



## Gratia A. Countryman and Family Papers.

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# STAFF



# STUFF

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## MEMORIES OF G. A. C.

-Jessie McMillan Marcley-

As Miss Countryman's long and distinguished career draws to a close, I find myself in a reminiscent mood, for I shared with her and Miss Cloud the distinction of belonging to the original staff of the public library. Miss Countryman and I received our appointments before graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1889, and were called to begin our work in the library several months before the building was completed.

We started literally on the ground floor, in the present technology room, our main task at the outset being to paste pockets in the heaps of dusty books that were piled on the floor. As I had been assigned to be Miss Cloud's assistant at the issue desk, while Miss Countryman was slated for the post of head cataloguer, we saw comparatively little of each other during those first difficult years when both staff and public were learning how to make the most of the library.

As I look over this long stretch of years, the two events that stand out in my mind in which Miss Countryman figures, have to do with the social side of our common library life. First, there was the great opening evening, December 16, 1889, when she paused for a night on her way from the basement to the loft over the librarian's office-Mrs. McKenzie's hideout today-to join Mr. Putnam and his staff in receiving the multitude of Minneapolis citizens who came thronging in to view the splendors of the new library building and its furnishings. I have a distinct recollection of Miss Countryman that evening, togged out as we all were, in our Sunday best, for the great occasion. She fairly beamed as she tirelessly conducted squads of citizens through the one stackroom, whose shelves were filled with the clean, new books which she had helped to prepare for the grand opening.

The other occasion which I have in mind

was the New Year's reception held by the young women of the library staff in the magnificent Directors' Room, since commandeered by Miss Countryman and converted into a genuine service room for the public. This library staff tea occurred the fifth year following the opening of the library. As I recall, it was Miss Countryman and Miss Louise Lynskey, now Mrs. Pierre Boucher of London, who took the initiative in arranging this unique function. The Directors allowed us the use of the room, while we furnished china, silver, lunch cloths, and refreshments. This was truly a delightful occasion. It was of course a public tea. We kept open house that afternoon for any and all Minneapolitans who cared to drop in, and a large number of appreciative patrons of the library responded to our invitation.

So today, while I join heartily in paying tribute to Miss Countryman for her years of noble public service, I take no less pleasure in the memories of many happy occasions--as typified in the official functions which I have mentioned--when Miss Countryman demonstrated her friendliness and her delight in personal contacts with people. It was perhaps in no small degree, these very human traits which impelled and inspired her throughout her library career, to work zealously and with unflagging enthusiasm for ever better and better library service for the men, women and children of the city.

## WHEN GRATIA WAS A GIRL

-Josephine Cloud-

The editor of Staff Stuff interviewed me, asking for a "funny" story about our "Chief". I told her I could not remember anything especially funny--"Then tell about your parties, they must have been funny back in the gay 90's"--"Do you remember the first time you saw Miss Countryman? What did she look like? What was your first impression?"

I remember distinctly the first time I saw Miss Countryman. I had heard a great deal about her being so smart (she had

just graduated from the University with high honors). What I was prepared to see was a very imposing person with a superior air of whom I would stand in awe. What was my surprise when a slight little girl in a blue sailor suit and a cap with a vizor perched jauntily on top of her blond curls, very modestly announced herself as "Gratia Countryman." I took to her at once and we have been the best of friends for forty-seven years. Our first work together was pasting book pockets and plates in the many volumes which had been dumped into what is now the Technical Room. We worked all that summer getting the books ready for the grand opening, December 16, 1889.

About our "funny" parties. The funniest thing was when we all learned to ride bikes. Miss Countryman was the first in that as in everything. We had many picnics, wheeling way out to Lake Calhoun. We usually met at the Peavy fountain, then a watering trough for horses, a convenient place to rest both our bikes and ourselves. We wore divided skirts which modestly reached our ankles, with an apron-like panel, concealing the division when off our wheels. The bikes were of course built for "ladies". What fun we had coasting down Kenwood hill—often taking a tumble! (This little poem, "Fulfillment" gives a good picture of wheeling in those days):

"She grasped the bar, arranged her skirts with dainty little tucks and flirts; Posed on the saddle, felt the tread Of the pedals, and, "I'm off," she said.

A whirl of wheels, a swerve and sway,  
And from the road bed where she lay  
She realized in full degree  
The climax of her prophecy."

Another party which stands out was a bob-sled ride ending up at Miss Patten's home in Richfield for oyster stew. On our return, in crossing the river to take Miss Countryman home, the hat of one of the "beaux" (We had them in those days) blew off and went sailing gaily down the river. One of the girls (no doubt it was Miss Countryman with her big heart) came to the rescue and gave him her scarf (Editor's note: Would it have been, by any chance, a "facinator"? to tie over his ears as it was a bitter cold night.

Miss Countryman was always the moving spirit and entered heartily into everything. There were so few of us in those early days we came in closer contact and knew one another more intimately than is possible in a big institution. We had fun working and

playing together and I was about to say had a better time than we do today, but since Miss Countryman's last birthday party I take it all back and will say that was the very best party of all.

#### SONG FOR THE MORNING AFTER

by Gomer Williams

Sing a song of sixpence  
Pocket full of dough.  
Hang the old library!  
Now just watch me go!

The Buick's full of good old gas,  
The tires are blown up tight.  
Pavements curve and never end.  
Watch me out of sight.

Back I'll come when April's here  
Steaming 'round the bend.  
Gee! it's swell to jobless be;  
I hope it'll never end!

#### LOCAL BOYS MAKE GOOD

It was with a mingled feeling of pride and relief that the Staff Association received Miss Countryman's announcement of the appointment by the Library Board of Mr. Carl Vitz, Librarian of the Toledo, Ohio, Public Library, as her successor... relief that the inevitable period of unrest and indecision was over; pride that so able and distinguished a successor to our Chief had been chosen from a group of applicants all of them able and distinguished. For it takes a person of rare personal and professional attainment to step into place, as head of this library, after Mr. Herbert Putnam, now Librarian of Congress, the late Dr. James K. Hosmer, and Miss Gratia A. Countryman.

The very recent appointment of Glenn M. Lewis, another local product (Mr. Vitz was born in St. Paul), as Acting Librarian is also a source of satisfaction to the staff.

#### STAFF ASSOCIATION WELCOMES MR. VITZ

The afternoon that the Library Board released the information that Mr. Vitz was to be our new chief, the Staff Association sent the following telegram to him:

"The Staff Association of the Minneapolis Public Library welcomes you as our new librarian and assures you of our loyalty and support.

(signed) Isabel McLaughlin President."

Mr. Vitz' reply follows:

"My dear Miss McLaughlin

"The telegram from the Staff Association of the Minneapolis Public Library with its message of loyalty and support was indeed a fine welcome. I found the

Staff, many of whom I met, very friendly. With their help I know much will be possible. I wish to thank you and through you the members of the Association for the cordial welcome and to assure you that I will hope to deserve your loyalty and support.

"With all good wishes to yourself and the members of the Staff Association, I am

"Very sincerely yours,

Carl Vitz"

#### SERMON

Words of loyalty and support are fine and heart-warming things. But actions to follow them up are finer. Ever since the Minneapolis Public Library opened its doors to the public on that winter morning of December 17, 1889, there has existed a spirit of service to the public possible only through a close personal feeling of confidence, cooperation, and responsibility between the chief and every member of his staff. As proof that this feeling did prevail even in that very first year of our existence, we quote Mr. Herbert Putnam's tribute to his staff, then a very small one, from his annual report for 1890.

"At the time the library was opened, no single one of my assistants had had any experience in a public library; only two had had any library experience of any kind. With a large public to deal with, eager for books and not always ready to believe that there were no books to be had, in some cases inclined to resent any regulation, as if a personal discrimination, the work of the desk assistants has been at times a highly nervous and fatiguing work. They have accomplished it, nevertheless, as far as I could observe, without a single relapse into impatience or moroseness. I do not believe there is another library in the United States whose issue department presents to the inquirer such willing courtesy, such interested cheerfulness.

"The year has been in some ways a severe one for the public who have had to use the library, and the public have been very patient. It has also been a severe one for the attendants, who have tried to make the library of use, and they, too, have been very patient. This much of tribute has seemed at least their due."

This tradition of service has persisted through the years. It has made of the library a personal force in the community and not just another institution. It is a tradition not easy to keep alive; it is hard to inculcate it in a staff of nearly three hundred people in many parts of the city; it is hard to maintain it unbroken

through changes in personnel and administration. We are facing such a change. The shoulder of every page, every assistant, every department head, will have to push behind Mr. Vitz's and Mr. Lewis' at the wheel. Remember:

"It ain't the individual, nor the army  
as a whole

But the everlastin' teamwork of every  
bloomin' soul!"

and BACK UP THAT TELEGRAM!

#### GAC TAKES NEW VOCATION

Anyone who thinks the Chief is going to sit back and take life easy after December 1 is wrong. What with the Christmas rush--then filling her wardrobe with those "for-southern-wear" items (you all know she is going to California), she will be too busy to even miss us.

And when she comes back? Well, then there's the farm. The Jersey cows are going to get her personal attention, not undivided, however, for some of her energies are to be expended on a flock, covey, school, or what-have-you of White Leghorns. She's going into the chicken-raising business in a big way. "Well," someone is said to have said she said, "I've been managing a bunch of hens all my life, so, -why stop now?"

#### SO WHAT?

The new officers of the Staff Association:

PRESIDENT: Isabel McLaughlin

VICE-PRESIDENT: Katherine Yerxa

SEC'Y & TREAS: Marian Dinsmoor

COMMITTEES:

EXECUTIVE: M. Dinsmoor, G. Lewis, I. McLaughlin, F. Mattice, G. Oftedal, E. Thorsen, and K. Yerxa.

FLOWER AND GIFT: Miss Field, CHAIRMAN; Miss Berry, Miss Edith Frost, Miss Beatrice Wightman.

MEMBERSHIP: Miss Recker, CHAIRMAN; Miss Alfken, Miss Margaret McGuire.

STAFF ROOM: Mrs. Wilson, CHAIRMAN; Mrs. Thomas.

PROFESSIONAL: Miss Mettler, CHAIRMAN; Miss Brown, Mrs. Bins, Miss Hall, Miss Shearer.

HOSPITALITY: Miss Lamb, CHAIRMAN; Mrs. McKenzie, Miss Haynes.

SOCIAL: Miss Rood, CHAIRMAN; Miss Brunat, Miss Alice Jones, Miss Ann Brinda, Miss Briggs, Mr. Berg, Miss Loehl, Miss Celia Johnson.

STAFF STUFF: Miss Bond, CHAIRMAN; Miss Hove, Mr. Longfield, Miss G. Hertsgaard, Mr. Stanley Carlson, Mr. Berg.

WELFARE: Miss Newman; CHAIRMAN: Miss Nourse; Miss Chapman; Miss Greer; Miss Fraser.

#### OUR BROWNSTONE FRONT

Most of the time, our faces are turned toward the future, yet we cannot resist the impulse, now and then, to turn and look over the past, though briefly, for we would not, like Lot's wife, find ourselves changed into a pillar of salt. At this time it seems appropriate that we glance for a moment at the library as it was in the gay nineties; at some of the workers who helped to make it what it was; and at some of the reading tastes of the people who so eagerly availed themselves of the privileges of the newly combined Athenaeum and library. This is in no way an attempt to record the history of the library. We have neither the space nor the inclination for that; here are just a few random jottings, most of them trivial, gleaned from the early library reports and from people who were there. Of those who are already familiar with these things that we are about to tell, we beg indulgence; we even hope that they will enjoy this little backward glance. But many on our large staff do not know them, and few have the opportunity to glean them from the library reports of those first years, or the temerity to make public nuisances of themselves, as we have for the last week, by questioning the older members of the staff.

One day during the time when the idea of becoming a librarian was first taking shape in the Chief's mind, she rode, (probably on a bicycle built for two) by that magnificent structure, that edifice, into which we unconcernedly rush every morning at five minutes to nine, which was taking physical shape way out on the edge of town. "Well," said she, waving her hand at the half-completed building. "There's my brownstone front." And here it is,--our brownstone front.

Don't you wish you could have been there, that December evening in 1889, Monday, the 16th, to be exact, when the grand opening took place? It was a social occasion long remembered, what with floral decorations, a good orchestra, loans of tapestries from the Lowry and Pillsbury families to elaborate the lobby, the presence of state and city officials, as well as the flower of Minneapolis society.

The next morning the library opened for business and patrons jammed the doors.

It was a real Christmas present to the book-lovers of the growing town. A Mr. Waters, law librarian of Hennepin County, was very anxious to have the first library card; Mr. Putnam had told him first come first served, and for him to get there bright and early. A Mr. Owens beat him to it, so he had to be satisfied with the second card. The first book circulated was Little Lord Fauntleroy. We don't know whether or not it was taken by Mr. Owens... In 1893, Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles was the most widely circulated book, giving way in 1894 to Lew Wallace's Prince of India. The Librarian's Report for 1894 in a section headed "Problems of Management" comments on an ever-present situation: "How far is it well to accede to the demand for popular new books, which are quite sure in two or three months to be out of vogue? At the present time, if the library possessed a hundred copies of Trilby, all would no doubt be taken out at once, a demand certain to pass away soon."... On February 27, 1890, the first branch was opened in the basement of the North Side High School; within five years seven branches and stations had been established... What has been said to be the first Children's Room in the country was opened up in one of the lower corridors of the library in 1893. Miss Katherine Patten, who retired last year as Athenaeum Librarian, was in charge... The only art school in town, The Minneapolis School of Art, was held in the library. Many of our citizens remember taking lessons there... We have public Forums in the library now... in 1890 the Library Board sponsored two lecture courses; one on Old and Middle English Literature was regularly attended by some 200 persons; the other, on International Law, was not quite so popular, only 175 were enrolled. During the second year of its life, the year 1891, although Minneapolis ranked 18th in population among American cities, our library ranked sixth in circulation.

How many of the younger library generation know that that distinguished-looking scholar and gentleman, Dr. Victor Nilsson, who writes the music criticism for the Journal, used to head one of our branches in the old days, the East Side Branch? Doubtless he could bounce the rowdies with the best of them.

The ladies of 1889 did not have to rub elbows too much with the rest of the reading public. The library boasted of a Ladies' Reading Room, quite elegant with mahogany furnishings, heavy draperies and a moquette carpet. By the way, this carpet was quite a temptation to Miss Todd, one of the younger of the ladies who used the room. She used to go in and slide on it. We have it on the very best authority that the janitor, Louis Runge, had to put her out.

Another special room was the Directors' Room, used for Library Board Meetings and other state occasions. The Board Members used to transact their business around a massive, handsome table. This table, around which Prexy Northrop, Mr. T. B. Walker, and other notables of the board sat now does menial duty in the County Department. The Directors' Room was also heavily carpeted (Where are the carpets of yesterday? Ah, well, the Staff Room boasts of three hooked rugs.)

To those who do the "dirty work" in the library, take heart. The Chief's first job was pasting book labels preparatory to the opening of the library. Mr. Putnam had a passion for perfection in all things, and at first, our Chief was not a very good label paster. All the crooked labels had to come off and be put on correctly. Now you see that she earned the right to be exacting of her staff.

Mr. Putnam, too, had a passion for promptness. Anyone late to work by more than ten minutes had to report personally to him. G.A.C. had to report once. Yes, the street cars were held up.

#### TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 1935-36

##### RECEIPTS

Balance in bank . . . . .	\$ 5.44
Dues received . . . . .	259.42
Staff Stuff Subs . . . . .	.50
Loans repaid . . . . .	357.00
Transfer to checking from savings acc't . . . . .	15.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$637.36</b>

##### SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance in bank . . . . .	\$ 57.52
Deposits from various sources toward Hynes fund . . . . .	127.83
Interest . . . . .	1.39
Retirement gift fund . . . . .	8.50
Transfer from savings to checking acc't. . . . .	15.00
<b>Balance in savings acc't.</b>	<b>\$180.24</b>

##### DISBURSEMENTS

Entertainment . . . . .	\$ 44.33
Flowers . . . . .	56.90
Gifts . . . . .	34.25
Incidentals . . . . .	14.18
Loans granted . . . . .	374.00
Staff Stuff . . . . .	20.00

<b>Total disbursements . . . . .</b>	<b>\$543.66</b>
<b>Balance in bank . . . . .</b>	<b>93.70</b>

##### HYNES LOAN FUND

Balance to the credit of Hynes fund deposited in savings account . . . . .	\$ 74.70
Cash gifts . . . . .	3.33
Interest on a loan . . . . .	.53
Proceeds from shop sale & bridge benefit after the last annual meeting . . . . .	39.25
Proceeds from ticket sale to movie benefit . . . . .	54.00
<b>Total in fund . . . . .</b>	<b>\$171.81</b>
<b>Loans outstanding . . . . .</b>	<b>17.00</b>

##### THE SOCIAL WHIRL

Three major official social events, besides numerous private ones, are ushering in the holiday season and the time of Miss Countryman's retirement. The first of these the Chief's highly successful party at Walker Branch, took place November 28. Since practically everybody was there, it is unnecessary to make further comment.

By the time Staff Stuff appears, we shall have seen you all, prideful chests swelling out your best bibs and tuckers, at the Testimonial Dinner given for Miss Countryman by the people of Minneapolis at the Nicollet Hotel on December 10.

And last but not least, the Staff Association is throwing its own party for GAC at the Franklin Branch on Saturday night, December 19. This party is FREE. Everybody come and make it a good one.

##### "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL"

The custom of singing Christmas carols will be observed at the main library again this year. The carol singing will begin, as usual, at 8:30 in the morning on December 24. Everyone is urged to come to work a little earlier on this morning and join in the carol sing. If there is anyone at the main library who can play the violin or cello, please get in touch with D. Amesbury at once.

## "NOES" FOR NEWS

Ye Ed felt a little cold-shouldered this time when out of some sixty-odd requests for news, she received a grand total of nine answers. Six central departments kicked in and if you can subtract you know that three branches returned their sheets. One of these was a blank. Perhaps they all felt like Pauline Field, who returned the following for Cent.Circ. Many thanks P. F.

More news! The "Staff Stuffs" Magnificent  
Obsession!

It can't happen here in Central

Circulation

The same patron begs for a little "light  
friction;

The same Eichler is wanted for good

English diction;

The same "lost puritan" is called for in  
despair;

The same drunk shambles in and again is  
given the air.

He who asks for "something juicy" is  
given Sawdust Caesar-

No, there is no news today. It just can't  
happen here, Sir.

Out of the somewhat meager response, and out of our purse, bulging with reference call slips whose inscriptions are barely decipherable a month afterwards--evolved the following: The phrase, "always a bride's maid never a cride" shall not be applied to Anne Brinda, Reg., who has been wearing a sparkler the last few weeks. The lucky man is Joseph P. Jarosak, and are they forehanded! The date is set for May 28, 1937.

Elizabeth West, Cat., returns from a three weeks' incarceration in the Contagious hospital at General (it was discovered that she was a diphtheria carrier) with a widened horizon. Especially does she have a fellow-feeling for some of the other members of the Animal Kingdom, i.e., the guinea pig and the cockroach. Now she is on excellent terms with our Archy, having been quite intimate with all his sisters and his cousins and his aunts at the hospital.

Those who remember Helen Olson Twichell (Mrs. Allen), Hosp., will be glad to learn of the arrival of Mary, on November 23. We hope she has her mother's nice disposition. Helen and her husband still live at Norris, Tenn., where Allan is connected with the T.V.A.

Anna Horn Gloggnier, formerly of the Office, has a baby girl, Rosemary Grace, almost a Thanksgiving present, as her birthday was November 25.

Miss Katherine Patten writes from Portland that she is still enjoying her leisure.

All this makes us look forward more and more yearningly to 1970-something.

Old friendships have been renewed during the past month by Miss Lucy Lee Powell, formerly of our staff, and her sister, Miss Louise Powell, who have been visiting here.

Helen Baird decided that living alone was not to her liking, so her sister Margery is keeping her company this winter.

Miss Bartleson's sister is also a guest in Minneapolis for the winter.

Friends of Jean McRea McLaughlin, ex. cat. will be sorry to learn that she has had a serious attack of pneumonia recently. She's getting along nicely now though.

Miss Mabel Abbott, formerly head of the Music Department, visited the library for the first time in many months a short time ago. By the way, you may still buy the lovely aprons and lingerie that she has been making. See Miss Encking.

Gomer Williams and Sarah Wallace, Ref., are both in the energetic class this year. Mr. Williams is taking a course in Minnesota history at the U, and Miss Wallace is studying short story writing. Mr. Williams by the way, has an excellent collection of books on early Minnesota.

D. Wurzburg, E, still has her attractive line of Christmas cards on display in the Bibliographical Room, where orders may be left.

Bob Longfield, Stan Carlson, and Wally Fudro drove to Madison to the game. Mr. Williams has also been an enthusiast footballer this fall.

The staff at E was amazed during Book Week to learn as a result of their contest that only one out of sixty-one children who entered the contest could write the first verse of the Star Spangled Banner.

Adelaide Rood, K, had her turkey and cranberries at Lincoln, Nebraska, this Thanksgiving.

Mrs. James Wallace (Miriam Davis), ex-head of the Ref. Dept., paid the Library a visit the other day.

D. Amesbury, that energetic gal, expected a soft snap when she was elected Vice-President of the Alumni Association of The Division of Library Instruction, but the President resigned, and now she is not only the President, but ex-officio chairman of two or three strenuous committees.

It's a great advantage to be associated with rural folk, among whom old-fashioned neighborliness is not yet extinct. You should just see the "choosing cupboards" of Beryl Liegl and Ethel Berry, Co. They are full of a nice selection of homemade jellies and jams, presented by pleased patrons.

Arthur Peterson, formerly a page at Cent. Circ., is now a regular artist on the "Lights Out" and "Betty and Bob" programs of the National Broadcasting Co. Arthur's participation in "Lights Out", the Wednesday night ghost story; brings to mind his famous radio character, Sing Lee, the diabolical Chinese doctor of the WCCO "Curtains Part" program of a few years ago. After graduating from the University, where he majored in dramatics, Art attended the Theodora Irvine School of the Theater in N. Y. For the past year he has been on both the stage and radio in Chicago. He is at present rehearsing with a production scheduled for the New York stage.

Louise Lamb, Ruth Jedermann, Arabel Martin, Alice Jones, and Katherine B. Thompson spent a week-end in October with Marjorie Wardwell, ex-circ., in Northwood, Ia.

Better luck next time.

#### THE GIFT WITHOUT THE GIVER

At the beginning of this holiday season—this time of giving and receiving—we thought it might be interesting to chronicle some of the gifts that have come our way during the past few years.

Oh yes, librarian's efforts are appreciated—more often than not by some little offering of food from a satisfied patron. But the country patrons are not the only givers. One important Episcopal clergyman who comes in several times a week always proffers a paper bag full of butterscotch patties; everyone concerned in the transactions of getting the book to the reader partakes and quite a spirit of good fellowship results. We have also been given sticks of gum, peanuts, grapes, and other food items. We shall never be able to compete with Lucretia Clapp, though, who was once the recipient of two cold cod-fish balls and a blueberry muffin. What do you expect, Pete, a steam table?

#### STAFF STUFFINGS

After Dark...and like the butterfly that emerges from the cocoon, the library staff blossoms out after a weary day of toil. Where do they go; what do they do? So, a la Walter Winchell we took our nose for news and did a little snooping...

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Air liner stewardesses, it is claimed, are the most attractive damsels in the business world...but after gazing all evening at the array of feminine pulchritude at the recent party at Walker branch, we're ready to claim that honor for the library...and the pity is that so few of us know each other...Note to the social committee; why not more functions for the library younger set.

Walter Fudro, ref, has a friend named Jack...many of his evenings are spent at Jack's place. Anne Brinda (it must be love) now eats doughnuts seasoned with salt...and relishes them...Her sister, Polly, has been dividing her time between practice work at Central and symphony concerts...Leap year is on its last legs but we couldn't help but chronicle the fact that marriages in the Staff have hit a new high this year...not, of course, due to the four-year cycle...Tom Nolan spends some of his free time with the intelligentsia...he recently discussed stratosphere flying with Prof. Piccard when they met at a young people's group. Bill McGregor has a weakness for chorines...he's an ardent burlesque fan...Ruth Lohn of the art dept. is an avid collector of first editions...She spends much of her time in perusing new lists and in examination of her growing collection...Mickey McGuire and Oz Seavey spend a lot of their idle hours together...they have a common interest in studies at the U., and two heads are better than one....Laura Stewart is knitting during much of her time...her last effort was a sweater for her husband John, but he outgrew it before it was finished...Warren Mosiman is an outdoorsman...he went to the football game at Madison and slept on a frat house porch...Skittles, a game of table ninepins has found high favor with a lot of the staff members and many of them own boards for the intriguing game....And if you're in the mind to figure out ways to decrease fines, here's one way: You can take out a whole set of books (consecutive vol.) and only pay penalty as for a single book. And some sets have as many as 40 or more volumes...And like the sailor who rows in the park when on shore leave, lots of us do heavy reading on our free hours. For example, there are about 60 reserves for Gone With the Wind at present.

#### RATTLING THE CUP

We wonder:

If anyone can better sum up Miss Countryman's career, and as concisely, as did Bess Wilson in her column writeup in the Journal on November 29...fine praise of one successful woman by another...

If there is any truth to the persistent rumor that the library will add a smoking room for the convenience and enjoyment of the patrons...passages are often quoted to bolster the cause of a pipe and a book.

If people will always smile when you mention blind men in a library. With Braille Volumes and the newer Talking Books, they can be served as well as the more fortunate of us...

How many times delinquent department was reminded of the cartoon in Colliers a few weeks ago that showed a foreign legionnaire being questioned about a delinquency in Newark...

If it will ever be possible to satiate the demand for western and mystery books, which group of readers seems to be steadily rising...

How soon, under the new administration, plans for a new building will again be broached. Miss Countryman launched the project a couple of years ago with a suggestion of the new plant in the area across the street from the present Central location...

Just when our members will become Staff conscious and lend their worthy efforts to the parties and affairs that are theirs. And at the same time provide copy for Staff Stuff. Some people's names never get in--much as we try.

#### MANY COOKS WON'T SPOIL THE BOOK

The Staff Association, having pondered over those old saws, "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach," "an army travels on its stomach," etc., has decided to issue a new edition of Library Ann's Cook Book, that best seller of yesteryear. Mrs. Bailey will be Chairman of a committee including Miss Starr, Miss Gunhild Oftedal, Mrs. Stuhr, and Mrs. Livingston. Our mouth is already beginning to water, but it takes some time to bring this project to a successful conclusion. Will all of you who have tasty recipes write down fool-proof directions and give them to some member of the committee?

#### CHRISTMAS NOTE

Not long ago, three small boys, some seven years old, came to visit the Art Gallery. There are about three hundred seats in the room, and around the edge is a low railing used to rest pictures on when they are being changed around. This gives the place a somewhat church-like atmosphere.

Much to our surprise, we noticed the three boys kneeling down at the railing before one of the pictures. Soon they got up together, went along another short distance, then down on their knees again.

This was repeated for the third time, when we came to the conclusion that they thought they were in a church or religious room of some kind. Afterwards we looked at the prints and found them to be "The Crucifixion," "The Last Supper," and "The Christ Child."

#### FUNNY-FACE SAYS

An order card was recently received by the OD for Folding Bedouins, but Miss Seely had appropriately spelled it "bed-rooms."

Enquiry at the Ref. Desk: "I just bought a dog! Would you have anything that covers that situation?"

Ray Gagnon has a new Dodge. How are the mighty fallen!

One of the more graceful episodes in the Reference Room was the recent demonstration by the masculine member of its staff as to the correct way to curtsy. And you should just hear Miss Knoblauch give college yells over the telephone!

Heard in the stacks: "Now we'll have inflation and it will be inflation that is inflation."

A young would-be authoress at Sumner is so sure of success that she is signing her name in a list after such celebrities as Carol Brink and Emma Lou Brock. Confidence is a great thing.

A recent puzzler: the slip handed over the desk read "A Study in Digestion by Max Burbolm"; it was typed, too. Circ. figured it out and provided the wanted book, Max Beerbohms "A Study in Dejection."

Wanted at W: the "Circulating Staircase"; "Physical Louisa" (Invincible Louisa); and The "Truth About Girls" (Turn-about Girls). One little boy said to the librarian: "If you get the guinea pigs in will you save them for me?"

It has just been called to our attention that Sinclair Lewis, the ever-optimistic Sinclair, advises writers to take up plumbing instead. Someone brightly answered: "Some of the modern novels indicate that their writers have."

\*\*\*

Well, Merry Christmas, and we hope the socks fit and the ties aren't all red!

EDWARD F. WAITE  
2009 QUEEN AVENUE, SOUTH  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Nov. 8, 1936.

My dear Miss Countryman:  
I do not wish your  
retirement from active public  
service to pass without a  
word from me, in acknowl-  
edgment of my share in the debt  
all your fellow-citizens owe  
you. Not only in your professional  
field but in many others you  
have made your life count for  
what is best. Much that  
you have accomplished can  
be traced into definite results,  
but perhaps in the long run

your most important service has  
been in just being what you  
have been.

I hope your years of  
leisure will be happy in  
proportion to the fruitfulness  
of your years of active work.

Sincerely yours,

Edward B. White

[1432]



MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN - - - LIBRARIAN

ELIZABETH THORSON, TECHNICAL DEPT.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Dear Miss Countryman—

I haven't been up  
to see you since your  
announcement at Staff  
meeting because I can't  
talk about it without  
weeping. These have  
been such wonderful  
years and no one  
can fill your place—  
I don't like to think or  
talk about it—  
With the greatest appreciation—  
Elizabeth Thorson

# THE TOLEDO PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Sigmond Sanger, President. Nevin O. Winter, Vice-President.  
Mrs. E. F. Brucker, Mr. W. F. Donovan, Mrs. Ben W. Johnson, Mr. George Pearson and Mr.  
Joseph A. Yager. Librarian & Secretary-Treasurer, Carl Vitz

MADISON AVENUE & ONTARIO STREET

TOLEDO, OHIO

November 20, 1936

Miss Gratia A. Countryman, Librarian,  
Minneapolis Public Library ,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

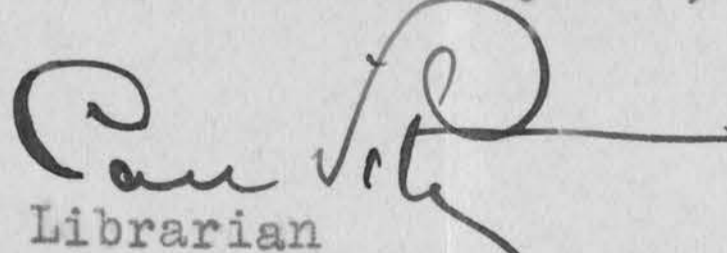
Dear Miss Countryman:

With this I am sending a copy of a letter just sent to  
Mr. Gale. I appreciate very much your recent full and friendly letter.

As you will see from my letter to Mr. Gale I am hoping  
my time time of arrival may be some months in advance of the July 1  
date. Meantime I should be glad if it could be arranged for me to  
receive any monthly reports, business records or minutes which are  
regularly written in a number of copies and of which it might be possible  
to spare me a copy. These and anything else available relating to  
the work of the Library will help to make a beginnin of an understand-  
ing of the work being done in Minneapolis.

I hope I will not be a disappointment either to your Board  
or to yourself and that I may be able to carry on in acceptable fashion  
the great institution built up through the years by Dr. Putnam, Dr. Hosmer  
and yourself. Just to recite these names makes one feel quite humble.  
With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

  
Librarian

CV:AC

Nov 23-1936

My dear Miss Countryman:

"A little bird  
told me" that your birth-  
day was near at hand,  
and that it gave us an  
additional cause for

Thanks giving.

That being so, we of  
the Camp Fire group love  
to tell you, how glad we  
are that you came  
to be one of our foremost  
creative citizens. Not only  
as an inspiration to  
all girls, but as the good

Greetings on your birthday  
and always our real  
love and devotion.

Very sincerely

Maudie D. Amundson

friend of the Mothers and  
fathers as well.

It must be a great  
satisfaction to you to  
feel that you have served  
your city, from the youngest  
to the oldest citizens, so well  
and so long.

Every one is grieving to  
have you step down from  
your exalted post, to just  
every day life, but I am  
sure you will enjoy the  
rest and relaxation  
which you so richly deserve.

Thief River Falls, Minn.  
Nov. 23, 1936

Dear Miss Countryman:

I know you are  
having a birthday this week and I'm  
sending greetings - my love and  
every good wish for your health and  
happiness.

I have a brother  
who was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> and his  
birthday sometimes falls on Thanks-  
giving. I think Miss Baldwin told  
me you were born on Thanksgiving

ded

evening? I hope if you  
do you'll let some one  
take a snap shot of you  
you standing about you  
at the end of the room  
as crowded as your party  
on a pipe or a smoking  
sort of individual. I  
can't picture you with  
a cigarette.  
I have just come back  
from a G.A.A. meeting. I  
put myself on the program  
demonstrating a talking  
book machine. I'm troubled  
with them. Yesterday when  
I issued one to a 65 year  
old woman who had been  
blind for ~~over~~ more than  
twenty years and watched  
her wiping the tears away

Day. Mrs. F. whom I met in Red  
Lake Falls gave me the correct date but I  
can't remember numbers. I can look  
in Who's Who but it really doesn't matter.  
I've been sorry many times that I

didn't get over to Duluth. I was afraid  
it would be a sad meeting with several  
gone & others going. You will stay  
with us. Won't you? We can't lose  
all of our pillars.

Do you remember at Fergus Falls  
you made the assertion that you intended  
taking up smoking when you were.

because it seemed just too good to be true. I realized again that - we are always having in our work, unlimited opportunities to bring joy into the lives of others.

Last Wednesday four of us went to a P.T.A. meeting at Warroad where I had to give a book talk and a puppet show. Have had to turn puppeteer myself as the P.T.A. help wasn't reliable. Have a friend keeping me now who is throwing her soul into it and it is fun for us all. Perhaps will work up a library play yet. When we do want you join us + will make it a road show + travel with trailers. You'd have to be the advance agent as you'd want to go fast but it could all be arranged. With love  
Hazel Halquin

St. Joseph, Mo.  
Nov. 24, 1936.

Dear Miss Countryman:

I was very much touched  
by your very sweet letter.  
I was very sorry too to  
have missed you on my  
visit home this summer.

And I do want you to  
know that I shall always  
consider it a great honor  
and privilege to have been  
associated with you so  
closely for so many years  
and especially too, to be  
classed among your closest  
friends.

Even though our paths have separated us now, still I shall always want you to feel that I am always very much interested in what you are doing and what concerns you. And I do hope that you are going to get a great deal of pleasure now out of your leisure, and no doubt you will, because anyone that is so interested and enthusiastic about so many things just can't help it.

It just doesn't seem possible that you have come to the retirement age as you have

always been so active and enthusiastic and intensely interested in the Library's welfare that I just don't see how the Library is going to get along without you. You certainly are going to be a great loss and there just won't be anyone else who can quite fill your place.

Have you any definite plans for the immediate future? I guess I needn't ask what you are going to do by next spring with that nice lake cottage and farm to look forward to.

I am staying on here at  
St. Joe now with Gerhardt's  
sister - Mrs. Ferd. Flack  
3007 - S. 28 St. and will  
be here expecting the  
"Blessed Event" which is  
due to arrive about Dec.  
14 or thereabouts. Will  
then go to the St. Joseph's  
Hospital here. I really  
have been feeling unusually  
well, and have a very fine  
doctor too, so hope every  
thing will be alright. Will  
have my sister - Mrs. Johnson  
call you all & tell you  
the news.

Hope that you and  
your family all have a  
very pleasant Thanksgiving  
Sincerely, Anne H. Glogner

Nov. 28 - 1936.

My dear Miss Countryman -

You know that I cannot express myself beautifully as some people can but I want to say that for the first time after these many happy years of work with you, I wish I were retiring too. My sincerest appreciation and love to you! Elizabeth Thorson

[ 1936? ]

DAILY HAPPENINGS

Date Nov 27

Dept. or  
Branch \_\_\_\_\_

R

The Linden Hills Staff send  
their felicitations for your birthday -  
A very happy year we hope is  
in store for you - with less  
messing problems to solve - splendid  
health and all the good things  
of life - we wish for you

Very Sincerely -

Sylvia Merrill

Dorothy Nickell

Valborg W. Skobba

Martin A. Hall

Edith L. Frost.

[NOV 28, 1936]

ART HISTORY CLUB  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Miss Estlin Countryman  
3243 France Ave North -  
Robbinsdale

Dear Miss Countryman:

One of the Art  
History Club, one of the oldest study  
clubs in Minneapolis, have greatly  
appreciated your constant consideration  
of our needs. Nowhere but in the  
Art Book Room could we find the  
material needed for the study of world  
Art.

We deeply regret the necessity of your  
leaving the library but hope that mine.

ART HISTORY CLUB  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

apolis may continue to benefit by  
your intelligent-interest in public  
affairs - and wherever you choose  
to live we wish you prosperity  
and happiness.

Sincerely yours -

Mabel T. Gile  
Jennie M. Grimes  
Committee from  
The Art History Club.

DAYTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

WILLIAM J. HAMILTON, LIBRARIAN

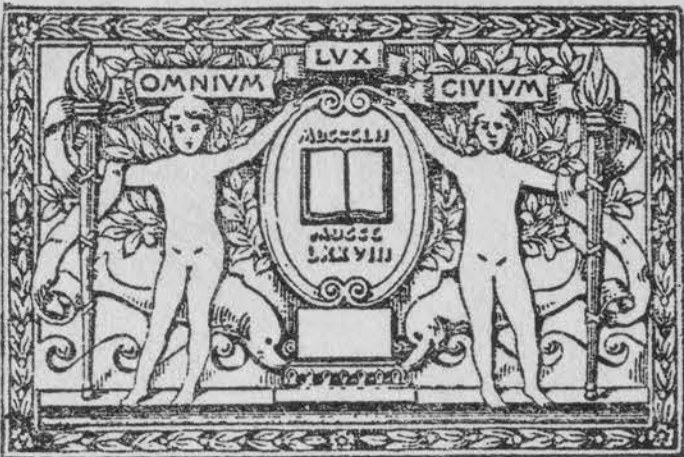
DAYTON, OHIO

Telephone: ADams 6281

28 Mar 1936

My dear Miss Cunningham,

This will be  
a bit tardy as a birthday greet-  
ing but it carries much  
affection from Mary & myself.  
We know that this must have  
been a very trying fall for you  
and we are hoping that the  
new year with the weight of  
responsibility off your shoulders  
may be a very happy one.  
Most of the  
suppressed feelings will soon be  
smothered out and you will  
have ahead many carefree  
years full of the fun and  
appreciation that your great  
service to the community  
has developed for you. It is  
everywhere even in places where  
temporary efforts have shadowed  
it. I am glad Mr. Litz is  
following you. Yours sincerely  
William J. Hamilton



MILTON EDWARD LORD, DIRECTOR.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON.

BOSTON, MASS., U. S. A. 28 November 1936

Miss Gratia A. Countryman  
Public Library  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Miss Countryman:

I have just learned that you are entering upon your period of retirement in the early part of 1937. Certainly you go forth into that new period with a record in which great satisfaction can be taken. I wish to extend to you hearty congratulations upon that record, and offer every good wish for the developments that are ahead.

Yours very sincerely,

  
Director

J. W. Olson  
1109 7th St. S. E.  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Nov. 28, 1936.

Miss Gracie Countryman  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Miss Countryman:  
Often do I recall working with you on  
The State Library Commission. During that time  
as a member of The Board of Regents of Minnesota  
and other boards I contacted some of the  
finest and ablest people in the state  
but no one finer spirited or more useful  
than yourself.

Your service on The Library Commission  
was invaluable. Your initiative, clear  
precision of Minnesota's needs, the clarity and  
logic of your presentation of these to the Com-  
mission, the Legislature and to public  
opinion gave trend and momentum  
to this movement which probably long  
would have been delayed without you.

Your suggestions ever were character-  
ized by such severe thinking and  
sandy that membership was made  
easy for the rest of us.

Let me thank you for your inter-  
est in our daughter Helen Twichell  
while in the Minneapolis Library  
and your generously helping her  
into New York where she was very  
happy for six years until she  
moved to the South.

The staff of The Minneapolis Library  
has never failed me in friendly  
service which could not be  
otherwise with you at the head.

Mrs. Olson joins me in all  
best wishes.

Sincerely,

J. W. Olson.

November 29, 1936

To Miss COUNTRYMAN

With best wishes  
for many happy returns  
of the day and grati-  
tude for your patience,  
kindness and friend-  
ship.

Lovingly -  
Marion Priest

(Accompanying)  
a brown  
black bag

MISS COUNTRYMAN IS ENTERTAINING FOR HER  
STAFF ON SATURDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 28,  
AT 8:30 P. M. AT THE WALKER BRANCH LIBRARY.

-1936

EVERY MEMBER OF THE STAFF, INCLUDING MEM-  
BERS OF THE W. P. A. PROFESSIONAL PROJECTS,  
IS INVITED.

REPLY TO OFFICE.

My dear Miss Countryman:

As the time for your leaving the Minneapolis library approaches, I somehow feel very lonely. It is seventeen years since I first came into the library as a junior assistant. During all the years since then, you have always been so lovely to me. Your kind thoughts, especially during the last few years, have

when my older little girl, Susan,  
was born, — and the  
souvenir from the lovely  
dinner which the library  
staff had on your birthday  
just a year ago.

I hope the coming  
years will bring you  
everything of good.

Sincerely

June Melgaard Hauser

Thanksgiving day, 1936  
3500 Girard ave So  
Minneapolis

meant everything to me  
and my family. It is  
hard for me to tell you  
how much I appreciate  
what you have done. This  
little parcel is just a  
tiny expression in tangible  
form of how I feel.

I have several little  
mementos in our family  
treasure chest which will  
continue to remind me  
and my family of  
you — among them, a  
little note you wrote me

Ontario - Cal  
Sun. Nov. 29 - 1936

My Dear Sister -

To day is your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. I know you have usually celebrated Thanksgiving day as your birthday, (which is all right) but you were born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 1866 which happened to be the Thanksgiving day of that year. I guess I am one of the very few living who were there and know

I distinctly recollect the most important incident of that <sup>day</sup> and several days after. Old Doctor Thorne was in attendance. "Granma" Van Kleeck was there. I think she had been summoned 2 or 3 days before.

Aunt Lizzie was "bossing" household affairs and had to keep 2 noisy brothers out of the house as much as possible. Uncle Dan had not yet moved to Hastings but Aunt Lana + Martha came to see us very soon. I don't think Ampy + I were permitted to see you until 2 or 3 days after, but were certainly pleased to know that we had a sister. And we distributed the news among neighboring kids the first time we met

them. I remember the names of most of them very well. There was Eddie Estergreen, Clarence Baldwin, Johnny Potter, Wilbur Howe, Earl Van Slyke, Louie Lyon, Vince Meloy etc. I could name a dozen more.

Well now that baby sister has reached the age of "three score + ten". She has completed 47 years of work in the Minneapolis Public Library, and has acquired a national reputation as a successful librarian.

It goes without saying that all of her relatives and friends are decidedly proud of her. And so I offer to day my sincere congratulations + best wishes.

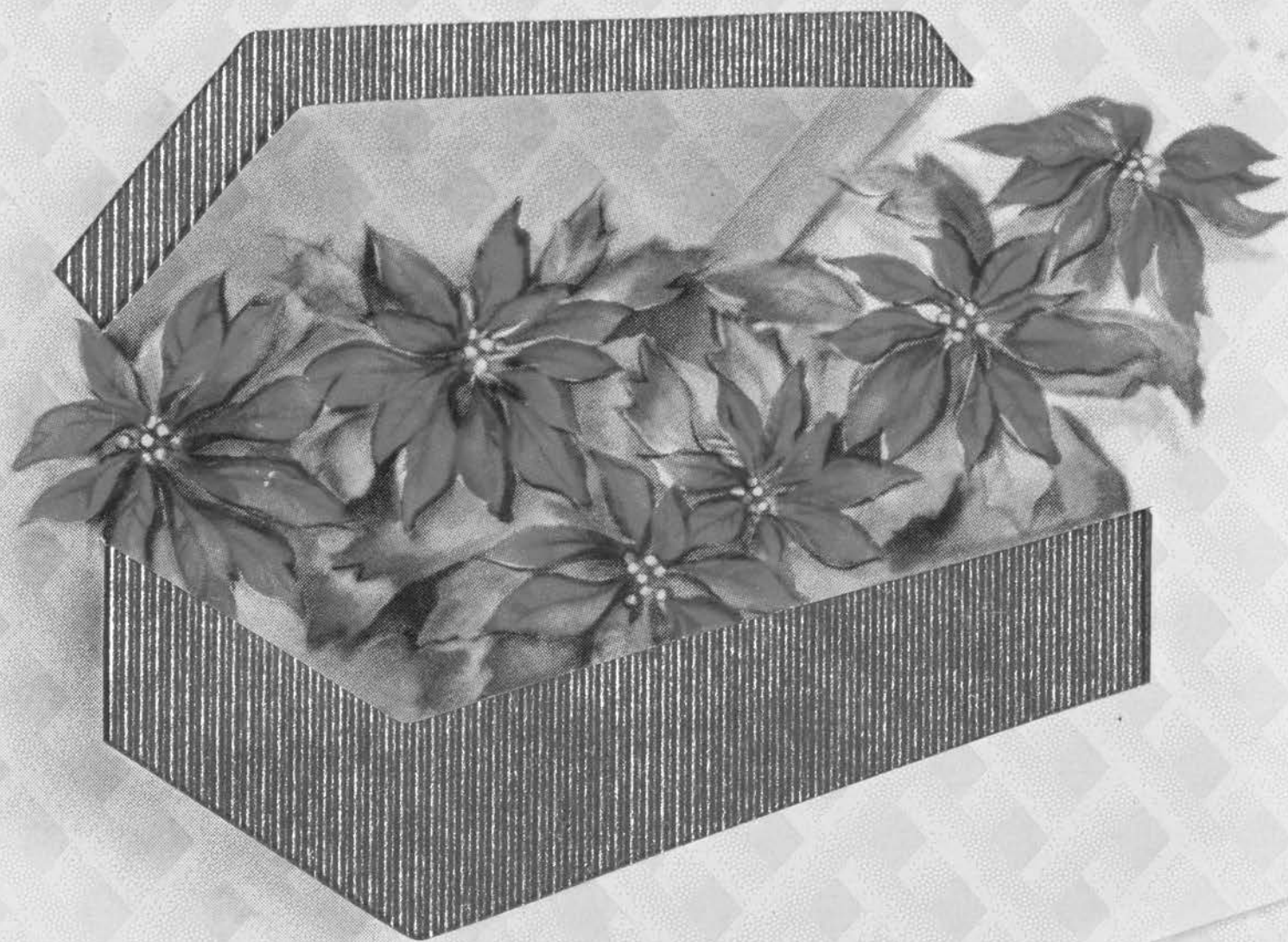
I think Lana or Constance are writing too.

Lana expects to go to the Los Angeles hospital tomorrow for another examination. She will be accompanied by Constance + Dr Craig. Constance will tell you about it. We will be anxious to know of the results.

Wish I was there next month to participate in the festivities + help you out on those heavy banqueting jobs. Now just be careful of your good health + keep it.

Best regards to all the family -

With much love - Theo.



Christmas  
Remembrance

**T**o wish you a Merry Christmas,  
Good cheer in heaping measure,  
And everything that fills the day  
With happiness and pleasure.

*Christmas  
Remembrance*

my dear - [1936] 410 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St Joseph Mo  
How proud we all are of you. I, that I can  
even be related to you distantly.

You have made your life so worth while  
made every one love you. I am in  
Missouri for the winter, came here to  
make a visit on my way to winter  
in California, now have given up my  
trip there, and will be here and in  
Hannibal until Spring. How you will  
miss your work, and how the library  
will miss you. I would love to see you  
until I do, best wishes and love to you. K. Countryman

# Minneapolis Teachers League

## Grade Teachers Section

To Gracia Countryman, who has been one of us for so many years and the greatest educator among us, we wish to express our sincere affection, our admiration and our appreciation for all that she has done for our city; not only in building the Minneapolis Public Library System, but as a woman citizen and civic leader.

While we as teachers know best her wonderful work in promoting those departments of our Library System which serve the children and students we have marveled at the innumerable branches of service which have been ever increasing and reaching out to promote the culture and mental stimulation of every phase of the Community Life.

A Library System so thoughtfully planned and painstakingly developed will live on to do honor not only to its founders but to the capable and conscientious guide who has so successfully promoted its usefulness; and we, feeling deeply the loss of the personality that has meant so much to us through the many years of fine service, will glory in the thought that an enduring institution has been established which will be a source of satisfaction to her and to us through the years ahead.

From our hearts we wish Miss Countryman a life as full in the future as it has been in the past.

Grade Teachers of the  
Minneapolis Teachers' League

November 30, 1936

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE  
MINNEAPOLIS

GENERAL EXTENSION DIVISION  
CORRESPONDENCE STUDY

November 30, 1936

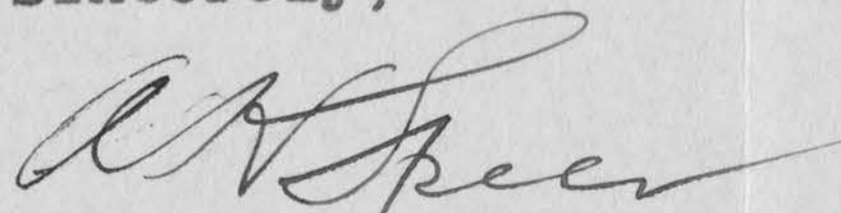
Miss Gratia Countryman  
Public Library  
10th & Hennepin Ave.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Miss Countryman:

Upon the eve of your withdrawal from active work as Librarian of Minneapolis, and because I cannot attend the dinner which is to be given in honor of you, will you allow me to offer to you my sincerest congratulations upon the great and lasting work you have done in our city as Librarian in the years gone by. The value of your work will not be approached for a long time in Minneapolis, no matter how fine a librarian takes your place.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



A. H. Speer  
Head of Department

HM

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Gratia A. Countryman has been in the service of the Public Library of Minneapolis since 1889 and has served as Chief Librarian since 1904 but retires today from that office by virtue of ~~Civil Service~~ <sup>pension</sup> regulations, and

WHEREAS, during her period of service, under her inspiring leadership and wise and efficient management, the library system has become one of the finest in the United States, and books have been brought to all classes of people and the per capita circulation constantly increased so that the library has contributed to the social, economic, educational and cultural development of the City to a conspicuous degree and become an integral part of community life,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED by the Library Board of Minneapolis that it express to Miss Countryman, in the name of all the men, women and children of Minneapolis, its deep appreciation for her lifetime of public service.

HMB

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN

November 30, 1936

My dear Mr. Palmer:

I am writing on a date which carries for me, as it must for many others, a keen regret, since it marks the retirement of Miss Countryman from her long service to your Public Library. We shall not think that it need mark a discontinuance of her service to the community of Minneapolis, to the library profession, or to her numerous friends.

I well recall the circumstances of her beginnings at the Library, after her graduation from the University of Minnesota, and the confidence in her qualities expressed to me by the highest authority - President Northrop himself, who had seen them emerge from the main body of students. And I recall very vividly the impression she at once made upon me, which continued throughout my official relation with her, and has continued since in my observation of her enlarging responsibilities and influence: the impression of an unusually competent mind poised upon a singularly steady character.

Such a combination - of mind and character equally lucid, equally sincere, equally reliable - was certain to prevail, and it did: advancing her eventually to the highest post in her library and incidentally to the highest within the gift of the American Library Association. Not among the aggressives of the profession - her modesty has precluded - she has always met the occasion.

You are, I believe, to honor her with a banquet on December 10th. I am sure that she dreads it; but equally sure that in the experience she will relish it - for the cordiality of your appreciation of what she has been, and done, and the good will toward her future as an *Émerita*.

I wish indeed I might be there.

Faithfully yours,

Ben W. Palmer, Esq.,  
1054 McKnight Building,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

*Herbert Putnam*

[1936?]

Mrs. Gerald H. Burgess  
1908 West Forty-ninth Street  
Minneapolis

My dear Miss Countryman -

Congratulations on all that you have done! and I'm glad some honor & glory can come to you while you are here to enjoy it. We are so sorry not to be at the dinner. I have 40 for lunch & the afternoon & we had already a dinner engagement for that night. This will bring you our special loving good wishes for a useful happy winter in California. We too are proud of you.

Louise & Gerald.

1<sup>st</sup> December 1936

Dear Miss Cornely Mac:

Among all the tributes  
that your resignation has  
elicited accept my  
assurance of pride  
and affection. I always  
love to hear your name,

a beautiful name and one  
that has come to have ex-  
ceptionally beautiful asso-  
ciations in this community.

You can never really re-  
tire, but I do hope that  
freed from daily routine you  
may find time for many pro-  
posed and pleasant activities.  
Yours sincerely, Anne Miller Carpenter

Mrs. Elbert Lawrence Carpenter

Three hundred and fourteen  
Clifton Avenue

Hail to Gratia,<sup>3.</sup>  
Heaven send  
Her joys & blessings  
without end,  
In grateful thanks  
our voices blend,  
Our guide, our  
counselor and  
friend.

[Dec., 1936 ??]

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
UNIVERSITY PRESS  
MINNEAPOLIS

[Dec, 1936]

The Committee on the Press of the University of Minnesota, at their meeting on December 4, 1936, adopted the following resolution, to which they have subscribed their names:

On November 30 Miss Gratia Countryman completed forty-seven years of service in the Minneapolis Public Library and thirty-two years of service as librarian. They have been eventful years. She came to the Library when it was still small and unformed and the functions of a public library were only imperfectly understood. She served it faithfully and efficiently under successive librarians, so that when, in 1904, the post fell vacant, no question could arise as to the succession. It was hers of right. Never was a choice more felicitous. Miss Countryman displayed from the start rare powers of organization and administration, and what is more, insight and imagination akin to genius. The Minneapolis Public Library under her direction has become an engine of public enlightenment and an instrument of civilization and culture of inestimable value.

As the years have passed, the people of Minneapolis have come to realize how great that service has been and at her retirement they have brought to her in every way in their power the sentiment of their gratitude and respect:

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
UNIVERSITY PRESS  
MINNEAPOLIS

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Committee on the Press that we, whose duties are so closely linked with hers, formally express to her our thanks for a great work greatly done and our best wishes for the years to come.

Resolved further, that this resolution be spread on the minutes of the Committee and that the Chairman be instructed to send a copy, to which the members of the Committee have subscribed their names, to Miss Countryman.

Langston Ford

Wm. A. Riley

Frank K. Walter

Martin B. Rund

John T. Tate

Margaret S. Harding  
Managing Editor

C. C. WEBBER  
800 WASHINGTON AVE. NORTH  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

December  
Second,  
1936

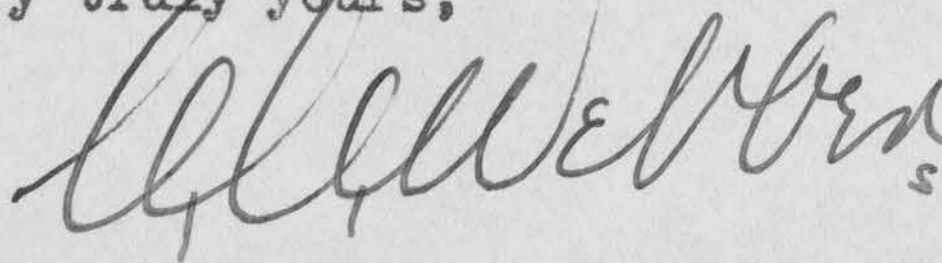
Dr. C. C. Koch,  
405 Marquette Avenue,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Dr. Koch:

Thank you very much for your invitation to attend a testimonial dinner at the Nicollet Hotel on December 10th in honor of Miss Gratia Countryman. I am sorry but I shall not be able to attend, as my health is such that I am not going out to any dinners in the evening and I must therefore send my regrets.

I have known Miss Countryman for a great many years and have a high regard for her, and I hope that upon her retirement she will have many very happy years to come in which to enjoy life.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. C. Webber", with a small "s" at the end of the last word.

CCW-S

December second  
[1936]

Dear Miss Countryman -

I asked Miss Prest one day last week to reserve the evening of December sixteenth, on your calendar, for the branch librarians' dinner for you. I hope nothing has come up in the meantime to fill that date, as we want you for that evening - dinner at the King Cole Hotel

at seven o'clock.

You can't imagine - or can you? -  
how very disconcerting it is to think  
that you are no longer in the office.  
We try not to think about it.

I feel rather like a ship without  
a helm - quite sure we're not going  
to go on the rocks, but with a fear  
that we might!

Charlotte Matson

Dear Miss Countryman: -

We are so glad you can  
have dinner with us Saturday  
evening. The place is 510 Groveland  
Ave. and the time six o'clock.  
We'll all be there to meet you.

Most Sincerely,

Registration - past and present.  
December the second. 1936

THE COLLEGE OF ST. CATHERINE  
LIBRARY  
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

December 2, 1936

Doctor C. C. Koch  
Council of Civic Clubs of Minneapolis  
405 Marquette Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Doctor Koch:

We wish to thank you for the invitation to the dinner in honor of Miss Countryman. As much as we love and admire Miss Countryman, representatives from our Library will not be able to be present.

We appreciate your remembering Saint Catherine's at this time.

Sincerely yours,

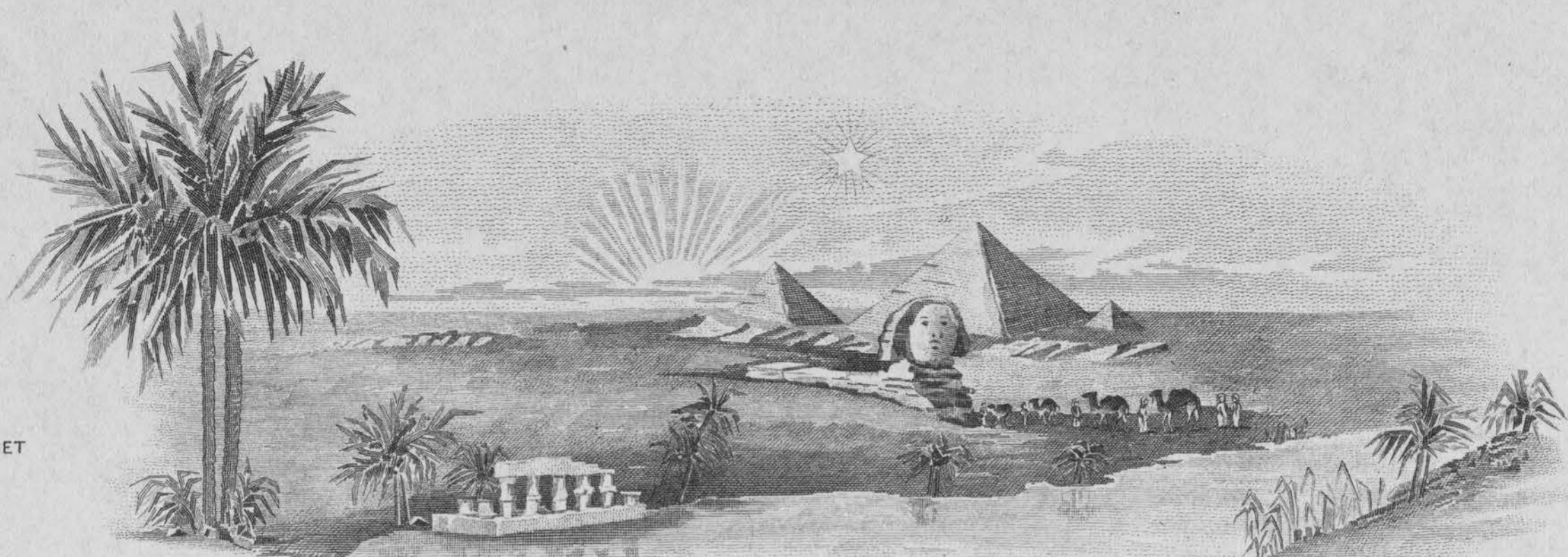
smc:fp

*Sister Marie Cecilia*  
Sister Marie Cecilia

LEE A. POTTER  
CHIEF RABBAN  
JOHN W. ROSS  
ASSISTANT RABBAN  
JOS. R. COCHRAN  
HIGH PRIEST AND PROPHET  
E. F. POMEROY  
ORIENTAL GUIDE  
J. S. POMEROY  
TREASURER

A. A. D. RAHN  
MEMBER IMPERIAL DIVAN

HERBERT C. TODD  
POTENTATE



## ZUHRAH TEMPLE



SHRINE TEMPLE  
2540 PARK AVENUE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

December 2, 1936.

WALTER P. QUIST  
FIRST CEREMONIAL MASTER  
HENRY P. BOOS  
SECOND CEREMONIAL MASTER  
HARRY A. DAHLQUIST  
DIRECTOR  
IVAN H. GRAVES  
MARSHAL  
L. T. CHALGREN  
CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD  
C. F. SCHUMACHER  
OUTER GUARD

JAMES F. GOULD, RECORDER  
PHONE: BRIDGEPORT 4217

Dr. Carl C. Koch, Chairman,  
405 Marquette Avenue,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Dr. Koch:

Thanks for your kind invitation to attend the testimonial dinner in honor of Miss Gratia Countryman, but owing to the continued illness of Mrs. Gould it will be impossible for either one of us to attend, much as we would like to.

We are thoroughly in sympathy and would enjoy taking advantage of this opportunity to show our regard for Miss Countryman and her long and highly efficient service, but under the circumstance it is not possible to do so.

Wishing you the best of success, believe me

Very truly yours,

J. F. GOULD.

G:S



# THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR

DAVIS MERWIN  
PUBLISHER  
JOHN THOMPSON  
GENERAL MANAGER

December 2  
1 9 3 6

Dr. Carl C. Koch  
Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Assn.  
405 Marquette Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

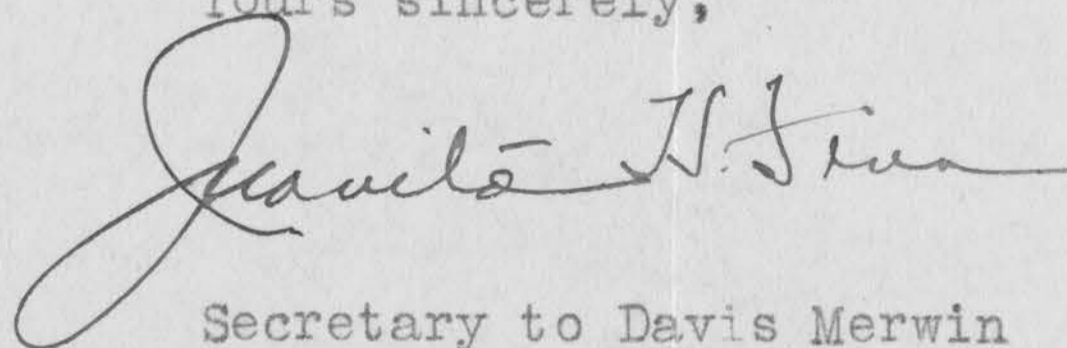
Dear Dr. Koch:

Your letter of November 30 has arrived while Mr. Merwin is away from the office for a few days. Unfortunately, it is also his plan to be in the east on December 10.

I know that if Mr. Merwin were to be in the city that day he would certainly want to join with you in honoring Miss Countryman for her splendid contributions to the city of Minneapolis.

Meantime, if there is anything we can do to assist you, don't hesitate to call upon us.

Yours sincerely,



Secretary to Davis Merwin

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WILLIAM HENRY BODDY, MINISTER  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

December 2, 1936

Miss Gratia Countryman  
3243 France Avenue N.  
Robbinsdale, Minnesota

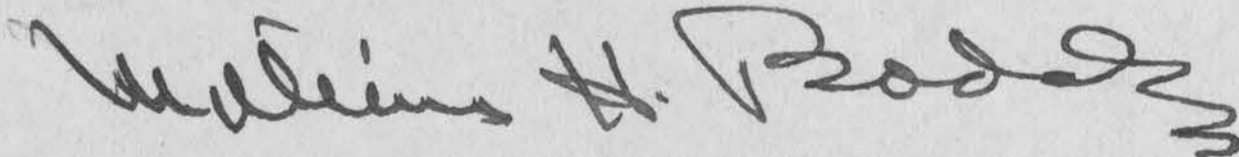
My dear Miss Countryman:

I want you to know that I join all good citizens in felicitating you upon the culmination of so beautiful and serviceable a career. I feel a deep regret, however, to know that you are retiring from the head of the institution over which you have presided with such grace and far-seeing wisdom. I hope your retirement will give you opportunity for many interesting things that the exactions of your position have more or less prohibited.

May I take the opportunity of saying, too, in this note that I talked with Miss Todd this week, and she has decided to join Westminster Church at the next Communion. If you would like to make Westminster officially your church, as I believe it is now in everything but name, we shall be most happy. Perhaps I shall telephone you during the week and see if I may talk with you concerning the matter.

Again please accept my hearty good wishes.

Cordially yours,



William H. Boddy

WHB:rk



# THE H. W. WILSON COMPANY

PUBLISHERS OF INDEXES AND REFERENCE WORKS

950-972 UNIVERSITY AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 2, 1936

READERS' GUIDE TO  
PERIODICAL  
LITERATURE

ABRIDGED READERS'  
GUIDE

CUMULATIVE BOOK  
INDEX

UNITED STATES  
CATALOG

BOOK REVIEW  
DIGEST

STANDARD CATALOG  
FOR PUBLIC  
LIBRARIES

STANDARD CATALOG  
FOR HIGH SCHOOL  
LIBRARIES

CHILDREN'S CATALOG

VERTICAL FILE  
SERVICE

ESSAY INDEX

REFERENCE SHELF  
HANDBOOK SERIES

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INDUSTRIAL ARTS  
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AGRICULTURAL  
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ART INDEX

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PERIODICALS

CATHOLIC  
PERIODICAL INDEX

WILSON BULLETIN  
FOR LIBRARIANS

Miss Gratia A. Countryman  
The Minneapolis Public Library  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

My dear Miss Countryman:

I think that comparatively few of your friends have known you over so long a period of time as I have. I remember very well that when you were a Freshman attending classes with me in the old main building at the University of Minnesota you were quite a bit smarter than I was. I have from time to time been pleased to note your unusual achievements: assistant librarian, then librarian, then president of the American Library Association and now we shall not be surprised if you will capitalize your agricultural opportunities and add another great achievement to the long list.

Mr. Melvil Dewey once commented on the change from the old fashioned idea of the function of the library as being that of a reservoir to the modern public library as a fountain of information. This change of plan in the case of the Minneapolis Public Library has been emphasized by two experiences that I shall always remember vividly.

In the early days of our work in Minneapolis and

in the compiling of our indexes and in the days before you had responsibility for the major decisions of the Minneapolis Public Library, I once called the Library on the telephone and asked for a simple bit of information that could be located in a reference book very quickly and which we needed immediately. I was told over the telephone that the library did not give information on the phone. I must have been quite disappointed and I must have taken the matter quite seriously for I have always remembered it.

Quite a few years later and after we had moved to New York City I was making my annual visit to Minneapolis and as usual went into a bank to cash a check. There, I was much pleased to see a poster reading approximately as follows:

"When you are in need of information, call your public library. Telephone ----- "

This demonstrated clearly to me that the Minneapolis Public Library had really become a fountain of information. I congratulate you for your important service in bringing about this radical change. I hope you will enjoy your post graduate years as much as I know you have enjoyed your years of achievement.

Sincerely yours,

*HW Wilson*

ELY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MRS. RUTH KING, LIBRARIAN

# CITY OF ELY

ELY, MINNESOTA

December 2, 1926.

Dr. C.C. Koch,  
Council of Civic Clubs,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir: It will be impossible for me to attend the dinner in honor to Miss Gratia Countryman, but thank you sincerely for your kind invitation.

Yours very truly,  
*Mrs. Ruth King*  
Librarian.

RMJ

Wednesday

My dear Miss Countryman:

I was just so delighted with the cunning little "wedding & ring" book that I want you to know how pleased I am about it.

When I sauntered into the office this morning Miss Prest produced it from her desk - it will always be one of my choicest treasures because of the personal sentiment attached to it.

I suppose Miss Todd has told you how much we enjoyed your party - it was such a lovely thing to do - especially for those who will not have so much contact with you in the future - We in Miss Todd's department count ourselves among the fortunate ones, for we feel that our ties with you will never be severed, because of our closer association through one of your family -

As the years roll by it is always going to mean a great deal to me to say that I have worked under Gracia Countryman - I count it an honor.

Am trying to make arrangements to come to your "lunch club" party for Miss Powell & hope to do so -  
Most affectionately  
Ruth M. Federman



Miss Gratia A. Countryman  
32<sup>43</sup>~~37~~ France Ave. No.  
Robbinsdale  
Minnesota.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS  
MINNEAPOLIS

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> [1936]

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dear Dr. Koch,

I deeply regret that absence from the city prevents me from being present at the dinner in honor of Miss Countryman. I have always admired greatly the yeoman - or should I say "yeowoman" - work she has done for our community. Through the furs, tempests, upheavals and downcastings that have troubled and distressed us, her still small voice has continued to invite us to come and read. One might urge that her name replace that on the top of one of our high buildings; but she needs no monument, especially of that sort.

Yours sincerely  
Herbert H. Hall.

**A. R. ROGERS**  
**1053 NORTHWESTERN BANK BUILDING**  
**MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.**

December 3, 1936

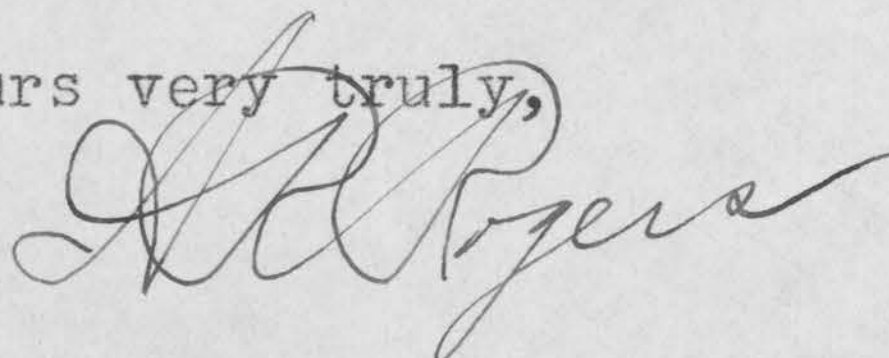
Dr. C. C. Koch, Chairman  
Council of Civic Clubs of  
Minneapolis  
405 Marquette Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Dr. Koch:

Replying to your letter regarding  
the testimonial dinner to be given  
for Miss Gratia Countryman.

I regret exceedingly that a previous  
engagement will prevent my attendance  
at this dinner. I am very happy to  
see Miss Countryman given this splendid  
recognition of her service to the city  
of Minneapolis.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. R. Rogers", written over the typed name "A. R. ROGERS".

ARR-R

CARLETON COLLEGE  
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

DONALD J. COWLING  
PRESIDENT

December 4, 1936.

Dr. C. C. Koch,  
Council of Civic Clubs of Minneapolis,  
405 Marquette Avenue,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Dr. Koch:

I am very sorry not to be able  
to attend the testimonial dinner to be given  
in Miss Gratia Countryman's honor on the  
evening of December 10, glad as I should be  
to do so if I were free.

Her services to Minneapolis richly  
merit this recognition. I am very happy to join  
with her other friends in expressing appreciation  
of her outstanding work, and trust that she will  
have many years in which to enjoy the rewarding  
satisfactions of one's later years.

Very sincerely yours,

*Donald J. Cowling*

RAND COMPANY  
RAND TOWER  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

R. R. RAND, JR. PRESIDENT

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

December 4, 1936

Dr. Carel C. Koch,  
Chairman, Council of Civic Clubs,  
405 Marquette Avenue,  
Minneapolis, Minn

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am sorry that I will not  
be in town at the time of the Testimonial Dinner  
for Miss Countryman. I should enjoy the oppor-  
tunity of paying tribute to her fine work.

Very truly yours,

*R. R. Rand*

RRR:D

MISS RUTH M. HALL  
2153 KNAPP STREET  
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

December 5<sup>th</sup> 1936.

My dear Miss Countryman:

Your heart  
and hands have been so full  
these last weeks that I have  
hesitated until now to say  
what has been in my heart  
to tell you.

Being with you in our  
Library these years has been  
so wonderful an experience.  
To have been able to share  
a little in your vision, to  
have had your constant

MISS RUTH M. HALL  
2153 KNAPP STREET  
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

inspiration <sup>and</sup> encouragement and  
helpful correction, to have had  
you close to us in our sorrows,  
as well as in our joys - to  
have had you grow so near  
and so dear to us - these  
are all such wonderfully pre-  
cious memories to carry into  
the years ahead.

may our carrying-on be a  
real tribute to what you have  
given of yourself to us.

most sincerely and lovingly,  
Ruth M. Hall.

FRANCIS A. GROSS, PRESIDENT  
HAROLD R. WARD, VICE PRESIDENT

CHRISTIAN A. BOSSEN, SUPERINTENDENT  
THEODORE WIRTH, SUPERINTENDENT EMERITUS

CHAS. E. DOELL, SECRETARY  
HOWARD I. MOORE, ATTORNEY

# Board of Park Commissioners

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WASHINGTON YALE

## Minneapolis

December 5, 1936.

Dr. Carel C. Koch  
Chairman, Council of Civic Clubs  
405 Marquette Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Dr. Koch:

I very much regret that I shall not be able to attend the Testimonial Dinner for Miss Gratia Countryman, to take place December 10 at the Nicollet Hotel, but a previous engagement for that evening will prevent my accepting your kind invitation.

In recognition of her service and achievements as well as the personal esteem in which she is held by all who know her, this formal public testimonial dinner is a splendid gesture and I regret that I shall not be able to be present to pay my respects to Miss Countryman.

Sincerely yours,

CA Bossen

CAB-M