed during the '47s and '48s.

Subject lists of books were started in 1946, and completed in 1948, to make available more books for the public. This large and helpful task is being kept up as these lists are necessary in a large branch.

During 1948/49 a greater effort was made to label more of the biographies "B" which were classed in other classifications than 92s. This eased the regular shelves for the factual material in various classes and made a biography room more logical. The labeling of books is always a slow process since the shelflist and catalogue cards need to be changed as well as the books themselves.

The odd sized books and their records were labeled. The green diamond books have been labeled to give better and more helpful service to the younger readers.

As the pioneer period passes and large tasks are accomplished, the less showy things are done to give even better service.

TRENDS IN THE USE OF BOOKS.

The report for June 1937 ~~speaks~~^{speaks} of the 800s and the 900s in non-fiction as being the ~~most~~ books most used. "The present book stock at Cahuenga is a good general collection, considerably stronger in 800 and 900 than other classes, but with a good foundation of standard titles in all fields. Fiction is strong in standards and classics and especially in translations of European novelists. Current non-fiction has been kept up largely at the expense of popular circulating fiction. We are loath to sacrifice a good basic collection (books which circulate only once or twice a year) to popular ephemeral material but Cahuenga must have some plan for expansion or let the old standards go to make way for the new." (See page 9 for the plan for expansion which was proposed. All of these arguments hold true today.)

Today, 1949, the 600s are almost equal to the 800s and 900s in use and number of books in the collection. The demand for the translations has fallen off, otherwise the above paragraph lifted out of the earlier report is still true.

A reference count was taken from July 1st to November 30th, 1938 and totaled 600 to 700 questions per week. A count such as this reveals the great need for an adequate background collection of books.

The demand evidently started in this period of the 1940s for engineering and trade books. ~~from~~ The comment in this report telling of the demand arising.

With the distant rumblings of war the great ~~demand~~ demand ^{for} of the 600s was felt, as the branch librarian comments on the use of the National Defense pamphlets, similar material and technical books. While no ~~count~~ count was kept the report speaks of the decrease in circulation but the active increase in reference work.

The greater use of the 600s began in the war years. When the present branch librarian came July 1944 the demand for these technical books was becoming insistent. Even though the war and the war effort had slowed down the research writing every effort was made to buy the few technical books as they were published---old ones being quite useless. Immediately the men found them and expressed pleasure at being able to use these books.

Decreased enrollment in the colleges and the lack of regular academic assignments during the war made for decreased reference work along these lines.

The effort was started in 1944/45 to make the collection up-to-date and more available for the public within the

rigid restrictions of the building. Comments from the public were, and have been, continuously appreciative and flattering.

The great need for up-to-date technical material continued to snowball. With the money poured into new books in that section the circulation of these 600s responded immediately. Men from the neighborhood and from other localities came to use the "remarkably fine collection of technical books", to use their phrasing.

During 1945/46 book buying was slanted toward the 600 section, sacrificing orders for 300s, 400s, and 800s, as the collection in those classes was adequate for the decreased enrollment in the colleges.

The reference work had been changing and by 1945 a more definite trend was noted. The questions became more biographical and highly technical, or specialized, in content. Hence biographies and technical reference material was purchased endeavoring to meet this developing need.

Increased use and circulation of the 600s and heavy purchase of books in this classification began to tell in 1946 and the circulation began to soar.

The reference questions had picked up and continued their upward course in number and the range became tremendous.

With all of these increases ~~the~~ heavy registration began and was attributed to the increase in population with the return of those who served in the armed forces or who worked in industrial plants doing war work. Their return to civilian life gave an impetus to registration and circulation.

Again extra money was given to the book budget for the Children's room and greatly helped meet the needs as the gains in circulation went upward.

The slanting of book buying mentioned above proved to be so successful that during 1946/47 heavy purchase was indulged in in the 600 section again, until at the end of that year it was felt that the section was adequate to care for the heavy demand, constantly increasing, being placed upon it.

This plan was especially good at this time since the college demand for academic subjects which diminished during the war had not yet picked up. In 1947/48 the heavy purchase of 700s was worked out to meet the swiftly increasing demand for ceramics, arts and crafts which began to flourish following the war. That plan, slanting the heavy book buying for the 600s and 700s for the two years, paid off in excellent dividends in use of the books, resulting in good circulation

and excellent service to the patrons. However, the poor Drs. Martin and Carnovsky must have been confused and non-plussed to see that few 800's were bought those two years. Looking at the records would not reveal the excellence of the collection in the 800 division along with the diminishing use of it at this time.

Much money for a period of three years was spent for reference material, technical and art books. But the results were well worth the expenditure.

The broad balance in book buying was restored in 1948/49 with a well-rounded collection, resulting from the specialized purchasing the past years to meet the special and new needs which had arisen.

During the war, college assignments lessened in academic subjects. At this time, however, the academic demand from college was back again in full swing and it was well the book buying was ready for this need with the other pressing demands cared for.

Today, 1949, aside from the utilization of the 600s, 700s, 800s, and 900s there is a growing demand for the law books at this branch.

Heavy and consistent use is made of the books on writing by the many writers, radio, movie and television script writers, as well as all of the "would-be's".

The fiction circulation slowly falling off may be due to the fact that with few exceptions fiction is less appealing to readers today. Authors may love to wallow in "realism", love to plumb the depths of the emotions and tragedies of those incarcerated in institutions, etc.--they may get vicarious emotional enjoyment out of it, but the large majority of readers still like a rattling good story! This need to a great extent is filled by the delightful books of biography classified and scattered throughout the library depending on the subject. Their classification hides them from the general reader unless the books, if there is a thread of narrative running through them, are brought together in some fashion, such as a biography room or brought together in a display. Both of these methods are used at Cahuenga and the patrons constantly speak of the accessibility of books here. What they mean is that the books they like are made accessible for them. ~~These~~ These delightful biographies and true adventure stories are seducing the readers of fiction today.

* * * * *

WORK WITH CHILDREN.

A woman, grown and married now, who had used this branch as a child started using it again after an interim of a couple of years. She remembered looking at the "Sunbonnet Babies" and the "Twin Books" as a child in this branch, of coming over with the classes and enjoying the adventure, remembering the children's librarian drawing the group of children around her and telling a story after the class work was over. She is now working on a master's degree and came back to use the fine collection of books at this branch.

Another patron, a man, remembers the class visits and the storyhours held in the branch when he was a boy. He attributes his present enjoyment of reading to the part the library played in his boyhood.

Encouraging are these two incidents in carrying on this phase of library work and charting its future course for all the children in this community, mostly white, some ~~black~~ dark-skinned and a few Orientals.

Japanese and Negro families were noticed^{as} increasing in 1936. This was the time when "class work" was heavy and it was found that the "best contact is through the schools" for this branch. Results of a small book budget were felt in the children's section.

These years in the thirties were the years of many classes coming from the schools to the branch. Thirty classes per month is the estimate on record. There was need for more books and more shelving.

School enrollment lessened in 1938 even with the gradual increase of Japanese and Mexican groups at this time.

In 1938 a survey shows thirty-eight hours of the children's librarian's time devoted to the children's work, accounting for 22% of the total circulation. Six schools were cared for. Twenty hours of W. P. A. help was also available.

A nearby special school, the Frances de Pauw School for Mexican girls, sent pupils once a month to the branch for several years.

The Los Feliz Branch closed in the fall of 1940, resulting in a great influx of borrowers at Cahuenga. At this time and with this influx there was a crying need ~~of~~^{for} easy books.

The unsettled conditions of the war years began to affect the work with children. The change in hours for the branch and the removal of the Japanese by government order, robbing the children's room of good users of it, brought consequent losses in juvenile circulation.

Conditions continued unsettled, but in 1944 deposits of books at Santa Monica Boulevard and Franklin Avenue Schools were started hoping to bolster the sagging circulation.

Miss Fisher, the new children's librarian arriving in September of 1944, saw the work that had been done in making the branch presentable, and began to carry out more definite plans and arrangements for the children's room.

Increased time was given by the branch librarian to the children's librarian to devote to her work, and money from the adult fund, as well, for more juvenile books. This began to show up immediately in better use of the children's room and juvenile circulation.

These two increases were given again the next year. After a number of requests from the teachers, a deposit was opened at Micheltoregn Street School, utilizing the same nucleus of books as at Santa Monica Boulevard, and has been an active one. An inventory of juvenile books was undertaken and completed at this time.

Early in the fall of 1946 the children's room along with the rest of the library was treated to a fresh coat of paint, at which time the bulletin boards were painted the same as the walls, making the room look clean and the spaces unbroken.

Participation in the survey when Miss Henne called special meetings each week was of moment during the spring of 1948.

Class visits and school visits go on continuously. Lectures dropped due to changes in personnel at both the library and the Children's Hospital were resumed during 1949. These lectures on children's books and their uses in the sick-room are given to every class of students nurses some time during their six week's stay at the hospital.

* * * * *

INVENTORY.

The long task of changing book numbers from the old colon numbers to Cutter numbers was completed as the 1935 inventory progressed. A great sigh of relief can almost be heard as that job was completed!

The 1935 inventory was completed in 1937 and became the 1937 inventory.

The last inventory when the new branch librarian arrived in 1944 had been taken in 1937, leaving records in the shelflist and catalogue over that long period of years for which there were no books.

After the rearrangement of books for easier accessibility for the patrons and rearranging the interior of the branch, it was decided that an inventory would achieve correct records, as the books and records were not in an ideal state for a newcomer. In the process of inventorying, the new branch librarian would also be able to weed the soiled books and out-of-date ones from the collection, and, more important, gain a knowledge of the titles in the branch.

In the fall of 1945 this inventory was started. But during 1945/46 the branch had such an amazing gain (third largest among the branches after years of decline) that the inventory was the "forgotten man". More help added to the staff enabled a vigorous attack on the inventory once more. Yet again the circulation increased, allowing spasmodic attention to be given the inventory.

While it has been continuously worked on, the 1945 inventory became the 1947 inventory, and after many interruptions was completed during the early part of 1949. The searching now goes on; bit by bit the records of missing books are deleted, bringing nearer the possibility of knowing definitely which titles the branch actually has as against the titles listed but missing---some missing for eight or nine years.

* * * * *

DISCIPLINE.

Discipline is mentioned in the reports of 1936 and 1937 as a problem. This part of the city, at that time, was the seventh worst section, according to juvenile delinquency records. With the passage of time these gangs are disappearing.

In 1944/45 there were some minor disturbances, but there is little trouble now. Fingers are being crossed to aid in retaining this heavenly status!

The discipline problem at the present is with the "enfants terribles" exercising their lungs, solitary enjoyers of the reverberations; the slightly older ones patter around slapping their hard little flat soles on the linoleum to make a penetratingly sharp, snappy sound, or put tiny fingers in the drinking fountain to see the water shoot upward in a miraculous stream of many strands of dewy beads held together by invisible thread; and the still older ones fill their mouths with water, squirting it at their unsuspecting companions who have not entirely stepped out of the library doors!---Ah! this is the stuff of which humor is made and doubles one up with mirth when one is six to ten! Strange it is that librarians, with a perverted sense of humor, frown on such delectable fun!

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COORDINATING COUNCIL.

For a long time no coordinating council existed, the nearest being in Hollywood. The Silver Lake Council organized in 1936, the meetings being attended and commented on that year by the branch librarian: "Although the Library's activities within the Coordinating Council are apt to be more negative than positive, it has our support, and occasionally we can be of real assistance". No further mention appears of the council until the war years, when it had dwindled to an occasional executive meeting due to war time activities.

The council probably did not contribute much to the needs of this branch---not all of them do---and in an understaffed branch the time could not be expended attending the council meetings and that activity was discontinued.

Approximately in 1946/47 the council recovered from the war and an invitation to meet with them was received. However with the increasing circulation and the tremendous work needing to be done in the branch the invitation was laid aside for a future date.

* * * * *

CONCLUSION.

On the velvet canopy over the throne of Mary, Queen of Scots, in gold embroidery were the words "In my end is my beginning". Paraphrased and applied to Cahuenga, this could read "In its present is Cahuenga's beginning of the future". While Queen Mary left a son to carry on the family name and traditions, Cahuenga is begetting more and more service to the patrons each year and with its book collection and records on a good basis can expand and carry on its worthwhile traditions of the past and adapt itself to the developing needs as they materialize.

Cahuenga came into being to serve---to serve the reading needs of this community; to give---to give information and books to the people. These traditions it has carried on and continues so to do. A robust branch is Cahuenga, with a tremendously wide range of interests enlivening the work and lending gaiety and interest to the branch pattern.

Because Cahuenga's beginning was sturdy, its present is so, and very probably its future will be equally vital. Though the Freeway this past year made some inroads in the use of the branch, its circulation, I believe, will remain undaunted and rally from this thrust.

While the circulation of books in the whole system is of concern to all and blends into one whole, it is unrealistic to think that one should not be concerned for the circulation for which he is responsible. A right attitude toward a job requires an endeavor to see that activity is taking place and in the library it is measured by circulation. Quite naturally a branch librarian is hoping that things she envisions increase circulation, not because of the circulation itself but because it indicates service and because inevitably increases in staff and book appropriations (to be fair) should be based on some guide. The indication of services rendered with the resulting increases in circulation rewarded by additional staff and book appropriation, enables the branch librarian to give greater service to the patrons in the community her branch serves.

This new year 1949/50 Cahuenga is calling the CHILDREN'S YEAR. It is felt with so many schools in the neighborhood that the juvenile circulation should yield more than it has done the past year. With the addition of a "librarian" and the deletion of thirty hours of

messenger clerk time, leaving ten added hours for the branch, the endeavor will be to have more classes in the library and to give greater service to the children to more nearly achieve that given in 1938. At that time the Children's librarian had the assistance of twenty hours of untrained personnel or W. P. A. time. While that amount of time of trained help may not be given immediately, that is the goal.

Time alone will tell if the vision and the venture is a good one. The effort, imagination and executive ability of the children's librarian will be given full scope to garner in the fruitful results of her talents. She is planning, and with the passage of a few weeks the launching will begin---the plan will be a reality. No longer will it be a shadow, but substance.

Thus Cahuenga marches on, engaged in serving an ever wider sphere of patrons to meet the challenge of the future.

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Appendix I

STAFF MEMBERS

Branch librarians

Bowler, Miss Roberta	10/1/34	8/1/40
Hook, Mrs. Anna-Marie	7/1/44	present
Seymour, Miss Helen	10/1/40	6/30/44

Librarians

Fitz, Miss Beulah	9/4/45	present
Gray, Mrs. Marguerite	3/?/40	8/?/45
Halvax, Mrs. Rosemary	10/15/37	3/?/40
Taber, Miss Alice	10/1/34	10/15/37

Children's librarians

Fisher, Miss Jean	9/5/44	present
Hovey, Miss Florence	10/1/36	10/1/40
Jenks, Miss Helen	10/1/40?	7/15?/44
Smith, Mrs. Dorothy (substitute)	9/9/40	10/1/40

Clerk typists and clerical library aids (clerk typist designation occurred about June 1942)

Baxter, Charles	3/10/47	9/13/47
Beaugegard, Doris	3/?/45	7/?/45
Berger, Rosalyn	6/7/43	6/30/43 last listed
Borthwick, Dorothy	4/1/43	1/?/46
Calkins, Margaret	1/21/48	5/31/49
Copeland, Geraldine	listed 7/?/34	11/30/36
Craig, Irma	7/1/35	1/1/37
De Pue, Mabel	11/16/44	present
Derby, Dorothy	4/12/48	present
Doty, Lucile	8/1/39	not listed 11/30/39
Garman, Nettie	4/20/36	11/30/39 last listed
Garner, Dorothy	see Borthwick, Dorothy	
Hilton, Lucile	8/19/40	11/30/41 last listed
Jarmuth, Lucile	listed 6/30/41	6/30/42 last listed
Kauffman, Clara	listed 6/30/42	8/18/42
Livingood, Jeanne	see Park, Jeanne	
Loutz, Geneva	11/1/34	9/20/37
McAuley, Una	11/8/40	1/15/44
Martelli, Marie	9/17/47	2/13/48
Matza, Adessa	listed 11/30/42	3/15/43
Murphy, Mary Helen	listed 9/30/36	5/17/43
Park, Jeanne	1/25/37	8/1/39
Riggs, Margaret	10/?/37	12/9/40 ?

Appendix I
(cont.)

Rose, Isabel	1/6?/46	present
Stone, Albertine	listed 11/30/40	5/1/41
Thomas, Bettina	see Van Evry, Bettina	
Van Evry, Bettina	3/1/37	11/6/40
Vardon, Geraldine	see Copeland, Geraldine	

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Appendix II

IMPORTANT PERSONS

Cox, Mrs. Vera M. 3724 Sunset Blvd., 26	Radio artist and writer
De Groot, Dr. Alfred 766 S. Vermont Ave., 27	Dean of Chapman College
Echard, Margaret 1057½ N. Ardmore, 27	Author: Before I wake Dark fantastic If this be treason Man without friends
Ireland, Neal 3532 Holboro Dr., 27	Superintendent, Pacific Home for the Aged
Perez, Louis 4041 Clayton Ave., 27	Author: El Coyote, the Rebel
Peterson, Felicie C. 587 N. New Hampshire Ave., 27	Past-president, So. Cal. Woman's Press Club
Rutzebeck, Hjalmar 4567 Santa Monica Blvd., 27	Author: Alaska man's luck Hell's paradise 1949
Steele, Frank A. 1942 N. Edgemont St., 27	Plant Manager, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.

Trimble, Louis Author

Crawford, Mary Sinclair Retired dean of U.S.C.
2383 W. Silverlake Dr 39

Appendix II
(cont.)

Trumpis, Robert
4148 Tracy St., 27

Trumpis, Collar & Associates
Manufacturers of phonograph records X

Vivian, Percival
1271 Lyman Pl., 27

Shakespearean actor and former
producer of Shakespearean
plays for the London Council
School System

White, Dean M.
4248 $\frac{1}{2}$ Franklin Ave., 27

Office of County Coroner

Williams, Frayne
3121 Hamilton Way, 26

Dramatic reader of plays and
lecturer

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HONORARY LIBRARY BOARD

The Honorary Library Board for this branch
evaporated. All of them have either become deceased or
have moved away.

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