

# American Library Association

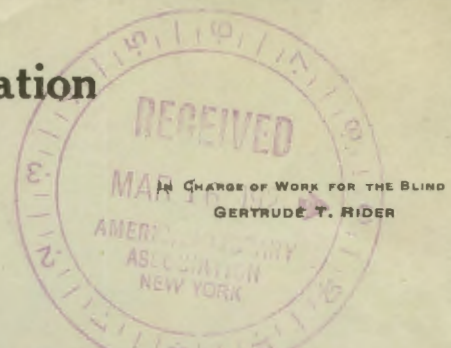
Library War Service

GENERAL DIRECTOR  
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LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
GEORGE B. UTLEY



HEADQUARTERS:  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



March 15, 1920.

My dear Miss Webster:

Enclosed find copy of a letter written by one of our blind women, who is well known in the world for the blind as the author of a successful book.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read 'Gertrude Rider'.

In Charge of Work for the Blind.

Mr. Carl H. Milam,  
American Library Association,  
24 West 39th Street,  
New York City, N.Y.

1334, N. C. Ave., N. E.  
Washington, D. C.

March 12th, 1930.

My dear Mrs. Riders:

I have watched with keenest interest your efforts to build up a library in Revised Braille, Grade One and a Half and wish to congratulate you upon your success. Although your efforts have been directed primarily for the war-blind, all touch readers will eventually profit thereby.

When less than three years ago, the new uniform type was adopted, the blind as a class were not very enthusiastic; each one clinging to his old system and the dream of one uniformity with all its attendant advantages, seemed a long way off. The most sanguine among us could only hope that the next generation would not be burdened as we have been with a multiplicity of types.

Today, scores of readers are learning the new Braille and asking for books printed in it. I believe that your efforts more than any other factor have helped to bring about this result.

You have persistently encouraged readers to learn the new type. Your volunteer transcribers all over the country have done much to popularize the new Braille. Being sighted persons who have learned Braille in order to transcribe for the war-blind, they have yet interested and taught many blind persons in their localities.

Above all you have made it a point to ascertain the kind of books your readers most need and desire rather than what a sighted committee think they should have.

As one of your readers I wish to express my appreciation of what you and the organizations working with you, are doing for the blind readers of this country.

The outlook for touch readers is brighter than ever before and with the coming of desirable books printed in the best possible type, their number will be greatly increased.

Very sincerely,

Adelia M. Hoyt.

COPY.

68 Kerkland Street,  
Cambridge, Mass  
March 12, 1920.

My dear Miss Rider:

If any statement from me, regarding the value and need of Braille books, will help to interest the public and so increase the Braille literature, I will certainly try to give my sincere opinions. The statement and belief that books are man's best friend, is certainly true in the case of blinded people that have been deprived of so many other pleasures. Although as yet I am a slow reader, I find a great deal of pleasure in a good story in Braille. If my interest in Braille literature is in any way a measure of the interest of the average blind soldier in such literature, it is hard to ever estimate the value. However, I do believe that there is a need for books of a simpler and plainer diction, especially for the beginner in the use of Braille. We have to consider that the average blinded soldier has a limited education, and is in need of books of this kind so that he will not become discouraged when first starting in. I have heard many remarks to this effect by soldiers, that they have a hard time to understand what they are reading because of the use of so many big strange words, and so get an idea that there is no use in trying to learn Braille.

Yours sincerely,

James T. Riddervold.