

SUSAN GREY AKERS

By EVELYN DAY MULLEN*

The activity in North Carolina libraries is such that it comes as a surprise to most of us to hear that Dr. Susan Grey Akers, Dean of the School of Library Science of the University of North Carolina, will retire in June of this year. It is difficult to realize



Photo by Sam Boone

DR. SUSAN G. AKERS

Dean of School of Library Science
University of North Carolina

that we have been so fortunate as to have her in the State for twenty-two years, slightly over half of her professional career. But also fortunately she has chosen Chapel Hill as her permanent home so that we can still see her there.

A native of Kentucky, Miss Akers earned her library degree at the University of Wisconsin and her doctorate at the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. Her experience has encompassed public library, public library extension, and college library work as well as library school teaching. She came to Chapel Hill as Associate Professor of Library Science in September, 1931, when the School of Library Science opened. She became a full professor and Acting Director in 1932 and Director, now Dean, in 1935.

As a student under Miss Akers in her first year in North Carolina I have had occasion innumerable times since to reflect on the breadth and depth of her teachings. She was a thorough and exacting teacher but always fair. Her insistence on a clear understanding of the theories of classification and the relationship of classification and cataloging to the whole library picture has stood me in good stead from a small public library to a large college library. And now experience in library extension work brings constant reminders of her teaching illustrations drawn from her own library visiting work in Wisconsin.

Other happy memories are her quiet sense of humor and her unbounded delight in the achievements of her students and colleagues.

Professional honors have come in full measure to Miss Akers: Chairman, Library Terminology Committee, ALA; Chairman, Southeastern Regional Group of Catalogers; President, NCLA; and selection as a member of the American team to study and set up the first library school in Japan. But perhaps her widest acclaim has come and continues to come as author of *Simple Library Cataloging*, published by ALA and now in its third edition.

Those of us who know Miss Akers personally, know that retirement will not end her library participation in the State. Release from her rigorous schedule of administrative and teaching duties will provide more time for her lively interest in all our library activities. Our best wishes go with her now and always.

NEW COVER DESIGN

The new cover was designed jointly by Mrs. Elizabeth Jerome Holder, Asst. Circulation Librarian and Margaret Clark, a student, of Woman's College of UNC. In addition to supervising the Reserve and General Reading Rooms, Mrs. Holder is responsible for the service of audio-visual materials and for exhibitions. She has illustrated several books and has a special interest in children's books and early paper dolls.

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