

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS AND  
GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

School librarians throughout North Carolina were disappointed to find that they did not qualify for the Graduate Certificate established by the State Board of Education in 1941. They felt that a degree in library science from an accredited library school after obtaining a college degree was obviously post-graduate work for which a master's degree is ordinarily given. Thus they asked that a degree in library science, conferred by a college or university offering it on a post-graduate level, be considered equivalent to a master's degree in a subject field, and that school librarians holding such a degree be eligible for the Graduate Certificate.

In the fall of 1941 a committee was appointed by the President of the School Librarians Section of the North Carolina Education Association to investigate the status of school librarians. This Committee began correspondence with Dr. Hillman of the Division of Certification, and other members of the State Department. It also conducted a survey to ascertain the opinions of superintendents, principals and classroom teachers. The response was overwhelmingly favorable toward granting school librarians the Graduate Certificate.

Resolutions that school librarians might qualify for the Graduate Certificate were passed by different groups at various district meetings of the North Carolina Education Association, and the North Carolina Library Association at its biennial meeting in Greensboro, October 1941, passed a resolution favoring the proposal.

Dr. Hillman gave the Committee a hearing in January 1942, when the following three proposals were discussed:

1. That the State Board of Education be asked to modify its requirements for the Graduate Certificate in such a way that librarians holding a bachelor's degree for four years of undergraduate work and a second bachelor's degree in library science, would qualify for the Certificate.
2. That the State Board of Education and the State School Commission be requested

to set up a salary schedule for librarians who have the two degrees, corresponding to the salary schedule set up for persons holding a Graduate Certificate.

3. That the University of North Carolina be asked to liberalize its requirements so that a master's degree be awarded on substantially the same work which now leads to the degree of B. S. in L. S.

Neither the librarians on the Committee nor the members of the State Department present at the hearing favored the second suggestion concerning a separate salary schedule. They felt that the librarian is an integral part of the school system and should not be separate from it. They were afraid, too, that a separate set-up might involve the librarians' salaries in any economy program initiated.

The Committee favored the first suggestion because it recognized the additional training for librarians on the same basis as that for teachers. Dr. Hillman, however, considered the third proposal best, for he thinks, as do Mr. Erwin and Mrs. Douglas, that the requirements for the library science degree are equal to the requirements for the master's degree in other fields, and that credit should be given. It has, however, been the policy of the State Department to recognize graduate work only to the extent that it is recognized by the college granting the degree, and as soon as institutions award a master's degree, the Department will recognize it on the same basis as other graduate degrees.

The Committee compiled information as to what other library schools are doing. Peabody College gives a master's degree with a major in library science which requires undergraduate credits of 18 quarter hours and a major of 27 hours in library science.

The Director of the Library School of Columbia University has recommended that his Board consider conferring a master's degree for a year's training in library science. This is also being discussed at the University of Chicago Library School. The Indiana State Committee states that "a degree in library science obtained in a school that offers it on a post-graduate level, is equivalent to a master's degree in a subject field."

No additional salary compensation is given for this fifth year of work until after ten years of teaching.

Only two states, Georgia and Louisiana, require that a person holding a B. S. in L. S. degree receive the same compensation as one with a master's degree. Both states, however, have a minimum teachers' salary schedule considerably lower than that of North Carolina.

A report released by the A. L. A. showed that in 22 cities in 1938-39 school librarians having a B. S. in L. S. or a B. A. in L. S. degree were granted the same status, particularly in respect to salary, as teachers with a M. A. or M. S. degree.

The Association of American Library Schools and the Board of Education for Librarianship of the A. L. A. are working on this problem. A report of the latter is given on page 689 of the A. L. A. Bulletin for October 15, 1942. It is hoped that this Board will soon work out a program which will be acceptable to all accredited library schools.

The North Carolina Committee wishes to thank every one who has given help and cooperation in this study. Especially do they appreciate the valuable information, cooperation and sympathetic understanding of Dr. Akers and Mrs. Douglas.

MARGARET FARLEY, *Chairman.*