

Looking Back — An Archives History of NCLA

by Members of the NCLA
Archives Committee:

Hallie S. Bacelli
Mae S. Tucker
Charlesanna L. Fox

What were the concerns of librarians in 1904? 1914? 1974? The answers can be found in the Archives of NCLA. In the bound volumes, beginning in 1904, can be found a steady march and constant theme for complete library services for everyone in North Carolina - an inexhaustible network of library resources.

On May 14, 1904 a group of seven people met at the State Normal and Industrial College in Greensboro to found the North Carolina Library Association. Others had been invited and 33 sent written requests to be charter members. Nine others wrote for charter membership before the first annual meeting - 49 in all.

A meeting of librarians of the State and others interested in library work, was held in the library of the State Normal and Industrial College at 3 p.m., May 14, 1904. Mrs.

Annie Smith Ross, of the Carnegie Library of Charlotte, was elected President pro-tem, with Louis R. Wilson, of the University Library, as Secretary. After the purpose of the meeting had been stated by Mrs. Ross, a general discussion followed concerning the status of libraries in North Carolina. Upon motion of Mr. Wilson the work of forming a Library Association for the State was begun.

The Constitution provided for a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary-Treasurer and an Executive Committee of three members-at-large, the President and the Secretary-Treasurer. Dues were \$1.00 per year and the association met once a year as decided by the Executive Committee. Officers were elected by ballot at the meeting. The first elected officers were: (President) Mrs. Annie Smith Ross; (First Vice-President) Dr. Charles D. McIver, President of State Normal College;

(Second Vice-President) Prof. J. A. Bivins, Principal of Trinity High School, Durham; (Secretary-Treasurer) Louis R. Wilson; (Executive Committee) Mrs. Ross, Mr. Wilson, Miss Annie Petty, Mr. J. P. Breedlove, and Mr. R. D. Douglas.

The first annual meeting held November 11-12, 1904 in Charlotte was attended by 67 people and set an organizational plan that was typical for 30 years. The association met at 2:30 or 3 p.m. one day and adjourned at 6 or 10 p.m. the second day. Two variations have occurred: the trains were late carrying the delegates to Asheville in 1907 and to Washington, N. C. in 1913, so these meetings did

not start until 9 p.m. The "guiding light" behind all issues was Dr. Louis Round Wilson.

The first session was a business meeting in which the officers reported. First business was the appointment of a nominating committee and a resolutions committee to complete work during the conference. A tea and/or a banquet followed. The second meeting at 7:30 or 8 p.m. was a musicale, an address, and a reception. The third meeting at 9:30 a.m. was an address and/or papers read by from four to seven people. Lunch was provided by the Woman's Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacturer's Club, the Board of Trustees, or "The Lady Managers of the Library." The fourth session at 2:00 p.m. was devoted to round tables or (beginning in 1913) sectional meetings, plus a business meeting and adjournment to take a motor trip around the town and visit libraries. The early meetings were very social - teas, receptions, luncheons, banquets, a lawn party at "Strawberry Hill", and motor rides. The schedule was heavy.

The program of the first meeting was concerned with cooperation among librarians of the South, the organization of a public library, rural libraries, schools and women's clubs aided by the public library and the college library. The second meeting (1906) continued the same subjects but added the need for a library commission for North Carolina. The third meeting (1907) invited ALA to meet at Asheville and the talks were about how a national conference could promote sectional library interests. The

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC SERIALS SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE TO ALL TYPES AND SIZES OF LIBRARIES

COMPREHENSIVENESS

EBSCO services periodicals, newspapers, annuals, yearbooks, irregular book/monographic series (numbered or unnumbered), and continuations. Our computerized price file lists over 100,000 titles. However, we gladly research any title ordered and do not expect the customer to provide publisher name and address. Our research cycle is thorough and provides a quick answer if we are unable to identify the publisher. We service titles from all nations of the world. The only titles we cannot (normally) service for you are order-direct by the publisher's requirement. (However, if you are a librarian who desires to place 100 per cent of all serials with a single agency, we can handle even the order-direct publishers for you.)

FLEXIBILITY

We believe what we do for you and how we do it should be determined by your needs. We have suggested procedures and formats. Our order processing and records are computerized, and we are able to employ our computer to service any special requests you may have. In the event you have a request which a computer, for some reason, cannot honor, we keep our typewriters handy and a perfect willingness to do whatever is necessary to suit your needs.

PERSONALIZED SERVICE

Order control is located at our regional office. Each of our customers is assigned to one Customer Service representative, so there is consistency in communications.

WRITE OR PHONE TODAY EBSCO SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

Suite 204
8000 Forbes Place
Springfield, VA 22151
(703) 321-9630 / 321-7494

fourth meeting appointed an active legislative committee to work for a library commission and a fire-proof building for the State Library. Round table discussions were on library administration, the use of debate and reference books, preparing bulletins, cataloging pamphlets, and using L. C. cards.

In 1909 a Library Commission was established for North Carolina. Miss Minnie Leatherman became the first secretary-director. Round tables at this fifth meeting in 1909 were on training college students in bibliography, school children in the use of the libraries and books, work with clubs programs, library statistics and advertising the library.

At the sixth meeting members heard reports on library progress in North Carolina, aids in book selection, popularizing the library, obtaining state and national documents and publications, cataloging problems, work with children and young people, purchasing magazines, and methods of book reviewing. A book symposium was held in 1911, and thereafter book symposia, book surveys, book reviews or breakfast book sessions became a part of every conference.

By 1913 the association had grown (48 members attended) large enough to divide the round tables into two sections: college and public libraries. Talks were held on "every town and village can have a Public Library," three-minute reports on "What is the Best Thing in My Library," and peculiar rural problems of the N.C. Library Movement.

In 1916 three district meetings were organized to hold the association

together and to cope with war-time problems of transportation and food. The 1917 program was on the effect of the European War, and the two sections reviewed books; the most popular books at four colleges and what the public librarian was reading.

NCLA did not meet in 1918, but district meetings were held every other year until 1931 when there were 12 districts. The Library Commission field worker organized these districts. District meetings helped with the ALA War Service Projects to raise money for camp libraries, local library participation in promoting patriotism, and the Food Campaign.

In 1919 NCLA supported the State Board of Education's plans for high school libraries, and in 1920 started a recruiting program for librarians. In 1921 a third section was added for trustees. The first biennial conference was held in 1923. A "library organizer" was employed by the State Department of Education, Miss Mary Flournoy. A fourth section was organized for high school librarians. Major speeches were made on the present and future need for professional library training in N.C.

By 1925 there was an active drive to develop libraries in elementary schools, a request for teacher-librarian certification, institutes for untrained librarians, and encouragement for employing a field worker to assist the Library Commission with organizing libraries. Trustees envisioned the county as the library unit, with full service to Negroes.

In 1927 the High School Librarians section was changed to the Children's and Young People's Section. Professor

Frank Graham made a stirring speech about the citizen's responsibility for libraries which set off the powerful Citizen's Library Movement in North Carolina.

In 1931 the Cataloguer's Section (later Resources and Technical Services Section) was organized, to be added to the other sections: College and University, Public, Trustees, and the Citizens Library Movement. At the sixth biennial conference in 1933, two \$50 summer school scholarships were awarded to the UNC Library School which had been established in 1932. School librarians became a new section, and Junior Members were organized in a Round Table. The NCLA Conference Program was based on a five-year plan for North Carolina following the results of the 1935 Regional Library Survey conducted by ALA, SELA, and NCLA. In 1937 federal aid was a main topic, and in 1939 state aid and federal aid both were the issues. Rural public library service was also emphasized. The 1904 Constitution which had served very well for thirty-five years was revised. Education for librarianship in the state was the subject of a survey and a report.

Mrs. Mary Peacock Douglas wrote a code for committees to comply with the new constitution and the association adopted it in 1941. Passage of the first state aid to public libraries by the General Assembly of 1941 encouraged planning for developments in service as soon as the restrictions caused by the war effort could be removed.

In February 1942, the first issue of

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES was published to keep members informed about libraries in this state and about association business. Dr. Louis Round Wilson wrote a history of the association (1904-1943) and a history of the N.C. Library Commission (1909-1949) for the publication.

During World War II the association was heavily involved in the Victory Book Campaign for service camps. Under the guidance of Miss Marjorie Beal, librarians selected only the most useful books from the gifts to be forwarded to the camps. Collections from other states were often unusable "attic cleaners." At the 1943 Conference in Charlotte a section for Army Librarians was organized. It was dissolved in 1946.

In 1946 the Bookmobile Section was started to give attention to the special needs for this service. In the development of county library service outside of the municipalities, bookmobiles had readily become the vehicle by which all areas of the county could be reached.

The TVA-Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey, with separate reports for each state, was completed in 1947. The results of this survey provided a wealth of materials for study and for attempts to make improvements in existing conditions. This survey along with the ALA survey directed by Dr. Robert Leigh published in 1949 served as stimuli for workshops and committee work which brought remarkable results in improving library service during the next 20 years.

The School and the Children's and

Young People's Sections were combined in 1946, and the section organized the North Carolina High School Library Association as a recruitment and educational project.

The association was incorporated in 1947 in order to collect and solicit funds and to sponsor a scholarship loan fund. Several donations were made by local libraries, but the first large fund was the Virginia Williamson Memorial Book Fund for collections of books in the Smithfield Public Library and in the library in Yorkshire, England where Miss Williamson had lived a year in a position exchange with Miss Margaret Scofield. The second large fund was the Bently-Crist-Ruzicka Fund (1953-1955) in memory of George Bently, Secretary of NLCA; Robert Crist of the Duke University Library; and Vernon Ruzicka of Joseph Ruzicka established a Ruzicka Scholarship for the association and in 1967 the Scholarship Loan Fund became a true memorial scholarship fund, administered by a committee of the association. In 1973 two funds were added: the Query-Long Scholarship and the Joyce McLendon Loan Fund.

The Association made a gift of a \$500 bond to Miss Marjorie Beal on her retirement in 1951. This bond was returned to the association in her will and was added to the loan fund.

A NCLA *Handbook* was written by a committee in 1963 to replace the 1941 Code for Committees and was revised in 1971 for use by the officers and committee and section chairmen.

National Library Week, first observed in 1958, has been sponsored



"Good Morning! Heckman Bindery, Modern Book..."

That's right...that's what you'll hear now when you phone us. Because we've newly acquired The Modern Book Company in our search-for-services for you. So now, in addition to Heckman's unique 28-day-cycle of complete library bindery services, we have two new lines of young peoples books for you: Modern pre-bound books and Modern paperbacks. Both K thru 12. Phone or write for our catalogs. The Modern Book Company, North Manchester, Indiana 46962 ...same address as Heckman's.



Heckman Bindery

(219) 982-2107



by NCLA each year of its existence. Committees have devoted a great deal of time and effort in this promotion of library service and hopefully have contributed to a greater awareness of the role of libraries in the state's educational program. In 1971 the theme of "The Right to Read" was the conference emphasis.

Three great citizens' movements have backed association goals. In 1909 Mr. J.F. Wilkes was the leader of a group of citizens who succeeded in the establishment of the Library Commission for the Aid and Promotion of School and Public libraries. Beginning in 1927 Dr. Frank P. Graham, Colonel F.P. Hobgood, Mr. W.T. Polk, and Mr. R.B. House led the Citizens' Library Movement. Before the General Assembly of 1941 met, Mr. Charles Whedbee of Hertford visited every member at home to point out how each community would benefit from state aid for public libraries. This sacrificial contribution succeeded and state aid was approved.

In 1963 Governor Sanford appointed a Commission on Library Resources to survey all library resources and needs in the state. The results of this survey were the basis of action by the NCLA Trustees Association who secured the appointment of a legislative commission to study public library financing and make recommendations. As Chairman of this commission, David Stick personally took the report to every member of the General Assembly before each one left for Raleigh. The report, well-written in capsule form by Mr. Stick, was impressive. Its recommendations were adopted with a substantial increase in appropriations.

Relationships with the North Carolina Negro Library Association began in 1934 when members of NCLA assisted with the organization of the new association. NCNLA grew in strength and in service. In 1951, it requested a merger with NCLA. At the 1951 biennial conference a joint

COLONIAL "out-of-print" BOOK SERVICE, INC.

Specialists in supplying the out-of-print books as listed in all library indices (Granger Poetry; Essay and General Literature; Shaw; Standard; Fiction; Biography; Lamont Catalogue; Speech; B.C.L., etc. . . .)

"Want Lists Invited"
"Catalogues on Request"

23 EAST FOURTH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10003

meeting of the two associations was held in Greensboro. Members of NCLA voted down a motion to merge, but in 1953 at the biennial conference in Asheville the association adopted a totally new constitution which provided for acceptance into membership of all librarians and those interested in libraries. A new vote on membership instead of a merger of associations was approved in 1954 by a large majority.

Marking its 50th anniversary in 1954, the North Carolina Library Association took important steps in preserving its past by publishing a 50th anniversary issue of *NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES* in November, and binding its past records. In the twenty-one years that have passed since that golden anniversary, the North Carolina Library Association and *NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES* have experienced truly momentous and unusually progressive changes.

It was October, 1954 that the Association reported to its members that the balloting on accepting Negro members had carried by a vote of 255-107. Following the November, 1954 affirmative vote by NCLA members and the March-April vote by the American Library Association members in North Carolina on the application of the North Carolina Library Association, the North Carolina Library Association was one of the first 11 geographic chapters to be redesignated at the American Library Association Conference on July 8, 1955.

It was also in 1955 that the North Carolina General Assembly passed legislation merging the State Library

and the Library Commission into a single administrative unit with specified areas of service and a governing board of eight. The two agencies began operating July 1, 1955 under the direction of a single board of trustees, and the merger was completed July 1, 1956. The new board of trustees was appointed by the Governor, with six regular and two ex-officio members, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Librarian of the University of North Carolina. NCLA formerly appointed four board members to the North Carolina Library Commission. Governor Luther Hodges named as members of the new State Library Board all four of the former NCLA appointees. Mrs. Elizabeth H. Hughey, former Secretary and Director of the North Carolina Library Commission, became State Librarian on July 1, 1956. Miss Carrie L. Broughton had retired on June 30th as State Librarian, terminating 54 years of continuous service in the State Library.

From the biennial reports of the various committees and sections of NCLA in 1955 we can learn the direction and some of the major concerns of the association at that time, as well as discern several parallels with NCLA in 1975. The Federal Relations Committee was studying congressional legislation considerations such as the Library Services Bill, postal classification, books for the blind, the editorial policy of the *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*, and international copyright. The publication of *NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES* was happily being under-written for the 1953-1955 biennium, as it had been since February 1942,

by the Joseph Ruzicka firm, and this gracious free service was to continue until economic conditions caused its withdrawal after the Summer 1971 issue. The Conservation of Newspaper Resources Committee reported on the progress of microfilming of newspapers in 17 cities of the state. A Joint Committee on North Carolina Literature and Bibliography, composed of librarians from NCLA and English teachers from the North Carolina English Teachers Association and chaired by Richard Walser, North Carolina State University professor and compiler extraordinaire of North Carolina literature, was compiling a bibliography of North Carolina prose fiction, later to be published as *North Carolina Fiction, 1734-1957, An*

Annotated Bibliography in 1958. William S. Powell was its editor.

North Carolina librarians were learning that cooperation of all kinds and at all levels, especially through committee work, was unlocking countless doors to vital collection development and provision of a broad spectrum of library services. NCLA's 1953-55 biennium was notable for its proliferation of committees, workshops, and conferences. By 1954 the Scholarship Loan Fund and Constitution and Codes Committees had been organized, and in 1955 the Archives, Publications, and Conservation of Newspaper Resources Committees were established. At the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, the Junior Members Round Table held a one-day conference on February 19, 1955. The Education for Librarianship Committee and the School of Library Science at the University of North Carolina held a one-day conference on library education at Chapel Hill on April 30, 1955, immediately following a Public Libraries and Trustees Section workshop held in Winston-Salem on April 27-29, 1955, with "Which Way Tomorrow?" as the theme. On March 19, 1955, forever a red-letter day in NCLA annals, the association held the first of what has become traditional, annual spring planning workshops.

One glaring contrast between the emphases of NCLA in 1955 and those of 1975 is found in the very serious, concentrated attention and activities devoted in the earlier year to recruitment of librarians. As one of its major projects in 1953-55, the

**BROADFOOT'S
BOOKMARK
NORTH CAROLINA
BOOKS
WITH
FREE CATALOG
CARDS**

Prompt service, no backorders.
Catalog listing 600 titles
on request.

BROADFOOT'S BOOKMARK
P. O. Box 729
Wendell, N. C. 27591

Recruiting Committee published and distributed 20,000 copies of a brochure, *Interesting Careers! With Books and People*, which required a reprinting before the end of the 1955-57 biennium.

Three years later, in 1958, North Carolina had the honor of being selected as the state to develop a three-year pilot program in library recruitment. The critical shortage of professional librarians had prompted the Reference Books Section of the American Textbook Publishers Institute to make a \$5,000 grant to the American Library Association to aid the cause. The Executive Board of NCLA appropriated \$1,000 of the association's funds and replaced the Recruiting Committee with the Special Coordinating Committee on Recruitment for Librarianship as a Profession, later renamed the Council on Librarianship. With prominent lay citizens enlisted in the crusade, along with scores of enthusiastic librarians, first under the leadership of Hoyt Galvin and later under Jane Wilson, recruiting activities abounded in the 1959-61 biennium, and 140 prospective librarians were reported.

During the 1963-65 biennium, a recruiting committee was again established as a standing committee. In April, 1972 the Junior Members agreed to assume the work of recruiting for the whole association, and the Executive Board voted to give the duties of the Recruiting Committee to them.

Cooperating on resources as well as on personnel, a new NCLA

Cooperative Library Resources Committee was formed in October, 1957 as an outgrowth of an Interlibrary Loan Conference held in Winston-Salem in August, 1957. This Committee recommended that:

the North Carolina Union Catalog at the University Library be expanded with additional public, college and special library holdings; and that direct line communication be initiated between the University Library and its Union Catalog and the State Library; and that the State Library be authorized to participate in the development of a cooperative Interlibrary Center to be located at the University Library to assist in reference and interlibrary loan work for public libraries and citizens of the State.

With the implementation of these recommendations and the State Library's extension of Inward Wide Area Telephone Service (IN—WATS) in 1968 to public libraries and by October, 1971 to college (including two, four-year, and community), university, special, and technical institute libraries in the state, North Carolina's unofficial library services network began.

A vitally important part of NCLA's communications network is its outstanding journal, *NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES*. Following Ruzicka's withdrawal in 1971 of its generous underwriting of the publication, the Executive Board voted in 1972 to underwrite its publishing costs until it should become self-sustaining. Editors since 1953 have been: Elaine von Oesen, 1953-1957; William S. Powell, 1958-1959; Charles M. Adams, 1960-1963;

Adrianna Orr, 1964-1965; Alva W. Stewart, 1966-1968; Mell Busbin, 1969-1971; Herbert Poole, 1972-1973, 1975 to date; and David Jensen, Acting Editor, 1974.

Another kind of publication, the *ALA Standards For School Libraries*, was the focal point of a workshop of the School and Children's Section in Chapel Hill on August 18-20, 1960, which initiated workshop conferences held by sections on alternate years when NCLA does not meet. "Media Trends...A Challenge for Change" was the theme of the Durham October 31-November 2, 1974 Biennial School Media Work Conference, sponsored by the North Carolina Association of School Librarians, the Educational Media Association, and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology in cooperation with the State Department of Public Instruction.

With the growth in membership of the Association since 1960, the number of important workshops and commissions has increased rapidly. The biennial conferences are much more organized and complex than the early association meetings when attendance averaged 50 persons.

Some of the important recent workshops and institutes in addition to those already mentioned which should be noted are those on standards, continuing education and buildings, and equipment held by the Public Libraries Section in years between conferences; School Library Association off-year workshops;

Association of Library Trustees institutes sponsored by the Institute of Government and the State Library each spring; the Workshop on Library Education in North Carolina in Pinehurst in 1971; College and University Libraries Section Tutorials (1972-1975); and an Institute on Intellectual Freedom in 1973. With the assistance of North Carolinians for Better Libraries in sharing a Secretary, NCLA was able to employ its first secretary to help with association business in 1969. Goals for the North Carolina Library Association were written by an Association Committee in 1959-1961, and during 1969-1971 there was a study on the feasibility of a library services network for North Carolina which involved many librarians. NCLA and its membership have cooperated with the Southeastern States Cooperative Survey since 1972.

This highlighting of NCLA activities is offered to those who wish to remember these events and to those who are new members wondering what happened when. The story of any association is that of people. The archives of NCLA reveal, through the letters and official records, the personality of those who have done the work of the association committees and sections.

The archives are bound through 1961 and more volumes will be ready this year (binding courtesy of Joseph Ruzicka). They are housed at the State Library and may be read there by members interested in learning more than this brief history could include.