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The Road to Knowledge, Power and Progress c1938

Maine State Library

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State Chickadee (Parus Atricapillus). Adopted by the legislature of 1927.

State Augusta was chosen as the capital. Capital February 24, 1827. From 1820 until that date the seat of government was at Portland.

State The coat of arms of the State of Maine Flag on a blue field of the shade of the blue field in the flag of the United States. Adopted by the legislature of 1909.

State Floral White pine cone and tassel Emblem (Pinus Strobus, Linnaeus). Adopted by the legislature of 1895.


State Dirigo, "I direct." Adopted by the legislature of 1820.

State "A shield, argent, charged with a Pine Tree; a Moose Deer, at the foot of it, recumbent. Supporters; on the dexter side an Husbandman, resting on a scythe; on the sinister side, a Seaman, resting on an anchor. In the foreground, representing sea and land, and under the shield, the name of the state in large Roman Capitals. The whole surmounted by a Crest, the North Star. The motto, in small Roman Capitals, in a label interposed between the Shield and the Crest, viz.: 'Dirigo.'" Adopted by the legislature of 1820.

Executive Former home of James G. Blaine. Mansion Presented to the State by Mrs. Harriet Blaine Beale, as a memorial to her son, Walker Blaine Beale. Accepted by the legislature of 1919 as the official residence of the Governor.
General Reference Material on all subjects is available to any citizen of the state. The book collection of 210,000 volumes enables us to answer practically any question of importance and to lend books on nearly every subject.

The Maine State Library has books on masonry, carpentry, plumbing, heating, painting, cotton, wool, silk, bees, soil, accounting, bleaching, food, clothing, salesmanship, poetry, drama, essays, oratory, satire, humor, rhetoric, bibliography, library economy, journalism, newspapers, metaphysics, philosophic systems, mental faculties, psychology, logic, ethics, religion, natural theology, Bible, church, religious history, Christian churches and sects, sociology, statistics, political science, political economy, law, administration, education, commerce, customs, costumes, folklore, philology, natural science, mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology, paleontology, biology, botany, zoology, medicine, engineering, agriculture, domestic economy, chemical technology, manufactures, mechanic trades, building, landscape gardening, architecture, painting, sculpture, drawing, decoration, design, engraving, photography, music, amusements, history, geography and travels, biography.

We lend one, two or three books at a time, for a period of three weeks. If, at the end of that time, renewal is desired, please notify us the date due, the author and brief title of the book. One renewal may be requested and if no other patron is waiting for the book it will be renewed for a period of two—three weeks. If the book may not be renewed notice will be sent and it should be returned at once. Fines will not be charged in such a case. Failure to request renewal means that a fine of three cents a day will be charged until the book is returned. If renewal is requested after a book has become due renewal will be made from the date of the request and not from the date the book was due. A fine will be charged for the intervening time. If a book is not in when requested we will place a reserve on it and send by mail as soon as it becomes available.

A new postal law enables us to send books at greatly reduced cost and when they are returned to us they will come back for a like amount if you will place the following in the upper left corner of the package: CONTENTS: Books mailed under Sec. 572, P. L. & R. Please do not seal the package! Please do not send postage in advance. Wait until you receive a letter from us telling you the exact sum due.

Maine Special attention is given to all Collection material pertaining to Maine. Included in the collection of Maine books are state, town and county histories, directories, such vital statistics as have been published, census records, family histories, all of the official publications of the state, including the legislative ones, town reports, bound files of newspapers and periodicals published in the state either as a whole or in part. Effort is being made to assemble information of every kind about Maine. In this connection special files, in charge of a Maine research librarian, are maintained for the preservation of pamphlets, documentary material and general descriptive and biological items. The library welcomes all additions to this collection, the items of which are available for loan and reference use. The exhibit collection of the works of Maine writers, especially contemporary ones, known as Maine Author Collection, is of steadily increasing importance and value.

Legislative Reference Past, present and prospective legislation is indexed, digested and prepared for the benefit of legislators and all others interested in public questions. Debaters, public officials and students will find in this division reliable information.

Law The latest legal textbooks, encyclopedias and dictionaries, the laws and reports of the United States, Great Britain and Canada make this section the best equipped law library in the state. A collection of some 60,000 volumes are available for consultation by lawyers and others.

Genealogical Collection This division is open for workers wishing to consult family and town history material. The library staff does no research along this
line but there is a list of names of people who can be secured to do this for a reasonable sum.

Documents All of the official publications of the state and of the United States are on file at the library and may be borrowed like other books.

Clipping The resources of a clipping bureau in charge of a special worker, are available for reference use and for lending. The leading Maine papers are clipped daily for Maine items of interest.

Loan All books, pamphlets, periodicals, restrictions may be borrowed in the usual way—three books at a time, three weeks at a time—except as follows: certain rare, expensive or out of print books. It is necessary to restrict the loan of family and town histories to one at a time for one week at a time. Such books may not be renewed and in this collection it often happens that a book cannot be sent out at all because of its value or the fact that it is absolutely essential for ready reference in the library. No works of reference, as encyclopedias, year books of the current year, almanacs, etc., are ever lent. It sometimes happens that there is unusual demand for material owing to the special season of the year, as at Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holidays and it becomes necessary to limit the time of loan for that reason. As a rule, however, practically all of the 210,000 volumes in the State Library are for loan.

State Aid A stipend is paid annually to all towns which appropriate money for the support of a free public library. Upon request an organizer will be sent to assist in establishing a new library or to advise improvements in the details of library administration of those already established.

Organization In addition to the donation of books to a newly organized library the following forms of aid are available: consultation with citizens in regard to starting a movement to secure a library, in regard to incorporation of such an institution; advice on building, furnishing, equipment, supplies, cataloguing, classifying; submitting lists of books for first purchase, etc.

Correspondence A correspondence course in library methods is conducted by the Library. The class is limited to those employed in libraries.

Summer Reading Course Through a parent, librarian or teacher, a summer reading course is offered to children. The course may be taken at any time in the year. Examinations are given and a certificate is presented to each child who completes the required reading.

Illustrated A special collection of illustrated juvenile children's books is available for use during Book Week and for exhibit purposes only. The books are of high literary quality on a wide variety of themes. One may borrow twelve of these books by paying the return postage.

Round Tables Schools of instruction and Round Table meetings are held each year in various sections of the state for the purpose of information and inspiration. The Maine Library Association has, in cooperation with the State Library, made plans for districting the state in such a way that each section will be accommodated with one of these meetings within a given time.

State Aid to Public Libraries A stipend is paid annually to all towns which appropriate money for the support of a free public library.

Organization Upon request an organizer will be sent to assist in establishing a new library or to advise improvements in the details of library administration of those already established.

Maine State Library The apprentice course offered by the Maine State Library is given free of any cost to the student other than that of board and room and a possible attendance at one of the Round Tables or Maine Library Association meetings during the year. The applicant should be a graduate of the classical course of a high school, or equivalent, and should not be more than thirty-five years of age. There is no remuneration in connection with the course and the students are given training in all departments of the library in return for assistance rendered. The same hours are followed as those kept by the library staff. A personal interview is required. Preference is given to those applying who intend to further this training by attendance at
a library school or a library training school elsewhere. The course gives a groundwork which enables the student to decide whether she wishes to pursue this calling. While no guarantee is made to secure positions for students it has been found that there is generally a place for the real worker who is equipped and interested and determined to study and increase her knowledge and has the urge to become a librarian.

Traveling Traveling libraries can be secured for any organization, community, group of individuals, school, grange, manufacturing establishment, summer camp, etc., in the state. A general collection includes two-thirds modern fiction and one-third non-fiction and children's books. There are available libraries for children, intermediate and upper grades, rural schools, high schools, nature study, and sets especially suited for boys and girls in summer camps. Lists of libraries available are sent on request. There is a required fee of $1.25 for a twenty-five volume collection and $2.50 for a fifty volume one. The sum covers all transportation charges both ways. Any set may be kept six months.

Fiction The state has discontinued the purchase of modern fiction for individual loan. It can be secured only in the traveling library collection. A general collection includes two-thirds modern fiction and one-third non-fiction and children's books. There are available libraries for children, intermediate and upper grades, rural schools, high schools, nature study, and sets especially suited for boys and girls in summer camps. Lists of libraries available are sent on request. There is a required fee of $1.25 for a twenty-five volume collection and $2.50 for a fifty volume one. The sum covers all transportation charges both ways. Any set may be kept six months.

Distribution The Maine State Library acts as a distributing agent to local libraries in Maine, state libraries, historical and law libraries in the United States and other countries, for legislative and public documents, for state department reports, Maine session laws, and Maine Reports; for such historical items and town histories as the state from time to time through legislative action definitely places with the Library.

Exchange of The State Library exchanges all state documents, historical items and other literature of which it may have duplicate copies, with libraries, educational institutions, scientific societies and individuals who will send their own publications in return. The purpose of this exchange system is to build up the State Library collection.

Debating Schools, colleges, granges, and other organizations participating in debates can obtain from the Maine State Library magazines, books and other references on current debating subjects. Owing to the great demand for debating and other contest material it is not issued to individual pupils. It is sent to the principal of the school, or some person designated by him, or to the local library, for general use.

Home 

Study Courses Experts selected by the American Library Association have prepared reading courses covering sixty-eight subjects. On each subject there is a brief and readable handbook analyzing the books recommended for that course. All of the descriptive handbooks and all of the books recommended in the courses may be borrowed from the Maine State Library.

Talking Book The Library of Congress has placed under the supervision of the Maine State Library and the Department of Health and Welfare talking book machines for the blind in Maine. These machines are lent only to needy adult blind persons who are

a) in an economic situation which makes them unable, without undue sacrifice, to buy talking book machines;
b) suffering from a defect of vision which makes it impossible or unsafe for them to read ordinary print books;
c) possessed of sufficient intelligence to enjoy reading;
d) likely to give the instrument and talking book records proper care.

All machines are lent free of charge.