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Report On The Southeastern Library Association Meeting In Louisville, Kentucky

OCTOBER 20-23, 1948

Sarah Jones, Secretary-Treasurer

The Southeastern Library Association opened its 13th biennial session on October 20, 1948 in Louisville, Kentucky. The total registration was 497 with North Carolina being represented by 56 registrants. North Carolina was also well represented in section chairmanship: Ben Powell, College and University Librarians; J. Isaac Copeland, Reference Librarians; and Eloise Camp, School and Children's Library Section. Charles R. Brockmann was chairman of exhibits and Marjorie Beal, chairman of the Nominating Committee and a member of the Activities Committee.

At the first general session Louisville's library-minded Mayor Charles P. Farnsley welcomed the librarians and library trustees to the city. This enthusiastic greeting was a forerunner of the hospitality and many courtesies extended to the group by Louisville and the state of Kentucky. Dr. Errett McDiarmid, president of the American Library Association, brought greetings from A.L.A. and assured the Southeastern Library Association of the interest the national organization has in the program and activities of this regional association. North Carolina's Clyde Smith responded to these greetings in her own gracious and inimitable way.

It was with real regret that the members of the association learned of the illness of Dr. Louis R. Wilson who was to present the report of the Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey. His excellent paper was read by Helen Harris.

The guest speaker at this session was Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution. Mr. McGill impressed the entire audience with his sincerity and understanding of the problems, both social and economic, with which the South is faced. He warned that the South has its own Iron Curtain which is lack of information and education. He urged the librarians to look forward, not back; to be encouraged by what has been accomplished, not frustrated by the obstacles that have to be overcome.

At the close of this session the conference was entertained at a reception at which the Louisville Library Club, the Louisville Free Public Library Staff Association and the Kentucky Library Association were hosts.

The other general sessions were concerned with a discussion of the Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey and the report of the Activities Committee. The discussion of the survey pointed up the need for cooperative action and the assump-

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tion of leadership on the part of the Southeastern Library Association in helping solve regional and state problems. The Activities Committee proposed an organization and a program for making such leadership possible. It was emphasized that state associations should give individual consideration to the report of the Activities Committee and be prepared to direct its members to accept or reject these recommendations at the next Southeastern meeting. A copy of the report will be included in the Proceedings.

It was also decided to invite A.L.A. to hold a regional meeting in the South in 1949.

The following officers were elected: President, Clarence E. Graham, Librarian, Free Public Library, Louisville, Kentucky; Vice-President, Ellinor G. Preston, Director of School Libraries, Richmond, Virginia; and Secretary and Treasurer, W. P. Kellam, Assistant Librarian, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

One of the high points of the meeting was the traditional Book Dinner. Virginia Kirkus talked about current books that are important and amazed all who had not previously heard her with her knowledge of the current offerings as well as with her ability as a book reviewer. A surprise feature of the dinner was the awarding of door prizes contributed by various Southern industries. Azile Wofford was the master of ceremonies and should have been awarded the title of "Master of Wit and Humor." North Carolina contributed:

Lamp table in antique walnut finish from Morgan Furniture Co., Asheville, North Carolina.

Leather portfolio with fillers and individual pads for each guest from

Champion Paper and Fiber Co., Canton, North Carolina.

Box of Ecusta Air Mail stationery from Ecusta Paper Corp., Pisgah Forest, North Carolina

Six pairs of Mojud hosiery from Mock, Judson, Voehringer Co., Greensboro, North Carolina.

Set of Stuart Nye handwrought jewelry from Stuart Nye Silver Shop, Asheville, North Carolina

Subscription to the Southern Packet from Stephens Press, Asheville, North Carolina

Complimentary Camels for each guest from R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The publishers also contributed books, candy and other items as prizes.

It would be impossible to mention all of the excellent section programs but the talk by Willie Snow Etheridge at the County and Regional Section meeting on "Russia's Pattern of Conquest" deserves special mention. Those who were fortunate enough to attend the luncheon of the School and Children's Library Section were charmed and highly entertained by Mrs. Mebane Holomon Burgwyn's talk on "Writing Books for Youth."

Another special feature of the conference was the after breakfast reviews of children's books. Louise ed in gold on the little note-books Moore of Appalachian State Teachers College was the reviewer at one of the morning programs.

The entire association feels obligated to Southern Packet for making available the excellent summary of the survey and to the committee members and section officers from North Carolina who helped make the 13th annual convention of Southeastern such a memorable one.