

## Mr Hutchings Goes to Washington: British Librarians in the United States, 1876-1951

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### Abstract

*In October 1951, F.G.B. Hutchings, the Chief Librarian of Leeds Public Libraries (Yorkshire, UK), spent a month in the United States, having received an invitation from the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. to act as an adviser on its collection of English local history books. The trip gave Hutchings the opportunity to visit a number of other libraries on the East Coast of the U.S. and in Canada. He was also invited to address a meeting of the American Library Association (ALA) in Philadelphia celebrating its 75th anniversary. It was a task for which he was specifically chosen, the only foreign visitor present at the ALA's inaugural meeting in 1876, also in Philadelphia, having been one of Hutchings' predecessor as the Chief of Leeds Public Libraries, James Yates. Hutchings wrote an extensive diary documenting his trip. Extracts from the diary, supplemented by articles about the trip that Hutchings later sent to a local newspaper and a local periodical, are presented and contextualized. Such evidence points to a special -- though by no mean uncomplicated -- relationship between Britain and the United States in the library sphere, one that paralleled that which developed in the geo-political domain. This paper forms part of what will become a much larger study of British librarians who travelled to the United States to study its library systems in the formative decades of the library profession.*

**Keywords:** Comparative librarianship; International librarianship; F.G.B. Hutchings; Britain; U.S.A.

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### Introduction

History is not a science, but like scientists some of the discoveries historians make are simply by chance. Serendipity is in many respects the historian's best friend. That was certainly the case in respect of the origins of this paper. Three years ago I was searching the catalogue of the local history department of the Leeds Public Library (Yorkshire, UK) for a project I was

undertaking on staff magazines in libraries in the first half of the twentieth century. Leeds Public Library inaugurated a staff magazine in the early-1950s, at which time its Chief Librarian was Fred Hutchings (F.G.B. Hutchings to give him his correct professional title). Among the cross references to Hutchings in the catalogue was his collection of correspondence and papers, and among these was a diary he produced on a visit to the United States in October and November 1951, along with related materials. My interest was immediately aroused, because for about 20 years now I have kept a file – a physical file – into which I have inserted evidence, whenever I came across it, of relations in librarianship between Britain and the United States (serendipity at play again). These relations include the cross-fertilization of ideas, institutional cooperation, and visits by British librarians to the US. This paper is based largely on Hutchings' diary, supplemented by associated letters and reports he sent to a local newspaper and the staff magazine of a local company.<sup>1</sup> It forms part of what is intended to become a much larger study of British librarians who travelled to the United States to study its library systems in the formative decades of the library profession.

### **The invitation**

Hutchings was invited to the US by the Library of Congress to act as an adviser on its collection of English local history. He was asked to travel at very short notice, but his air passage was to be paid and he was to receive a stipend of \$10 a day.<sup>2</sup> To give an idea of how much this stipend would have stretched on one occasion he stayed in the YMCA, Baltimore for \$2.50 a night.<sup>3</sup> There was a secondary reason for the invitation, however. The year 1951 saw the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the American Library Association (ALA), and an all-day event was planned in Philadelphia in October (the annual meeting had taken place in Chicago in July). The only British – indeed foreign – librarian to attend the inaugural meeting of the ALA in 1876, also in Philadelphia, had been James Yates, one of Hutchings' predecessors as Chief Librarian of Leeds.<sup>4</sup> Hutchings was to be the only foreign delegate to the 1951 event. So, inviting Hutchings was an act of historical symmetry on the part of the ALA, and also explains the dates I have cited in the sub-title of this paper – 1876 to 1951.

### **Hutchings' professional career**

Frederick George Baxendale Hutchings was born in 1902. He entered the library world in 1922, spending five-year stints at both Glasgow and Leeds Public Libraries. In 1932 he became Chief Librarian at Rugby Public Library. He moved to Sheffield Public Libraries as Deputy Librarian in 1938. In 1943 he returned to Leeds, this time as Deputy, and in 1946 was he was promoted to Chief. Whilst in control of Leeds Public Libraries, which at the time served citizens in what was the fifth largest British city outside London, Hutchings introduced a number of widely appreciated improvements. He did much to develop services to industry, and subject (departmental) specialization was adopted.<sup>5</sup> In the area of local history, the context of his invitation to the US, Hutchings put a great deal of effort into continuing the work of his immediate predecessor, R.J. Gordon, who in 1937 had initiated work to re-catalogue the Leeds and Yorkshire (local history) Collection. Hutchings was aware of the need to continue this work as well as act as custodian for new deposits of individual and institutional archival documents. Under Hutchings the Collection became a major and significant one. Like many public librarians before him, personal interest in local history became the driving force for improvements in the collection's preservation and accessibility. For Hutchings, local history was of special importance in an age when 'the speed of change is faster than the capacity to record it'.<sup>6</sup>

Throughout his professional career Hutchings was very active in the Library Association, serving as a member of Council for a number of years, as Chairman of its Education Committee just after the war, as Hon. Treasurer (1953-66), and as President in 1967. He regularly attended IFLA conferences and for some years was a member of its Governing Board.<sup>7</sup> He retired from librarianship in 1963 to take up the position of Head of the Malaysian Library School in Kuala Lumpur. This was not the first time he had involved himself in library education, having contributed to the work of the Leeds Library School in the late-1940s. In 1966 he began lecturing in the Library School in Loughborough, and between 1968 and 1971 served as a visiting professor in the Library School in Edmonton, Canada.<sup>8</sup>

Hutchings died in 1978. He was important enough to have a thirty-page symposium on him published in the *Library Review*, seven years after his death. Six of his former colleagues contributed.<sup>9</sup> The introduction to this set of essays, which were unanimous in their warmth of regard, described Hutchings as a librarian who, though not associated with any special event of innovation, had nonetheless ‘accumulated a formidable reputation’; in terms of his personality he was seen to be ‘hard-headed in action’ and ‘masterful in bearing’, but he could also be ‘informal and friendly’.<sup>10</sup>

### **The journey**

Hutchings’ visit to the US was to take in Washington, New York and Baltimore. In Canada he planned to visit Montreal, Toronto and Niagara. He departed London, by air, on 2 October 1951. His route appears to have been London-Prestwick-Shannon-Gander-New York. Taking off in the late-afternoon, most of his journey was spent in darkness. He flew in what he referred to as an ‘airship,’ which he tells us was a Boeing Stratocruiser, a large, four-engine propeller airliner, which had room for 60 passengers. Years ahead of the Boeing 747 and the Airbus 380, it sported a double deck. Accessed via a spiral staircase, a bar was positioned on the lower deck, with room for 14 passengers. It served a ‘good line of brandy’, Hutchings tells us.<sup>11</sup> The pilot made period visits from the flight-deck and generally, Hutchings writes, there was an ‘air of readiness to help the passengers’.

### **Commentary on non-library matters**

Hutchings’ description of the airliner and its crew was just one example of the many observations Hutchings made in his diary that were not library-related. He had much to say about America and its people. Although he commented that ‘The similarities [between Britain and the US] are too many to make the differences constantly noticeable’,<sup>12</sup> he also noted some marked differences. These were both positive and negative. He admired the ‘superb classical buildings,’ including that in Philadelphia, which housed the country’s large railway stations. He was also impressed by Washington D.C. and its classical architecture and planning;<sup>13</sup> ‘there is nothing to compare with it for grandeur and conception’, he wrote.<sup>14</sup> When in Washington, he went to a session of the House of Representatives, and came away with a one-word description for his diary: ‘dull’.<sup>15</sup>

On a negative note, on one occasion he observed workers engaged in road repairs leaning on shovels, as he put it, ‘more aggressively than they do at home’, this despite the ‘high reputation of the American for hard work’.<sup>16</sup> In addition, he was disturbed to hear rumours while on his visit that war with China was inevitable: ‘I am frankly afraid of American power’, he wrote. ‘They have sold this Communist scare so well’, he continued, ‘that even

the steady, decent, intelligent people who want to avoid war are held in the grip of the idea of Communist aggression, and will follow the national policy ... I am sure America is gearing for war'. British diplomacy, he suggested to himself, could help resolve the crisis.<sup>17</sup> He summed up his journey to the US in four words: 'war, energy, wealth, kindness'.<sup>18</sup> He thought the American people 'kindly and generous' but added, cruelly, that 'good manners are not noticeable among Americans'.<sup>19</sup>

Hutchings conveyed more non-library impressions of the US in an article entitled 'American Impressions' which he was asked to write, after his return, for the *Marlbeck Annual*, the staff magazine of the Leeds-based Marlbeck Limited, a leading manufacturer of coats and suits (the magazine had a circulation of 3,500 copies).<sup>20</sup> He was asked by the magazine's editor to give a 'general literary comparison of the two countries',<sup>21</sup> but Hutchings opted instead up indulge himself in more pseudo-sociological observation, of the type he had written in his diary.

He began his article by saying that: 'America has a magnetic quality. It is a country about which most people have opinions, a country with which people in England are constantly making comparisons. It draws us half against our inclinations'. He was surprised to see old-style wooden scaffolding. Trams had the 'forlorn look of a poor relation'. He asked himself: 'Was this the land of progress or had I been flying in the wrong direction and landed in Siberia?' He found the food expensive but good. The steaks were 'honest,' he enjoyed peaches soaked in rum, and he was pleased to eat chicken that was bred for the table and wasn't simply a 'superannuated egg-layer'.<sup>22</sup> His dietary opinion overall, however, was that: 'Despite resources, I don't think Americans eat as well as we do as a rule'.<sup>23</sup>

He noted how men generally wore lightweight suits and a clean white shirt daily, but they 'seldom seem to polish their shoes'. Regarding the clothing habits of women, he noted that many women gave themselves a new look each day but he was 'often disturbed by their tawdry materials and a failure to be harmoniously dressed'. He also thought American women to be less attractive than their British counterparts; whilst the heat in America, he added in what today would be regarded as sexist commentary, led women there to discard 'body-redeeming garments'.<sup>24</sup>

### **Philadelphia and the ALA**

Back to his outward journey. Hutchings arrived at New York's Idlewild Airfield (now JFK International Airport) at 7am on 3 October, having spent around twenty hours on the plane, either in the air or on the ground. By 9am he was in New York City, where he lost little time in catching a train to Philadelphia, arriving there around noon. He was met by the dean of the library school in the Drexel Institute in Philadelphia, Harriet MacPherson, who took him immediately to see the special collections in the University of Pennsylvania Library, a part of which (the Furness Collection) was housed in what he termed 'Tudoresque accommodation'. A party was thrown for him on the evening of 3 October. He must have been exhausted, having slept only on the plane – 'I am still half-dazed,' he wrote.<sup>25</sup>

The following day, 4 October, was marked by one of the highlights of Hutchings' tour. In celebration of its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, a one-day event in Philadelphia had been arranged by the ALA, coordinated by MacPherson. The event was scheduled in the very city in which the ALA had been born, exactly one hundred years earlier, to the day. To mark the occasion, 4 October 1951 was designated 'National Library Day' (not to be confused with 'National

Library Week', which was inaugurated in 1958).<sup>26</sup> Invitations were distributed to around 300 representatives from many of the libraries and scientific societies who had sent a delegate to the inaugural meeting in 1876. The day's proceedings began at the Drexel Institute. Hutchings was asked to address delegates at a celebratory luncheon at the Warwick Hotel, along with two other guest speakers: Joseph Lippincott (the publisher, who spoke on "Philadelphia publishing in 1876") and John Powell (a historian, whose paper title was "When people came to Philadelphia"). Hutchings addressed the subject of professional librarianship in Britain, with an emphasis on education and training. He he believed people liked his presentation. The closing session took place at the Pennsylvania Historical Society, site of the 1876 meeting. Others who spoke during the day's proceedings included Frederic Melcher (publisher of the *Library Journal* and major contributor to the library science field) and Luther Evans (Librarian of Congress) who, having been in conversation with the ALA and MacPherson as head of the event's organizing committee, had found the funds to bring Hutchings to America (the initial invitation to Hutchings, which he had to decline, had not offered any funding for the trip and it was left to MacPherson to somehow find the money).<sup>27</sup>

Fresh from his apparent triumph, Hutchings spent 5 October visiting the library school in the Drexel Institute and public libraries in Philadelphia. He described the city's main library as 'a public temple built to the false gods'. He was perplexed by the building's waste of space. As he wrote:

The space occupied by the entrance hall and corridors must exceed that occupied by the library departments, in all of which the staff complain of lack of accommodation. The architect has so contrived spaciousness that there is no room for the cosy-corner technique by which many public libraries in England contrive to eke out space.<sup>28</sup>

Later that day he visited four branch libraries – Bushride, Greater Olnor, Oak Lane and Germantown – and commented that 'all [were] huge in relation to turnover [issues] but lacking, in any real sense, internal treatment of any significance'.<sup>29</sup> He estimated that although the Philadelphia library service issues the same number of books each year as Leeds Public Libraries, it did so at seven times the cost.<sup>30</sup>

### **Washington and the Library of Congress**

On 8 October, Hutchings began his work at the Library of Congress in Washington as a consultant on English local history. Shortly after commencing he noted a book in the Library of Congress collection about Leeds Castle in Kent, wrongly catalogued under Leeds in Yorkshire (a mistake repeated by many tourists to Britain over the years!).

Of the Library of Congress building, he wrote that 'it is a fussy style, full of colonnades and subtle contrivances which somehow fail to bring the marble to life'. Moving into positive mode, however, he added that 'staff courtesy is everywhere evident' and control of the 2200 staff was 'a model of enlightened management'. He noted with apparent enthusiasm that the Library produced catalogue cards for other libraries, therefore eliminating in these the need for local cataloguing and classification (a practice that was soon emulated in Britain, in 1956, under the auspices of the British National Bibliography, established in 1950). Hutchings noted that many readers were being issued with microfilms, photostats and tape recordings. Taking interest in this aspect of the Library of Congress' work may not have arisen from his enthusiasm for such formats, because we are told by the writer of his obituary that he was in

fact 'impatient of modern tendencies towards supplanting the book by other so called audio-visual methods'.<sup>31</sup>

He experienced a strange feeling when he came across the publications of the Thoresby Society, an organization that promoted the local history of Yorkshire, safely stored in an air-conditioned basement.<sup>32</sup> He expressed admiration of the *Library of Congress Quarterly*, which he described as a version 'in large'<sup>33</sup> of the Leeds Public Library's *Book Guide*, a monthly list of selected additions to the bookstock, with critical annotations, which Hutchings had inaugurated in 1947 and to which he made many telling contributions.<sup>34</sup>

Hutchings attended two Library of Congress staff forums (training days). One was on documentary repair. He noted with great interest the new laminate method for preserving documents used in the US. This, he stated, was superior to the British 'silk lise' methods, although he was put off by the high cost of laminate machines (\$9000 each).<sup>35</sup>

One evening in Washington, Hutchings lectured at the Special Libraries Association. He began by saying that if he, a public librarian, dared to stand up in front of such an audience in Britain, he would be shot.<sup>36</sup> This sentiment underlines the deep fracture that existed at the time between professional librarianship and the emergent field of documentation, soon to be re-named information science. Hutchings doesn't appear to have been among those librarians of the day (and there were many) who displayed antagonism towards documentation. He was, for example, a great admirer of the Mabel Exley, who for many years ran the information service in the pharmaceutical company Boots.<sup>37</sup> Librarians and documentalists are part of one conception', he later wrote, in reviewing an international meeting of librarians and documentalists (although examining the comments that surround this assertion it is not entirely clear that he understood fully what constituted the practice of documentation).<sup>38</sup>

Whilst in Washington, he visited the Folger (Shakespeare) Library, which had opened in 1932. Reading between the lines, one senses he was impressed.<sup>39</sup>

### **Baltimore and New York**

On 15 October we find Hutchings in Baltimore, where he visited the Enoch Pratt Library which, he reminds us, was conceived 'on the subject plan' (something he adopted at Leeds) and was, in his opinion 'very good'.<sup>40</sup> He was then taken to see three branch libraries – 'ours are better', he boasted. He was surprised that one branch had a staff of four to oversee a meagre annual issue of 56,000 books, or 14,000 each. In Leeds Public Libraries in the early 1950s, annual issues per member of staff was approximately 23,000.<sup>41</sup> Hutchings had noted a similarly poor ratio of staff to books borrowed in three branch libraries in Washington. In each case, he observed, the number of issues (or 'turnover,' as he liked to put it) was not commensurate with size, prompting him to exclaim: 'It staggers me. There is little attempt to relate expenditure to use. They do not even think about it'.<sup>42</sup> Taking population into account, Leeds had historically run more branch libraries than most British library authorities. In the late-nineteenth century, James Yates had introduced a policy of establishing branch libraries in state schools;<sup>43</sup> and later, between the wars, branch libraries proliferated as the city embarked on large slum-clearance and estate-building programmes. Far from being inefficient due to their small size, therefore, branch libraries in Leeds, certainly compared with their US counterparts, appeared to be the model of economy.

Hutchings returned to New York, this time to stay for a few days. He was wowed by the lights in Times Square and on Broadway, but not by the Central Lending Library which he thought 'one of the dullest' he'd ever seen.<sup>44</sup> He was annoyed that no visits had been arranged for him to see any of New York's plethora of branch libraries and so he left New York Public Library in somewhat of a huff, or as he put it: 'in a contemptible mood of self-righteousness'.<sup>45</sup> As a distinguished visitor, he believed he should have been treated better.

### **Canada and the journey home**

Then to Canada, where his visit coincided with that of the future Queen Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip (he caught sight of them in Montreal, during their official Royal tour of Canada and the U.S.). He found the Toronto Public Library 'rather impressive in a quiet, dignified way'. He perused the library's collection of early printed children's books, a gift from Edgar Osborne.<sup>46</sup> The library was run by two Englishmen: C.R. Sanderson (Chief, and former librarian of the National Liberal Club) and Hilton Smith (Deputy, and former editor of the *Library Association Record*), just two of the many ex-pats he met on his trip.<sup>47</sup> Also in Toronto, he visited the Library at the Sunnybrook Veteran's Hospital, which was administered by the public library – 'an attractive place,' he comments.<sup>48</sup> On 2 November he caught his flight home, the itinerary being Montreal-Gander-Prestwick-London. He arrived in London (Heathrow) at 4.15pm the following day, and caught the 6.18pm train from London to Leeds – 'How anxiety to get home presses me', he recorded in his diary on the train home.

### **Postscript**

Hutchings trip generated a number of correspondence after his return. He was contacted by Denver University Librarian Forrest Carhart, a member of a committee of the Association of College and Reference Libraries that had been charged with synthesizing the available information on circulation control. He had been reading the *Library Association Record* and *Library World* to inform himself of circulation methods in Britain, but wanted to know names of libraries that had particularly good systems of circulation control.<sup>49</sup>

Hutchings replied with a long letter telling him about the various processes employed in Britain for issuing books, and supplemented this with names of librarians who could help Carhart further in his enquiries. In the same letter he tells Carhart that he had had the chance to observe the new photo-charging process in Baltimore, but apparently the machine had broken down. The reliability of the machines was just one objection he had to photo-charging. Another was that, in his opinion, it offered 'no way of dealing with books which had been reserved'.<sup>50</sup>

Carhart replied with information about an experiment that Ralph Shaw had conducted in Gary, Indiana where the circulation desk attendant operated the camera in all respects as if it had film loaded in the magazine (which it didn't). They lost no more books issued on that day, however, than on days when the machine *was* working. Carhart added that he felt that librarians in America 'have decided we need more machines in libraries simply because we want to operate like business houses which may use machines'.<sup>51</sup>

### **Discussion**

In the 1939 political-comedy movie *Mr Smith Goes to Washington*, the main character, Jefferson Smith (played by James Stewart), travels to Washington harbouring a deep sense of

trust, but ends up confronting and criticizing the system that initially welcomed him. Mr Hutchings went to Washington in a similar spirit of goodwill. Unlike Mr. Smith, however, most of what he found in Washington, and in the US generally, he applauded. Yet the positive comments Hutchings makes in his diary and published reports should not eclipse the significant number of negative thoughts he conveyed.

Some of the negative commentary in which Hutchings indulged himself was on non-library aspects of American life. This commentary was in the tradition of librarians' desire to distinguish themselves as writers, able to observe developments in not only the intellectual worlds of libraries and literature, but the wider world also.<sup>52</sup> It also offers valuable evidence (as diaries often do) for the cultural historian -- a view 'from below' and 'from the outside' of the way of life in mid-twentieth-century America. Some of Hutchings commentary, however, should be taken with a pinch of salt. For example, his assertion that Americans were artistically impoverished -- apart from architecture and the murals in the Library of Congress 'their art is awful', he wrote<sup>53</sup> -- was just downright silly. Indeed, we need to remember that Hutchings was not an expert on the non-library phenomena that caught his attention -- such as fashion, art, gender differences or social behaviour. His expertise was in librarianship, and perhaps he should have stuck to that in recording his experiences.

Of greater value, therefore, are his comments on library matters. Hutchings was not a prolific writer, but when he did put pen to paper he was 'rarely tentative'.<sup>54</sup> An example of this is his reviews of US periodicals for the *Library Association Record* in the late-1930s, where on one occasion he admonished authors and editors of American journals alike for serving up 'far too much hors d'oeuvres and not enough meat'.<sup>55</sup> Of a survey of readers in New York published in the *Bulletin of the New York Public Library* in December 1936 he questioned if any of the results were striking, and added, rhetorically: 'Is the survey worth the one year's solid analysis which was spent on it. Or am I a fool?'<sup>56</sup> This directness was also evident in his US diary and reports. In assessing the personalities of some of the people he met on his travels, his tone was often abrasive, his comments less than generous. Rather unkindly, he described one librarian he met 'intense but stupid'.<sup>57</sup> His obituary informs us that he didn't suffer fools gladly and that he disliked 'padding and verbosity' as well as 'transatlantic jargon'.<sup>58</sup>

He certainly spoke plainly in respect of what he saw as the profligacy of American public libraries. Perhaps shaped by the austerity of post-war Britain, he had little time for waste. Although he was supportive of his staff at Leeds and always tried to protect salary grades, he was prepared to abolish posts, including senior ones, where appropriate, and generally disliked over-staffing.<sup>59</sup> In addition to the report on local history he wrote whilst in the US (no copy of which seems to have survived), he also undertook a small study on comparative costs. The precise context of this study is not made clear, but it is likely to relate to his observations on the inefficiency of US branch libraries, building on a previous interest he'd shown in library cost accounting.<sup>60</sup>

His negative comments on the American library system are in many ways refreshing. Historically, the discourse of librarianship has been self-congratulatory, observation often avoiding the controversial, tending instead towards the telling of positive, uncomplicated stories of 'onwards and upwards' development. An example of this is the comment of Charles Nowell, City Librarian of Coventry who, after visiting the U.S. in 1926 as part of a British delegation to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ALA, told an audience on his return

that: 'The library [in America] has a higher standing amongst the people ... than in the case of this country'.<sup>61</sup>

Like Nowell, in the two reports on his trip, both for public consumption, Hutchings, though critical in some places of American culture and society, is never critical of American libraries or librarians. In his diary, however, library criticism is highly visible. It might be assumed that this was because he was writing in a private diary. Yet, as soon as he returned to Leeds he requested his diary manuscript to be typed up. Possibly this was because it was to be circulated to senior colleagues at Leeds. Why would this be the case? The answer may lie in the fact that Hutchings was a believer in open administration. He encouraged staff to speak out, without recrimination, and before meetings often circulated his own letters and memos and those of his senior staff so that everyone could see what was going on.<sup>62</sup> On reflection, however, it is surely unlikely that he would have aired his personal feelings about individuals even to close senior colleagues. It is more likely that he was using his diary in the traditional way, as a means of personal reflection and as an 'aide-mémoire' to help him write public-domain, less personal articles about his trip.

Hutchings' frank descriptions of some of the librarians he met on his trip, nor his criticism of aspects of the U.S. library system, should not lead us to think he was a 'little Englander'. He enjoyed, and appreciated, a great deal of hospitality on his visit. On more than one occasion he was entertained by Luther Evans who he called a 'great internationalist', adding that: 'Nothing but good can come from these friendships'.<sup>63</sup> Hutchings was himself an internationalist: 'His work for librarianship in the international sphere has brought credit to Britain', wrote the author of his obituary.<sup>64</sup>

Hutchings was well aware that librarians in one country could learn much from their counterparts in another. In the one book he wrote, a guide to librarianship aimed specifically at developing countries, he expressed the hope that 'those countries which are developing their libraries will examine critically what has happened in Europe and America and avoid copying their mistakes'.<sup>65</sup> In particular, he appeared to support greater centralization of library services (accompanied by the appropriate division of units and specialization) and implied developing countries could learn from the impoverishment of services that arose most notably from the UK, with its predilection for localism and its fear of central government interference.<sup>66</sup>

In a discussion of international library cooperation, published in 1962, Hutchings begins by quoting the Library of Congress' Herbert Putnam who, in observing the intrinsically international nature of the library movement, once wrote that: 'We are inconceivable in isolation'.<sup>67</sup> Hutchings goes on to praise the export of British librarians around the world and the frequent international exchange of librarians, especially between the US and Britain (often arranged on the British side by the Membership Office of the Library Association). These international activities were 'devoid of political antagonisms', he opined.<sup>68</sup> However, just as the geo-political relationship between the US and Britain in the twentieth century was far from smooth and uncomplicated, so also in the library sphere it is likely that many more tensions and differences, beyond those revealed in Hutchings' diary, can be identified.

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## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Diary of the visit of F.G.B. Hutchings to the United States (hereafter cited as 'Diary'). Hutchings sent three reports of his visit to the press. Copies of all three are in Hutchings' correspondence and papers. They are cited here as: First press article (which carries an annotation indicating it was sent to the *Yorkshire Post* on 12 October 1951), Second press article, and Third press article (which carries an annotation indicating it was published in the *Yorkshire Post* on 15 November 1951). His report for the local corporate staff magazine can be found in F.G.B. Hutchings, American impressions, *The Marlbeck Annual: A Journal of the Houses of Marlbeck and Marldena*, 1951, p. 18-19.

<sup>2</sup> Hutchings, American impressions, op. cit., p. 18. Hutchings' impending journey was announced in the local press: Leeds librarians to visit the United States, *Yorkshire Post*, 1 October 1951.

<sup>3</sup> Diary, 14 October.

<sup>4</sup> Yates was Chief Librarian at Leeds between 1870 and 1897.

<sup>5</sup> Entry for Hutchings in W.A. Munford, *Who was who in British librarianship, 1800-1985* (London: Library Association, 1987).

<sup>6</sup> F.G.B. Hutchings, *Librarianship: a short manual, with special reference to developing countries* (Kuala Lumpur: Oxford University Press, 1969), p. 58.

<sup>7</sup> W.B. Patton, [Obituary of F.G.B. Hutchings], *Library Association Record*, Vol. 80, No. 8, August 1978, p. 365.

<sup>8</sup> Entry for Hutchings in Munford, op. cit.

<sup>9</sup> The essays were fronted by an anonymous introduction: Anon., Introduction, *Library Review*, 34, Spring 1985, p. 6. Named contributions were as follows: A.B. Craven, City librarian, *Library Review*, 34, Spring 1985, pp. 7-9; J. Bebbington, Comrade and captain, *Library Review*, 34, Spring 1985, pp. 10-13; H. Nichols, Craftsman and Clydesider, *Library Review*, 34, Spring 1985, pp. 14-17; J.H. Haiste, Critic and creator, *Library Review*, 34, Spring 1985, pp. 18-20; L. Durbridge, Colleague and counselor, *Library Review*, 34, Spring 1985, pp. 21-33; G. Jones, Command and continuity: a note, *Library Review*, 34, Spring 1985, pp. 34-37; L. Durbridge, F.G.B. Hutchings: a preliminary checklist of his writings, *Library Review*, 34, Spring 1985, pp. 38-39.

<sup>10</sup> Anon., Introduction, op. cit., p. 6.

<sup>11</sup> Diary, 3 October.

<sup>12</sup> Diary, 4 October.

<sup>13</sup> Hutchings, American impressions, op. cit., p. 18.

<sup>14</sup> Second press article, op. cit..

<sup>15</sup> Diary, 11 October.

<sup>16</sup> Diary, 3 October.

<sup>17</sup> Diary, 22 October.

<sup>18</sup> Third press article, op. cit.

<sup>19</sup> Hutchings, American impressions, op. cit., p. 19.

<sup>20</sup> Hutchings, American impressions, op. cit.

<sup>21</sup> Letter from Marlbeck Ltd. to Hutchings, 29 October 1952.

<sup>22</sup> Hutchings, American impressions, op. cit., p. 18..

<sup>23</sup> Diary, 14 October.

<sup>24</sup> Hutchings, American impressions, op. cit., p. 19.

<sup>25</sup> Diary, 4 October.

<sup>26</sup> L. Nix, *Library history buff blog*, 29 September 2011. Retrieved 22 June 2014 from: <http://libraryhistorybuff.blogspot.co.uk/2011/09/alas-dodranscentennial-1951.html>.

<sup>27</sup> Diary, 4 October. A number of documents in the ALA Archives (filed under "Sevety-fifth Anniversary: National Library Day"), housed in the Archives Department of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign throw light on the day's planning and activities. These documents include: ALA Press release, 4 October 1951; ALA Press release, 30 September 1951; ALA Press release, (n.d.) c. September 1951; Letter from Harriet MacPherson to Len Arnold, 31 August 1951.

<sup>28</sup> First press article, op. cit..

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- <sup>29</sup> Diary, 5 October.
- <sup>30</sup> First press article, op. cit.
- <sup>31</sup> W.B. Patton, [Obituary of F.G.B. Hutchings], *Library Association Record*, Vol. 80, No. 8, August 1978, p. 365.
- <sup>32</sup> Second press article, op. cit.
- <sup>33</sup> Diary, 21 October.
- <sup>34</sup> Craven, op. cit., p. 9.
- <sup>35</sup> Diary, 11 October.
- <sup>36</sup> Diary, 22 October.
- <sup>37</sup> Bebbington, op. cit., p. 12.
- <sup>38</sup> F.G.B. Hutchings, International congress at Brussels, *Library Association Record*, Vol. 57, No. 11, November 1955, p. 440.
- <sup>39</sup> Diary, 17 October.
- <sup>40</sup> Diary, 15 October.
- <sup>41</sup> Jones, op. cit., p. 35.
- <sup>42</sup> Diary, 22 October.
- <sup>43</sup> T. Kelley. *A history of public libraries in Great Britain, 1845-1975* (London: Library Association, 1977), p. 141.
- <sup>44</sup> Diary, 26 October.
- <sup>45</sup> Diary, 26 October.
- <sup>46</sup> Diary, 31 October.
- <sup>47</sup> Charles Sanderson worked in public libraries in Bury (1902), Bolton (1905) and at the John Rylands (University of Manchester) Library (1909) before becoming Librarian of the National Liberal Club in 1919. He moved to Toronto, Canada in 1929 as Deputy, became Chief in 1937 and retired in 1956. He lectured in the University College, London Library School from its inauguration in 1919 until he left for Canada in 1929. Hilton Smith (full name Robert Dennis Hilton Smith) worked in a series of public libraries in London from 1920 until he left to join Toronto Public Library in 1946, where he stayed until he retired in 1956. Between 1930 and 1935 he was Hon. Sec. of the Association of Assistant Librarians. He was editor of the *Library Association Record*, 1936-1941. See entries for each in Munford, op. cit.
- <sup>48</sup> Diary, 31 October.
- <sup>49</sup> Forrest Carhart to F.G.B. Hutchings, 12 February 1952.
- <sup>50</sup> F.G.B. Hutchings to Forrest Carhart, 19 February 1952.
- <sup>51</sup> Forrest Cahart to F.G.B. Hutchings, 6 March 1952.
- <sup>52</sup> A. Black, Organisational learning and home-grown writing: the library staff magazine in Britain in the first half of the twentieth century, *Information & Culture*, Vol. 47, No. 4, 2012, pp. 487-513.
- <sup>53</sup> Diary, 7 October.
- <sup>54</sup> Durbridge, Colleague and counsellor, op. cit., p. 23. Hutchings published output was largely ephemeral: short articles, correspondence, reviews, annotations and, of course, the annual reports he wrote as Chief Librarian at both Rugby and Leeds.
- <sup>55</sup> Contemporaries, *Library Association Record*, Vol. 39, February 1937, p. 76, quoted in Durbridge, Colleague and counselor, op. cit., p. 23.
- <sup>56</sup> Contemporaries, *Library Association Record*, August 1937, p. 449, quoted in Durbridge, Colleague and counselor, op. cit., p. 23.
- <sup>57</sup> Diary, 26 October.
- <sup>58</sup> W.B. Patton, [Obituary of F.G.B. Hutchings], *Library Association Record*, Vol. 80, No. 8, August 1978, p. 365.
- <sup>59</sup> Bebbington, op. cit., p. 10; Craven, op. cit., p. 9.
- <sup>60</sup> F.G.B. Hutchings, Current views: library cost accounting, *Library Association Record*, April 1937, p. 173.
- <sup>61</sup> J.G. Ollé, The Library Association and the American Library Association: their first fifty years, *Journal of Librarianship*, Vol. 9, No. 4, October 1977, p. 248.
- <sup>62</sup> Bebbington, op. cit., p. 11.
- <sup>63</sup> Diary, 14 October.

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<sup>64</sup> W.B. Patton, [Obituary of F.G.B. Hutchings], *Library Association Record*, Vol. 80, No. 8, August 1978, p. 365.

<sup>65</sup> Hutchings, *Librarianship: a short manual*, op. cit., p. xv.

<sup>66</sup> Hutchings, *Librarianship: a short manual*, op. cit., p. xvi.

<sup>67</sup> F.G.B. Hutchings, International librarianship, in P.H. Sewell, *Five year's work in librarianship* (London: Library Association, 1963), p. 428.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 434.