

in large flat cases in the adjacent corridor. Most of the exhibitions, composed of books, maps, posters, prints, manuscripts, curios and other library resources, are usually related to subjects of current interest and parallel general phases of instructional work.

During the past year 37 exhibitions were arranged at the University Library. Description of a few will illustrate their trend. About a week before the Mayflower Cup award was made, the books by North Carolina authors published in 1944 were placed on display. As soon as the award was announced, this exhibition was expanded to include the Mayflower Cup winners from 1931 to 1944. At the time when some of the world's greatest naval engagements were taking place in the Pacific, exact scale models of Japanese and United States fighting ships were placed on exhibition. In this connection Jane's *Fighting Ships* and histories of naval warfare were emphasized.

When the Japanese armies were about to cut China into two parts, a collection of Chinese war posters was placed in the cases. Books and pamphlets describing conditions in China and the work of the Chinese cooperatives and other war efforts were interspersed with the colorful posters. With the help of the University of North Carolina Press and the cooperation of printers in Chapel Hill and Durham, the Fifty Books of the Year (1944) selected by the American Institute of Graphic Arts were shown. As a part of the University commencement exercises, an exhibition of distinctive gifts and purchases made during the previous year was displayed.

Materials used in the preparation of the *Study Bulletins* issued by the University Library Extension Department were shown frequently. These new books, with attractive jackets centered

KEYS TO UNLOCK NEW INTERESTS

By OLAN V. COOK

University of North Carolina Library

Activities and resources of the University of North Carolina Library are introduced to the students and other readers through a series of frequently changed exhibitions. Those exhibits, simply and colorfully arranged, definitely aid in the development of interests through the integrated use of printed material. They not only stimulate fresh viewpoints but also serve to interpret the services and functions of the Library.

Facilities for exhibition in Chapel Hill range from book trays, bulletin boards and table tops to built-in cases with recessed lighting. The larger exhibitions are placed in upright, glass front cases in the entrance lobby and

around copies of the study outlines, emphasized the state-wide services of the University Library. Among them were *Nature Writers in the U. S.* and *Adventures in Reading* by Agatha Adams, and *Music in America* by Adelaide McCall.

The first sketches made by an English artist in North America were the water colors in which John White, later Governor, recorded his observations in 1585 of the Indians, the flora and the fauna of the North Carolina coastal area. A set of photostatic reproductions of these drawings, many of which were seen for the first time in Chapel Hill, were grouped about the rare and beautiful volume of Theodor de Bry's *Great Voyages* (1591), in which they appeared first as engravings, and served to stimulate greater interest in the library's growing collection of Raleighana and the history of the Roanoke Island Colony.

In conformance with the good neighbor policy, the library exhibited numerous materials from the "countries south of us." Of particular interest to the students of the graphic arts was the Edward Larocque Tinker collection of books and prints exemplifying the work of Mexican printers and illustrators. Other materials exhibited with a similar purpose in view were a collection of Latin American books showing methods of binding, paintings from ten Latin American republics lent by the Museum of Modern Art, Latin American history and literature, in connection with a conference on inter-American affairs sponsored by the Inter-American Institute, and "Our Neighbor Republics" as a part of the program pointing toward Pan American Day.

In honor of the press and a newspaper conference held in January, 1945, and as a tickler for the courses in early

American history and the study of democratic government, the Library exhibited a collection of books, manuscripts and documents illustrating the development of the democratic principle, the growth of the American tradition and the freedom of the press. "From Papyrus to Limited Editions and from Clay Tablets to Microfilm" was one of the several exhibits drawing upon the Library's Hanes collection for materials illustrative of the origin and development of the book.

Other exhibitions included uniforms of the United States Army 1774-1789, the early dime novel as contrasted with the modern editions of the "pocket book," biographies and prints of distinguished painters, photographs of old North Carolina homes, early fashion plates, the etchings of Louis Orr, wood engravings by Clare Leighton used in her *Time of Man*, German war relics, handicraft materials from the Marshall Islands, the Cutten Collection of early American silver, Estelle Lawson Page's golf trophies, and modern books of cartoons.

As a general rule, neither time nor material is available for the more elaborate techniques of exhibition, but several basic principles are adhered to rather closely. For instance, timeliness and tie-up with public events and activities are of major importance. A good example of this factor was the opening in the Library of the University War Information Center at 9 o'clock on the morning of December 8, 1941. Another principle requires simplicity of arrangement, the use of quickly prepared signs and labels and inexpensive installations. Each item exhibited should have a label with helpful explanatory notes. A third factor calls for publicity and notices in the college newspaper and the weekly bulletin. At times individual announcements are made through the

mails and a regular part of the procedure is the preparation of a news story for the local and state papers. A fourth principle is the necessity of frequent change. Casual, quick exhibits are usually more effective than precise or elaborate displays. Frequent changes create the idea that something new can always be seen at the Library. It has been found that on the University campus an exhibition remains alive and of interest to readers for a period of about three weeks. If it remains in place much longer, interests are dulled rather than sharpened. Finally, all exhibitions should be supplemented by books.

●