

RANDALL JARRELL; POET AND LIBRARIAN

By CHARLES M. ADAMS*

Randall Jarrell, a librarian-poet, begins his new duties as consultant in Poetry in English at the Library of Congress this fall. Those who heard Mr. Jarrell speak at the North Carolina Library Association meeting at High Point last year will remember his childhood recollections of the public library and his appreciation of libraries since then, as well as his critical remarks on librarians and library services today. His comment on librarians in *Pictures from an Institution* (Knopf, 1954) was not too flattering. At Benton, the woman's college in his novel, he found "the librarians there had the satisfied look that librarians have when nobody is using the books, just as the keepers watering the tennis courts had the satisfied look that keepers have when nobody is using the tennis courts." It will be interesting to see what two years at the Library of Congress as a member of the staff will do to his point of view.

Public librarians will be interested in reading his poem, "The Carnegie Library, Juvenile Division," in which he speaks of the children "who haunt this fire-sale of the centuries." Or there is the poem reprinted recently in the *New York Times*, "Children Selecting Books in a Library."

The girls at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina reprinted in their 1956 annual, *Pine Needles*, his poem, "A Girl in a Library," which was illustrated with a full-spread picture based on the opening lines:

An object among dreams, you sit here with your shoes off
 And curl your legs under you; your eyes
 Closed for a moment, your face moves toward sleep . . .
 You are very human.

His newsboy in Greensboro became the theme for one of his recent poems which won the Emily Clark Blach Prize. The Greensboro High School paper, *High Life*, reprinted this poem, entitled "Nestor Gurley," last spring. Mr. Jarrell presented to the Woman's College Library the original first working draft of this poem and also a typescript of "Children Selecting Books in a Library," which he rewrote entirely before publication in his *Selected Poems, 1955*. The typescript has a number of additions, corrections, and notes on the front and back leaves. Numerous other manuscripts were presented including his most popular short poem, "The Death of the Ball-Turret Gunner." For "The End of the Rainbow," one of his recent longer poems, he presented all of the drafts from the original, which is hand-written, to the seventh and final typed copy which was sent to the *Kenyon Review* for publication. These are the only original manuscripts of poems he has presented to any library. A selection of these was on exhibition last spring at the Woman's College Library. A special collection of Randall Jarrell's work and material about him is now being gathered, and a bibliography and index is being compiled for publication. The following are sources for the poems mentioned above:

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Girl in a Library — "An object among dreams . . ."

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY, JUVENILE DIVISION

Kenyon Review, 6:64-5, Winter 1944.

Little Friend, Little Friend, 1945.

Selected Poems, 1955.

CHILDREN SELECTING BOOKS IN A LIBRARY

New Republic, 105:790, December 8, 1941.

Blood for a Stranger, 1942.

Entirely rewritten

New Republic, 132:23, February 21, 1955.

Selected Poems, 1955.

New York Times Book Review, Sect. VII:2, June 10, 1956.

Original mss. for rewritten version in the W.C.U.N.C. Library.

A GIRL IN THE LIBRARY

Poetry, 78:7-11, April, 1951.

Botteghe Oscure, 7:237-40, 1951.

The Seven-League Crutches, 1951.

The Penguin Book of Modern American Verse, selected by Geoffrey Moore, 1954, p.271-4.

Selected Poems, 1955.

Pine Needles, 1956, p.11.

Fifteen Modern American Poets, ed. by G. P. Elliott, 1956, p. 42.

NESTUS GURLEY

Virginia Quarterly Review, 32:201-3, Spring 1956.

High Life, (Senior High School, Greensboro, N. C.) 32, no. 15:2, May 11, 1956.

Original mss. in the W.C.U.N.C. Library.

Mr. Jarrell's appointment to the staff of the Library of Congress is for two years. He has a leave of absence from the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina where he held the position of Associate Professor of English.

New ALA Appointments

Jack Dalton, who is as well known in North Carolina as in his native Virginia, has been appointed as Director of the American Library Association's newly-created Office for Overseas Library Development. The establishment of the new ALA Office in Washington to encourage American participation in the development of library services abroad, was made possible by a grant of \$111,600 to ALA by the Rockefeller Foundation. The grant covers maintenance of the Office for a three year period, 1956-1959. Mr. Dalton has been with the Alderman Library, University of Virginia, since 1934 and librarian since 1950.

Robert L. Gitler, well known library educator who has been Director of the Japan Library School at Keio University, Tokyo, since 1951, has been appointed to the Headquarters staff of the American Library Association. He will serve as Secretary, ALA Board on Education for Librarianship, and Executive Secretary, Library Education Division, entering on his duties November 1, 1956.

David K. Easton, formerly Librarian of the Caribbean Commission, Port of Spain, Trinidad, was appointed Librarian at the Headquarters of the American Library Association in Chicago, effective July 16. The Headquarters Library, whose services were suspended for reorganization was re-opened September 1.