

Edgar Stewart Robinson



Edgar S. Robinson, n.d. Credit Vancouver Public Library

b. Nov. 23, 1896, Pickford, Michigan, USA; d. Oct. 24, 1957, Victoria, BC

Education:

1920 BA University of Toronto

1924 BSLS University of Washington

Positions:

1912-15 Page, Calgary Public Library

1921-23 Head of Circulation, Calgary Public Library

1924-57 Director, Vancouver Public Library

Publications:

Robinson, Edgar S. (1934). "Suggested Policy for the Collection and Care of Canadian Provincial Documents." In *Public Documents: Their Selection, Distribution, Cataloging, Reproduction and Preservation/Papers Presented at the 1933 Conference of the ALA*, ed. by A. F. Kuhlman, pp. 203-205. Chicago: American Library Association.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1934). "Canadian Library Council [Editorial]." *Library Journal* 59 (15): 656-657.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1935). "On the Pacific Front." *Ontario Library Review* 19 (1): 8-10.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1936). "The Work of Public Documents Committee of Canada." In *Public Documents: Papers Presented at the ... Conference of the American Library Association [1935]*, edited by A. F. Kuhlman, 162-166. Chicago: American Library association.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1947). "Libraries for Today." *Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada* 24 (2): 59-60.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1947). "Debtors to our Profession." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 4

(October): 5-6.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1950). "'Branching Out' in Vancouver." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 6 (5): 201-204.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1950). "New Times New Libraries." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 6 (5): 189-190.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1952). "Plans and Progress." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 9 (3): 82.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1954). "The Technique of Photocharging." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 10 (5): 165-168.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1956). "Vancouver Public Library Building and How It Grew." *PNLA Quarterly* 21 (Oct.): 17-21.

Robinson, Edgar S. (1957). *Training Professional Librarians for Western Canada; Report of the Special Committee on Library Education of the Public Library Commission*. Edgar S. Robinson, Chairman; Samuel Rothstein, Secretary. Ed. by British Columbia Public Library Commission Special Committee on Library Education. Victoria, B.C.: British Columbia Library Association.

Associations:

President, British Columbia Library Association, 1926-27 and 1938-39

President, Pacific Northwest Library Association, 1928-29

Chairman, British Columbia Public Library Commission, 1945-36 and 1956-57

President, Canadian Library Association, 1952-53

Accomplishments:

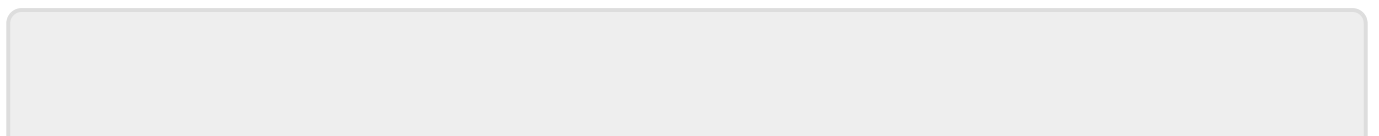
Edgar Robinson was a champion for the concept of the "library in the community" in Vancouver. He was also a prominent regional voice for librarians in western Canada, especially British Columbia. Although his lifelong efforts to open a new central city library only came to fruition shortly after his death, the "Modernist style" four-storey central library on Burrard Street served Vancouver from 1957-1995 and was designated as a heritage site in 1994. Robinson also presided over the development of several neighbourhood branches, notably Collingwood (1951), Dunbar (1950), Kerrisdale (1943), Kitsilano (1927), and South Hill (1949).

Sources:

Curry, Ann and Gary Carre. (1998). "Edgar S. Robinson: Canada's Longest Serving Public Library Director." *Epilogue: Canadian Bulletin for the History of Books, Libraries, and Archives* 13: 117-136.

"In Memoriam Edgar Stewart Robinson, November 22, 1896–October 24, 1957." (1957). *Viewpoint, the Vancouver Public Library Staff Association Newsletter* 11 (2): 1-11.

ELA biography compiled by Lorne Bruce



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