

From the first, however, the editors of *North Carolina Libraries* have been successful in placing fairly equal emphasis on all facets of librarianship. Since 1956, reporters (currently called the Editorial Advisory Board) for these fields have served on each staff, representing either the kinds of libraries or the major functions of librarians. Specialists have sometimes been asked to serve as guest editors. In recent years special issues have been assigned to a variety of subject areas: school, public, or special libraries; archives and manuscripts; newspapers; bookselling and publishing. Certain milestones have been observed: the 50th anniversary of the North Carolina Library Association in 1954 with a special issue featuring articles on the history of the association, the development of college, public, and school libraries in the state, and the career of the Citizens' Library Movement; and the Carolina Charter Tercentenary in 1963, with a bibliography of 17th century North Carolina history and a discussion of the books and libraries of North Carolina colonists. National Library Week has been observed annually with special articles.

Little of current significance to North Carolina librarians has been overlooked. Governmental concern with libraries has been treated fully since the forties, when state aid was a campaign issue, and more recently, when federal assistance has become an important factor in library development. Since 1958 an annotated list of new books of North Carolina interest has been included in each issue. The opening of a new library building is invariably noted with an illustrated article. Significant biographical facts are recorded.

North Carolina Libraries has served in many ways through the past twenty-five years: as the voice of the North Carolina Library Association, as the news medium for library activities throughout the state, and as a source of information on a wide array of subjects unlimited by state boundaries.

AN ASSOCIATION COMES OF AGE

by
CARLTON P. WEST¹

Librarians arrived in Charlotte in 1943 with special excitement and anticipation of better times. The General Assembly of 1941 had voted aid for public libraries; the first regional library system in North Carolina had just begun operation in Beaufort, Hyde, and Martin Counties; and *North Carolina Libraries* had recently been born with the issue of February, 1942.

The history of the North Carolina Library Association during this period is indeed a story of deepening interests and substantial accomplishments. Space limitations preclude a detailed account, even a description of all the "bare bones"; the author confines himself to larger developments making N. C. L. A. not only different but more effective in 1967 than in 1943.

Of the 1,727 people estimated in 1943 to be associated with North Carolina libraries, only 337 were members of the association, and about half of these had not paid their dues—a report which strikes familiar, although possibly fainter, chords in our own 1967 times. No marked change occurred during the decade, but expansion was to come.

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Efforts to enlist members became more vigorous; and Negroes, having a separate association, were invited to membership in 1954. By the fall of 1963 membership had risen to 975, and in 1967 it will probably reach 1,900. In such a state of grace, with more people to do more things, the association expects a further brightening of its future.

Recruitment to the profession, in its largest sense, has been a major concern, usually directed by the Committee on Recruitment or its equivalent. In 1958 its functions were temporarily absorbed and expanded by a large Council on Librarianship, which, in cooperation with A. L. A., developed an intensive program stressing exhibits and a speakers bureau. Funds for the encouragement of study for librarianship have also become a significant feature of recruitment, yet none of these was available in 1942. The Scholarship Loan Fund was established in March, 1943, contributions being immediately solicited. Resources were enlarged in 1953 by the establishment of a memorial to George Bentley, Robert Christ, and J. Vernon Ruzicka, and in 1959 the now familiar and important Ruzicka Scholarship was first offered. To attract the interest of high school students a North Carolina High School Library Association was organized in 1947.

Recognizing the usefulness of surveys and studies, the association published in 1948 a survey of North Carolina libraries edited by Marjorie Beal. Fifteen years later the Executive Board began to yearn for an updated study on a broad basis that would include an evaluation of the social and economic factors affecting library service. A proposal was outlined, but before funding was attempted, Governor Sanford met the need by appointing his Governor's Commission on Library Resources, which prepared a report presenting a detailed picture of all types of libraries in North Carolina. Although now suffering a little from the erosion of out-dating, the report is still of value to the librarians of 1967.

North Carolina Libraries, considered in 1942 as vital to the growth of a strong association, has arrived at relative maturity after experimentation and a period of stumbling and crisis. At its inception it was clear that support would depend upon larger membership, higher dues, or outside assistance. Dues income being obviously insufficient, a special committee was appointed in 1951 to make recommendations. When, two years later, the committee reported, it was outside aid that was recommended, this having been offered by the library binding firm of Joseph Ruzicka. On this basis and with skilled and diligent editors, *North Carolina Libraries* comes to you as a larger and more informative publication than was the six-page folded sheet of 1942.

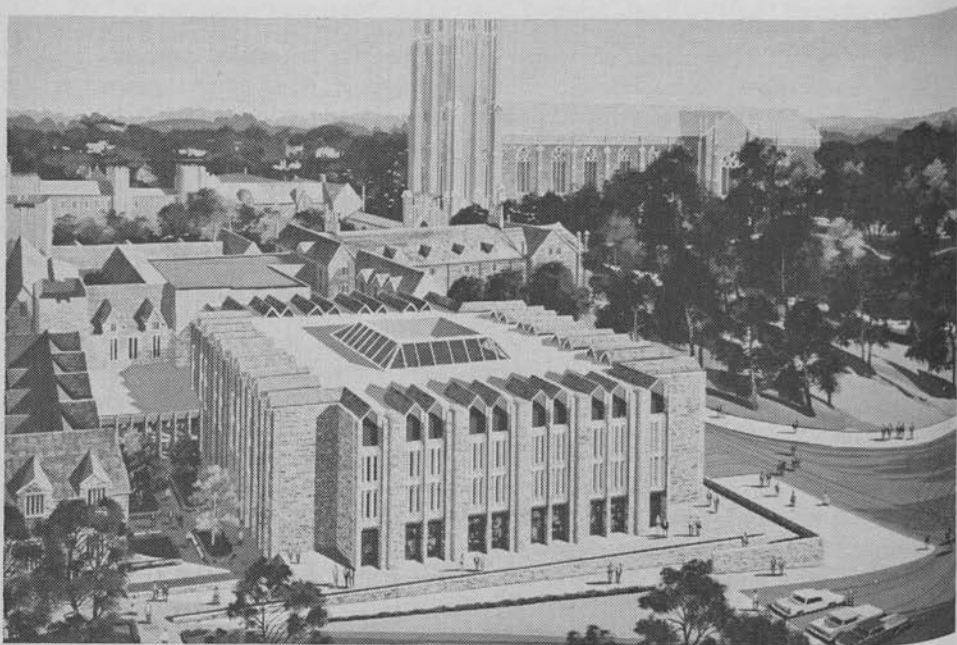
To employ an executive director or a lobbyist has been a cherished hope, and one now nearer fruition than ever before. When, in 1943, the General Assembly seemed niggardly in appropriating state aid, the need for a lobbyist was keenly felt. Lack of funds, of course, made immediate action impossible. A fresh approach was undertaken in 1963, when funds were collected for a representative at the 1965 legislative session. An appointment was made, but no permanent arrangement was in sight. During the current biennium, on the assumption that an executive secretary was needed, one who would be more than a lobbyist and who could relieve officers of increasing burdens, a committee was appointed to propose a more lucrative dues structure. A substantial increase was recommended, and the proposal was accepted. New resources may thus make possible a full-time executive officer which many regard as essential to associational development.

An interesting and revealing study could be made of the structural changes which have made the association what it is in 1967, but the complications thereof cannot be described in so brief a survey as this must be. The emergence and recession of sections

and committees reflect growth of interests and shifting of emphases, although, of course, the major interests have been nearly continuously represented by sections, round tables, or committees.

The librarians, trustees, and others who will assemble in Charlotte this year will be participating in an association markedly different from that which met in the same city in 1943. They may boast of an organization of nearly five times as many members as in 1943; an association which has successfully integrated; an association which now has funds for aiding library science students; an association which has fostered cordial relationships between librarians and trustees; an association informed about North Carolina library conditions; and an association which, it is hoped, will enjoy the invigoration which an executive officer may bring.

Excitement and anticipation should also characterize the conference of 1967.



DUKE'S NEW RESEARCH LIBRARY—Currently under construction on the Duke University campus in Durham is a multi-million dollar research library which will double space available in the existing William R. Perkins Library. Shown above is an architect's sketch of the research library as it will appear when completed. The building is expected to be ready for occupancy in the summer or fall of 1968.

GROWTH OF AN ACADEMIC LIBRARY

by

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Duke University was barely sixteen years old in 1940, but its sixteen years had witnessed extraordinary growth in every division. Its library of 600,000 volumes had been built upon the 75,000 volume collection of Trinity College which, when the college

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