



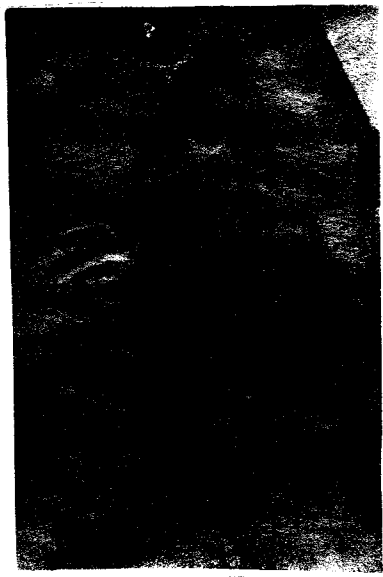
HISTORY

OF

RICHARD HENRY DANA BRANCH

OF

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY



STATIONS

The Richard Henry Dana Branch had it's beginnings in Deposit Stations. The first was in the Loreto Street School, where it was supervised by Miss Jessie Gearhart, principal of the school, assisted by the members of the Parent-Teacher Association, Mrs. Weale and Mrs. Latimer giving particularly long and faithful service as custodians. Another station was started in the Aragon Avenue School under the supervision of Miss Jessie Crandall, principal, with teachers acting as custodians. There was still another station at one time in the car barns of the Los Angeles Railway, where the widow of a street car conductor was paid by the Company to act as custodian.

The Deposit Stations were established first in 1912.

LIBRARY ESTABLISHED

October 11, 1920.

After some six or seven years of service through Deposit Stations, it was decided to establish a separate public branch library, with a trained librarian in charge. Through the efforts of Miss Gearhart and other community workers, a store building was rented at 507 W. Ave. 28, just off Dayton Ave. Here the library was opened on October 11th., 1920, and named the Dayton Avenue Branch. The circulation for the remaining part of October was 654, and for the first full month, November, it was 1,322.

YEARLY CIRCULATION

Oct. 11, 1920-June 30, 1921-----	12,651
1921-1922-----	21,682
1922-1923-----	30,024



Dayton Avenue Branch
Oct. 11, 1920-Apr. 30, 1927.

The interior furnishings of the above pictured edifice consisted of one office desk for charging, one catalog, three long tables and two short ones, with shelves on both sides, the children's books on one, the adult on the other; magazine files across the back, and two strips of fiber carpet down each side aisle. A partition across the back furnished a sort of staff room with a sink and a table. The street in front belonged to the L. A. Railway company so did not have the cleaning service of the city.



Richard Henry Dana

1851-1931

By

BLISS PERRY

THE THREE RICHARD HENRY DANAS

Bliss Perry's delightfully written biography of the late Richard Henry Dana shows that, quite apart from his distinguished ancestors, Mr. Dana was a significant and important man in his own right. At first the third Richard Henry Dana may impress us as less illustrious than either his father or his grandfather who both bore the same name. Yet as the story of his life unfolds in this charming biography, we come finally to realize that in the robust integrity of this courageous fighter for countless good causes are to be found contributions to public service that went beyond those of either his grandfather or father.

The elder Richard Henry Dana (1787-1879) was highly esteemed as one of the older American poets, as the author of the 'Buccaneer,' as an editor of the *North American Review* and as a lecturer on Shakespeare, was looked up to with awe as having a culture superior to that of most of his contemporaries, and tended to hold himself somewhat aloof from the rank and file.

The second Richard Henry Dana (1815-1882), the well-known author of 'Two Years Before the Mast,' had in his youth gone to sea for a short time as an ordinary sailor, had come to have a sympathy for the life of the common seaman and later on for the lot of the fugitive slaves, and devoted much energy to these causes as well as to the interpretation of international law, yet always retained something of his father's aristocratic aloofness.

The third Richard Henry Dana (1851-1931), modestly conscious of having less literary ability than either his father or grandfather, may seem to the literary critic to come as something of an anticlimax after them. Yet from the angle of service to humanity his life may now be seen to be an advance upon theirs. He served many more than two years before the mast in the cause of public efficiency. For more than half a century he threw his interest into certain fundamental reforms for the benefit, not merely of sailors or slaves, but of all the citizens of America. In advocating the Australian Ballot System, he helped assure the purity of the people's vote in America, without which democracy would be meaningless. In advocating Civil Service Reform, he was trying to free the government from the evils of the spoils system in politics, replacing it by a merit system, without which the power of government might well be more evil than good. In other words, Mr. Dana met common men on a common level and sacrificed his own chance for individual eminence by pouring all his strength into public service for the most essential reforms, upon which the welfare of our American Commonwealth depends.

It is the inspiring story of the life of this third Richard Henry Dana which has now for the first time been made public in this biography by Bliss Perry. The many-sided nature of Mr. Dana's life is in part hinted at by the chapter headings which follow.

RICHARD HENRY DANA

1851-1931

By BLISS PERRY

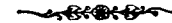
TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. 'Ever a Richard Henry'
- II. A Cambridge Boyhood
- III. Saint Paul's School
- IV. Harvard
- V. 'Hospitable England'
- VI. The Test
- VII. The Trap
- VIII. 'Fighting the Spoilsmen'
- IX. Brattle Street
- X. Until the Evening

APPENDICES

- A. Reminiscences of Longfellow
- B. The Charles River Basin
- C. Theodore Roosevelt

INDEX



Bliss Perry's threefold reputation as author, scholar, and teacher, his close friendship with Mr. Dana for over thirty years, and his access to valuable diaries and to Mr. Dana's unpublished autobiography make him the best qualified biographer of this important and many-sided New England character.

The volume is illustrated by excellent photogravure portraits of three generations of Danas.

\$3.00 at all bookstores

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY

2 PARK STREET, BOSTON



STAFF

October 11, 1920-November 1, 1923.

Miss Emily Richie, a senior attendant, formerly of San Diego, was in charge of the Branch for the first year, followed by Miss Bessie Markson for one month then Mr. Hubert Frazier, who acted as librarian from October, 1921 until August, 1923. Mr. Frazier was then transferred to the Central Library to be in charge of the Shelf Department. Miss Cora E. Wise was sent from the Arroyo Seco Branch to fill in until the first of November, 1923, when Miss Esther Thompson of Detroit became librarian.

WORK WITH CHILDREN

October, 1920--October, 1924.

Miss Reba Dwight was first in charge of Children's Work at the Dayton Avenue Branch, being in charge of this and nine other branches. In October, 1921, Mrs. Anna Marie Hook was made additional supervisor in the Sub-branch work. In February, 1922, Miss Dwight resigned to take a position in Hilo Hawaii. The vacancy was filled by Miss Gladys Crowe until October, 1922 when the Children's Work was much re-organized and Miss Frances Matchette was assigned to be in charge at Edendale, El Sereno and Dayton.

1923-1924

Written reports are to be found at the Branch beginning October, 1923, making it easier to know the details of it's existence. During this year there was rejoicing over the fresh coat of paint the building received; also for the awning which was added to the front. In March, 1924, the first telephone was installed, and in April the same year a typewriter, though second hand, was gratefully received.

This year, too, we find the children's work taking on new importance, a phonograph being sent out to use for music appreciation hours and the Aragon and Loretto Schools making posters for library use.

Appeals started coming in for a new library building on account of lack of facilities for the growing use of library, poor ventilation, lighting etc.

Circulation-----	33,889
Gain per cent-----	13
Juvenile "	-----44
Fiction "	-----67

1924-1925

This year witnessed an entire change of staff. In October, 1924, Miss Frances Matchette was transferred to Main Library to be charge of all sub-branch work and Miss Hope Hendryx took over her schedule for the three branches in-cluding Dayton. Miss Esther Thompson was transferred to Moneta Branch as senior attendant and Miss Dolly Bright of the Oxnard Public Library became principal. In March, 1925, a half-time junior was added in the person of Miss Elizabeth Genrich, who was finishing her college course. Miss Ruth Deane became part-time page during the year also.

A campaign for bonds was carried on through out the city , this branch and community assisting as much as possible for it meant a new building for us among others. The campaign and contacts made proved to form closer ties and sympathy with people and library.

The old building continued to receive improvements, including a new pamphlet case, a new Underwood typewriter, curtains and light shades which made the place as pleasant as possible.

Circulation----44,603
Gain per cent-----31
Juvenile-----44
Fiction-----70



Interior of Dayton Branch

1925-1926

There were changes in staff again this year, Miss Hope Henryx, in charge of the work with children being replaced by Miss Marie Pinney of Cleveland, who did some very fine work with the schools and reaching different organizations in the district. After a few months she was transferred to Vermont Square Branch and her place was filled by Miss Arthur, who finished the year and helped greatly in building up the children's work. In October, 1925, the junior attendant became a full time member of the staff which gave more time to the librarian away from detail desk work.

A real charging desk was sent the branch from the old Central Avenue Branch, and although it was old fashioned, it greatly facilitated the charging and slipping and keeping of records.

During the year there was much anticipation of the new building which was now a definite thing of the near future. The name of the branch was changed to Richard Henry Dana, in order that the books and records might be changed before moving into the new building.

Circulation---57,963
Gain per cent-----30
Juvenile " -----44
Fiction---"-----70

1926-1927

During the first part of the year there was a number of changes in staff; Mrs. Josephine Robinson becoming the junior attendant in September, 1926 and Miss Lillian Locklin becoming the first half-time children's librarian. In January, 1927, Mrs. Robinson resigned on account of ill health and was followed by Miss Aileen Williams of the catalog department. In May Miss Althea Jillson became the first full time children's librarian. In May, also, Miss Katherine Lake did her practice work as junior and took the place of Miss Williams who was transferred back to Catalog.

On May 3rd., 1927 at 1:00 P. M. the branch opened it's doors to the public in the new building at 3320 Pepper Ave. The remaining part of the year was spent joyfully in becoming adjusted to the new building, rearranging shelves, entertaining visitors, and taking care of the increased patronage. Mr. Orren Lewis had been added to the staff as half-time janitor to take care of yard as well as the building.

Circulation---	66,812
Gain per cent----	15
Juvenile "	----44
Fiction "	----70

823 Boston Street

Los Angeles

December 30

Miss Dolly Bright

Principal

Richard Henry Dana Branch

Dear Miss Bright :

Many thanks for your kind letter . I shall try to see your new and interesting Branch before I come to speak there .

The list you sent is excellent

Would be glad to discuss , briefly , any, or as many as you can secure, of the titles below :-

813 H 313 H-2 The happy pilgrimage ✓ *Harris, Corra*
940, 434 2423 Q Revolt in the Desert *Lawrence, J. E.*
915.3 S438 Q Adventures in Arabia *Seabrook, William B.*
831 H468 Re That man Heine ✓ *Brown, Lewis*
92 H 8131 Trader Horn ✓ *Horn, Alfred*
X821 M659-1 Now we are six, *Q. Miller, A. A.*
Fiction
Bunnet, Armand. The vanguard ✓
Oliver, H. E. Q Giants in the earth
De la Roche, Mary Q Jalna

Wishing you a most happy New Year

very faithfully

Gertrude E. Darlow

P.S. Will you please let me know at what time I am expected.

Miss Bright
pp. 2.

From the standpoint of plan and arrangement, you and your staff are better able to speak, but I can see no reason why the scheme should not be satisfactory and convenient to your working needs.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Henry B. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "H" and a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

HSB:1.

June 17 1927

Please return
RICHARD HENRY DANA

Miss Bright,
Librarian
Richard Henry Dana Branch Library
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Miss Bright:

In response to your request, the following points in connection with the Richard Henry Dana Branch Library building may be of interest to you.

The site selected, exposure, and space requirements combined to make imperative an "outside-L" type plan, with entrance at the corner intersection and facing upon the principal approach. To provide the seating and book capacity required within the small appropriation meant adherence to a program of great simplicity in design and use of materials. For this reason, wood construction and Colonial style seemed a suitable medium for the design of the building. This style has the advantage, I believe, of simplicity, unpretentiousness, dignity and repose, an inviting quality, and the virtue of fitting into a residential setting without clash or loss of identity: all attributes that seem desirable in a Branch Library Building.

The building as carried out is therefore merely a simple architectural expression of its plan and function using the Colonial vocabulary; the desire being principally to attain grace and good proportion, balance of mass, and harmony of color and detail.

The total cost of the building, including landscaping, fixtures, sec. shelving, floor covering, and furnishings, amounted to \$26,862.80: or about \$6.75 per square foot, a decidedly economical rate considering the capacity and extent of the work, and the additional burden imposed by the irregularities of the lot.

In carrying out the details of the design restraint was exercised, and vigilance to see that each item emphasized the spirit of the design: thus the character of the sign-post and board, bulletin board, cases, pilasters and fireplace: the panelled ceilings perform the illusory function of relieving the awkward and ugly proportion of the two reading rooms; the lighting fixtures taken from purely commercial stock, with the curse removed and replaced with simple metal work in harmony with the special character of the building.



RICHARD HENRY DANA BRANCH

As it appeared in the summer after it's first occupation May 3rd. Picture does not not give justice to the pretty creamy green finish with it's deep green roof.

The Library Board gave it it's name in keeping with it's policy of giving the branches the names of people who had written of California. Soon after it's completion a letter was received from Richard Henry Dana's son, Richard Henry Dana the Third, who had heard of the library being named for his father. The letter was put on file in Miss Kennedy's office. Another pleasant feature was the picture of the ship in which the author sailed around the horn and visited California in the early days. The copy and enlargement ^{was} obtained through the Houghton Mifflin publishing Co., and was taken from an original painting in the Dana home.

1927-1928

This, the first year in the new building, proved to be most pleasant and profitable. The gain some months was as high as 75%, particularly was the gain noticed in the better books of non-fiction as more adults used the new building. Intensive work was done with the children as that seemed the best way of publicity and about the only way to reach the adults. Every class from every school visited the ~~school~~ where it was at all possible; regular story hours were held with many special features.

The Parent-Teacher Associations seemed ~~another~~ of our best and only means of approach, and in order to acquaint them with their library, each organization was invited to hold a meeting at the library. The Aragon Avenue group were the only ones that finally accepted and in December a very fine program was put on in our club room, which was followed by tea served by the library staff assisted by Miss Foye from Central Library, and the ladies were given personal attention in viewing the details of the new building.

Another red letter day was on January 20th., 1928, when we were able to have Miss Darlow give one of her most enjoyable book reviews. Although there were only 25 present, they were most enthusiastic and wished for regular visits.

In September, 1927, Miss Katherine Lake resigned as junior and her place was taken by Miss Leah Cruise. Miss Ruth Deane resigned as page after 4 yrs. of faithful service in April, 1928, and Miss Bernice Dunphy replaced her.

(over)

Circulation-----94,857
Gain per cent-----42
Juvenile-----42
Fiction-----67

1928-1929

This year saw the work carried on as started in the preceding year, with a very successful Book Week and numerous exhibits arranged for children, stressing Boy's Day and Girl's Day for the first time with good speakers for both occasions.

The discipline problem was successfully coped with through the co-operation of Miss Crandall, principal of Aragon Avenue school, and a real library atmosphere was finally realized.

Miss Theodora Valdez, a college student acted as page, much to our gratification as she had for years taken such a friendly interest in our welfare and often helped out gratis. In April Miss Leah Cruise was transferred to Registration Dept. and Miss Ruby Freemantle became junior attendant.

Circulation---	99,905
Gain per cent-----	5
Juvenile "	-----39½
Fiction "	-----66



Christmas Story-hour.

1929-1930

The opening of the branch on Saturday afternoon and evenings instead of mornings was a great change in schedule, and for the first time we were granted a half-time page in the person of Miss Doris Frazier.

Publicity has received more help this year, through a new little sheet put out by Mr. Greely Kolts, "The North Los Angeles News". Also, through the consent of Mr. Smith, manager of the new Arroyo Theatre to run a slide for the library.

Miss Freemantle resigned as junior in Sept. to go to Arizona. She was followed by Miss Thomas who stayed only until December, when she resigned to be married and Miss Weamena Gill took her place. Miss Bright resigned as librarian March 31st. to be married, and Miss Jillson was left as acting librarian, assisted by Mrs. Hendrickson.

A special feature of this year's work was the organization of a book club among the better readers of the upper grammar grades.

year's statistics to be on (over)