

North Carolina Libraries

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Founders Attend Fiftieth Anniversary Conference

[Photograph: Two elderly men photographed together at the Conference in High Point. On the left is Dr. Louis Round Wilson; on the right is Mr. R. D. Douglas. Photo by Sam Boone.]

Two of the six founders of the North Carolina Library Association were present at the Conference in High Point held fifty-one years after the first Conference. Shown at right are Dr. Louis Round Wilson and Mr. R. D. Douglas.

As a leader in the field of librarianship, Dr. Wilson has no peer and needs no introduction to N.C.L.A. members. Mr. Douglas, an attorney from Greensboro, helped to launch the Association on a firm legal basis and exemplifies the contribution of lay members to a library association. Miss Annie Petty, the other living founder of N.C.L.A., was unable to be present. A letter from her was read at the first general session.

Biennial Conference Minutes

By Hallie S. Bacelli, Recording Secretary

North Carolina Library Association Biennial Conference, October 20, 21, 22, 1955, High Point, North Carolina

Executive Board

Officers

- **President:** Miss Charlesanna Fox, Librarian, Randolph Public Library, Asheboro.
- **First Vice-President:** Mrs. Marion M. Johnson, Albemarle.
- **Second Vice-President:** Miss Elizabeth Williams, Librarian, Myers Park Elementary School, Charlotte.
- **Recording Secretary:** Mrs. Hallie S. Bacelli, Supervisor, Guilford County School Libraries, Greensboro.
- **Corresponding Secretary:** Miss Marjorie Hood, Library, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.
- **Treasurer:** Miss Marianna Long, Librarian, Duke University Law Library, Durham.

Directors

- Miss Katherine McDiarmid, Textiles Librarian, North Carolina State College, Raleigh.
- Dr. Benjamin E. Powell, Librarian, Duke University Library, Durham.

Past President

- Miss Jane B. Wilson, Supervisor of Elementary School Libraries, Durham.

First General Session, October 20, 1955, 8:30–10:00 P.M.

The thirty-first Conference of the North Carolina Library Association was called to order by the President, Charlesanna Fox. The invocation was given by Miss Antoinette Earle. The Mayor of High Point, Mr. George A. Covington, made an address of welcome and presented the President with the "Key to the City."

The President introduced members of the High Point City Council, the City Manager, the editor of the local newspaper, and the members of the High Point Public Library Board. The exhibitors were noted for their contributions to the conference "decoration." Honorary members of the Association also were present and were introduced, Miss Marjorie Beal

and Mr. Joseph Ruzicka. The announcement was made that the Executive Board would honor the three honorary members, whose deaths occurred during 1955, by a gift to the Scholarship Loan Fund.

The members of the 1953–55 Executive Board; the members of the 1955–57 Executive Board, and the Section Chairmen for 1953–1955 were introduced.

Miss Marjorie Hood, Corresponding Secretary, read a letter from Miss Annie Petty in appreciation of the gift of the book, *The French Broad*. The Recording Secretary was requested to hold up the volumes of records of the Association bound as a part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Association. It was announced that these volumes would be on display at the Joseph Ruzicka Exhibit during the conference.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Dr. Roy B. McKnight, Chairman of the State Library Board, requesting that the Association transfer to the new board the same loyalty as given the North Carolina Library Commission. Mention was made that the new board would be meeting in High Point on Saturday, and that he would be glad to meet with any member for suggestions and advice on the new organization of the State Library and the appointment of the State Librarian.

Telegrams were received from the President of A.L.A. sending greetings from the office and staff of A.L.A. Miss Julia Bennett, Mr. Mumford and Mrs. Orcena Mahoney were introduced as representing A.L.A. headquarters. Miss Nora Beust from the U. S. Office of Education was introduced.

Dr. Ben E. Powell introduced the speaker, Dr. L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress. Dr. Mumford spoke on the functions of the Library of Congress.

After the program, a short business meeting was called in order to make constitutional amendments prior to the meetings of the Section of the Association. [*Changes in the Constitution have been omitted from the minutes. The complete Constitution and By-Laws as amended are printed elsewhere in this issue. Ed.*]

As a result of an adopted constitutional amendment the nominating committee was requested to present a ballot for the election of the A.L.A. Council Member at the Saturday morning meeting.

The City of High Point entertained at a reception following the first general meeting.

[Photograph: Group portrait of officers and committee chairmen at a dinner meeting preceding the Conference, where Association and Section officers and committee

chairmen made final plans. Seated, left to right: Mrs. Marion M. Johnson, Mae Tucker, Katharine McDiarmid, Marianna Long, Mrs. Hallie Bacelli, Charlesanna Fox, Myrl Ebert, Marjorie Hood, Jane B. Wilson. Standing, left to right: Mrs. Harlan C. Brown, Elizabeth Williams, Margaret McIntyre, Mildred Mullis, Celeste Johnston, Mrs. Vernelle G. Palmer, Neal Austin, George Linder, William R. Pullen, O. V. Cook, Elaine von Oesen, Sophronia Cooper, Robert E. Thomason, Charles M. Adams, Benjamin E. Powell. Photo by Sam Boone.]

Second General Session, October 21, 1955, 8:30–10:00 P.M.

The President, Miss Charlesanna Fox, opened the second session of the thirty-first Conference of the North Carolina Library Association, and welcomed guests and members. Miss Jane Wilson introduced the speaker, Miss Virginia Kirkus. Miss Kirkus used as her subject "Emphasis on Books." She reviewed many of the current best sellers for adults.

Following the meeting, the Association entertained at a reception in the Sheraton Room, adjoining the Ball Room.

Third General Session, October 22, 1955, 9:45–11:45 A.M.

The third general session was called to order by the President. Telegrams of greetings from the Florida State Library Association and from Miss Evelyn Day Mullen, Alabama State Public Library Division, were acknowledged. Miss Nancy Jane Day extended greetings from the Southeastern Library Association and invited the members to attend the Biennial Conference in Roanoke, Virginia, October 11–13, 1956. She stated that S.E.L.A. had 996 members at present. Dr. Roy B. McKnight, Chairman of the State Library Board, and Mr. Paul Ballance and Dr. Andrew Horn, members of the Board, were introduced.

Miss Julia Bennett, Chairman of the Washington Office of A.L.A., talked briefly on the services of the Washington office, and the need for letters to representatives concerning the Library Services Bill and Postal Classification Bill. She praised Rep. Graham Barden for his assistance in the legislative program for libraries.

Mr. Fielding Fry, representing the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, was recognized, and presented the President with an autographed copy of the book by Mrs. Ethel Stephens Arnett, *Greensboro, North Carolina, the County Seat of Guilford* (UNC Press, 1955). The President accepted the book in the name of the Association.

Miss Olivia Burwell was recognized to introduce the speaker for the session. Dr. Susan G. Akers talked on "A Glimpse of Library Conditions in Iran in 1954–55."*

The following business was transacted:

1. The nominating committee, Hoyt Galvin, Chairman, reported on the election for A.L.A. Council Member for 1955–1959. The votes were as follows: Harland Brown, 63 votes; Mildred Herring, 43 votes; no write-in ballots. Mr. Brown was declared elected as Council Member and as a new member of the N.C.L.A. Executive Board.
2. The minutes of the 1953 Biennial Conference were approved as printed in *North Carolina Libraries*. The Treasurer's report was approved as printed. The Committee reports were received as reports. All except one committee requested that the committee be continued. The Bentley-Christ-Ruzicka Committee has been incorporated within the Scholarship Loan Committee. All projects of committees have been completed during the biennium with the exception of those of the Publications, Archives, and Conservation of Newspaper Resources Committees. Mr. Harlan Brown displayed the bound volumes of records of the Association 1904–1935, and told of the purchase of two metal filing cabinets for storage of records, and of plans for restoring the scrapbook materials.
3. The President reported that the Catalog, College and University, Junior Members, and Public Libraries Sections had accepted the By-Laws proposed by the Executive Board.† The Junior College Section and the Special Libraries Section had requested permission to dissolve the sections and become committees. No action on the By-Laws was taken by the School and Children's Library Section or the Trustee's Section.
4. The President reported on the work of the Executive Board since the printed report in the October 1955 issue of *North Carolina Libraries*. She reported that no honorary members would be elected during this Conference because of a constitutional provision that such election be conducted by a mail vote.
5. Miss Antoinette Earle reported on the work of the Study Committee of the North Carolina Legislative Council. She presented the request for legislative action passed unanimously by the School and Children's Library Section concerning the allotment of librarians and other special teachers in public schools. The Association voted unanimously to continue the request for this legislation.**
6. Miss Elaine von Oesen, Chairman, Dr. Andrew Horn replacing Mrs. Dorothy Shue, and Miss Lottie Hood presented resolutions expressing the appreciation of the Association to those who contributed to the success of the Conference, a resolution

endorsing the Postal Classification Bill (H.R. 5139), and the following special resolution:

Whereas, Three Honorary Members of the North Carolina Library Association have died within the past year; and

Whereas, Mrs. Lillian B. Griggs, who died on April 11, 1955, served two terms as President of the North Carolina Library Association, as librarian of the Durham Public Library, as Secretary and Director of the North Carolina Library Commission, and as librarian of the Woman's College of Duke University; and

Whereas, Dr. Joseph P. Breedlove, who died on May 24, 1955, was one of the founders of the North Carolina Library Association, served as its President from 1911 to 1913, was librarian of Trinity College and Duke University; and

Whereas, Mr. William T. Polk, who died on October 16, 1955, was for many years Chairman of the Citizens' Library Movement in North Carolina, was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Greensboro Public Library, and seized every opportunity to encourage the support of libraries through his talent in writing and speaking; and

Whereas, Each of these people has contributed to the progress of library service and the library profession in North Carolina; therefore

Resolved, That the North Carolina Library Association, in conference assembled on October 22, 1955, in the city of High Point, North Carolina, acknowledge its gratitude for the life and contributions of Mrs. Griggs, Dr. Breedlove, and Mr. Polk by standing for a minute of respectful silence.

Resolved, that these resolutions be included in the official minutes of the Association, and copies be sent to the families of these Honorary members and given to the press.

All of the resolutions were adopted and a period of silence was observed in tribute to the former honorary members.

7. The President extended invitations to the Association from the cities of Raleigh, Charlotte and High Point for the 1957 Conference.

[Photograph: The new President, Mr. Olan V. Cook, receiving the gavel from the outgoing President. Photo by Sam Boone.]

The gavel was presented to the new President, Mr. Olan V. Cook, who accepted it with the following statement:

Members of the N.C.L.A. Of the making of books, there is still no end in sight. Of the construction of library buildings, there has been a great period of expansion within the last few years. In forming collections of books, in the homes, in the schools, in public libraries, and in the libraries of colleges and universities, there has been unparalleled activity in the last two decades. In the training for librarianship, rapid strides have been taken. For more than half a century, the North Carolina Library Association has worked faithfully to make these things, the dreams of our founding fathers, come true. If the Association is to establish a set of objectives for the 1955–57 biennium, perhaps, they could be drawn from the foregoing statements, namely; (1) more and better books, encouraging authorship and the finer qualities of printing and book making; (2) more adequate library buildings and more bookmobiles; (3) a more intensified program of recruiting and training personnel in library service; and (4) a further enlightened and expanded service to readers in all areas of the State through a unified Association. To these ends and in deep appreciation of the honor you have conferred upon me, I pledge my full support and call upon you for cooperation and help.

The meeting was adjourned.

** Text appears elsewhere in this issue.*

† A copy of the Section By-Laws is printed in this issue.

*** Editors Note: After the Conference it was learned that the N.C.E.A. would not support this legislation in the 1957 General Assembly because it considered other legislation more imperative. For this reason the N.C.L.A. representatives to the Legislative Council requested that this measure be postponed for support in a later legislature.*

Minutes of the Section Meetings

Catalog Section

Sophronia Cooper, Chairman

The Catalog Section met in the Sheraton Room at 9:30 o'clock, October 21, 1955. Because of limited time the minutes of the 1953 Biennial Conference were omitted. The treasurer reported the amount of money turned over to her, \$37.98. From this amount she had written one check for \$5.00 for A.L.A. Section Dues, leaving on hand \$32.98.

The new business took care of changing Article 5 of the original plan of organization of the section which calls for the election of two officers to be amended to read as Article IV and V of the Proposed By-Laws for Sections of N.C.L.A. which calls for the election of five

officers. Mr. Carlyle J. Frarey made the motion that the change be accepted. There was an immediate second and no discussion. With a show of hands the motion was carried and the amendment was announced as made.

The members of the Nominating Committee were introduced: Mrs. Anna J. Cooper, Chairman, Salem College Library; Mrs. Elizabeth V. Crawford, Charlotte Public Library; Miss Elizabeth M. England, N. C. Library Commission. Mrs. Anna J. Cooper made the report for the committee and moved that the following officers be elected to serve for the 1955–1957 Biennium: Mr. Edward Lynch, May Memorial Library, Burlington, Chairman; Miss Vivian Moose, Woman's College Library, Greensboro, Vice-Chairman; Miss Louise Bethea, Wake Forest Library, Wake Forest, Secretary-Treasurer; Miss Elizabeth S. Walker, East Carolina College Library, Director; Mr. Carlyle J. Frarey, School of Library Science, UNC, Director. There was a second to the motion and with the show of hands the above named officers for the 1955–1957 Biennium were elected.

The contents of a letter from Miss Mary Darrah Herrick, Chairman, Committee on Award of the Margaret Mann Citation was given. Miss Herrick is asking for suggested names of persons to be recommended for the Margaret Mann Citation.

A second announcement was from Miss Margaret V. Ayrault, Vice-President, A.L.A. Division of Cataloging and Classification. Miss Ayrault is calling for names of possible appointees.

The program Chairman, Mr. Carlyle J. Frarey, Associate Professor, School of Library Science, UNC, was presented. Mr. Frarey introduced the program with a report dealing with the many changes and developments of the last ten years in cataloging theory, practices, and operations. Miss Elizabeth Walker, Assistant Librarian, East Carolina College, discussed the Decimal Classifications. Mrs. Orcena Mahoney, Executive Secretary, Division of Cataloging and Classification, was introduced as the first full-time Executive Secretary resident at A.L.A. Headquarters. Mrs. Mahoney discussed Administration, Operations, and National Activities and Interests. At the conclusion of the reports, Mr. Frarey called for participation from the audience with questions.

Miss Cooper presented the new section chairman, Mr. Edward Lynch. Responding to his recognition, Mr. Lynch made a few remarks pertinent to beginning his period of office.

Sophonra Cooper, *Chairman*

College and University Section

Charles M. Adams, *Chairman*

The College and University Section of the North Carolina Library Association convened in the Sheraton Room of the Sheraton Hotel, High Point, at 11:15 a.m. October 21, 1955 with about one hundred members in attendance.

Before introducing the topic of the day, "Books for College Libraries," the chairman, Mr. Charles M. Adams, began the fiftieth anniversary meeting with a brief history of the tremendous growth of North Carolina libraries since 1904. For a closer look at the present day situation the speakers chosen were representative of two professions closely related to the college library, a college faculty member and a bookseller.

Mr. Randall Jarrell, Associate Professor of English, Woman's College, Greensboro, "poet, novelist and critic," spoke of his lifelong regard for libraries, "the primary essential medium through which culture is disseminated." A library is not an end but a means to what really educates a person, said Mr. Jarrell. He emphasized the importance of open stacks, of a kindly atmosphere, attractive display of new books and old books, and an adequate supply of magazines and records. The spirit of a library is a reflection of the man in charge. The good librarian is one who loves his books and his readers and makes it as easy as possible to bring them together. He reads books as well as handles them.

The second speaker, Mr. A. J. Petch (Jeremy North) of Durham, North Carolina, is a member of the American Antiquarian Booksellers Association. Of all trades that of antiquarian book seller is most firmly rooted in the past, Mr. Petch stated. Although the literature on the subject is scarce, the excerpts read from a text of 1774 are relevant even to the present. In answering the question of how to be selective the speaker said that 20 per cent of books issued form the book stock of the dealer in old books. Finding, buying, stocking and making available to potential users at as low a price as possible is the business of such a dealer.*

During the brief business session, dispensing with reading of the minutes, the proposed By-Laws were adopted for the section. The report of the nominating committee, composed of Dr. Benjamin Powell, Miss Elizabeth Walker and Mr. William L. Eury, was presented by the chairman. The following slate was elected by acclamation: chairman, Dr. Andrew Horn, librarian of the University of North Carolina; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Spears Hicks, reference librarian of Woman's College, Duke University; chairman-elect, Mrs. Lilian Buchanan, Western Carolina College, Cullowhee; directors, Mrs. Oma U. Johnson, librarian, Elon College and Dr. Benjamin Smith, librarian of North Carolina College, Durham.

The group was joined at 1 p.m. for luncheon in the ballroom by the sections of Special Libraries, School and Children's Libraries and Junior College Libraries. At this time the three living founders of the North Carolina Library Association were given recognition. They were

Mr. Robert Douglas, Mr. Louis R. Wilson and Miss Annie Petty, unable to be present because of a broken ankle. A silver letter opener was presented each of the founders. Other guests were Mrs. Douglas and Mr. and Mrs. Petch. Following the luncheon Miss Nora Beust spoke on "Experiences of an Educational Consultant in Korea."

Virginia F. Barnes, *Secretary*

* *The full text of this address is printed in this issue.*

Junior College Section

Mrs. Harlan C. Brown, Chairman

The Junior College Section of the North Carolina Library Association met on Friday, October 21, 1955, at 2:30 p.m., in room 202, at the Sheraton Hotel, in High Point. Fifteen persons were present, including seven junior college librarians.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Harlan C. Brown, chairman. An announcement soliciting volunteer speakers for the librarian recruitment program was made by Miss Elizabeth Walker.

The chairman gave the order of procedure to be the program, followed by the business session, and forthwith introduced the first speaker, Mr. Kenneth McIntyre, director of the Bureau of Visual Education, Extension Division, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C., who spoke on "Organizing an Audio-Visual Center in the Library." Opening with the national trends as presented at the pre-conference institute at the A.L.A. meeting in Philadelphia, July 3, 1955, Mr. McIntyre gave a summary of the article in *College and Research Libraries*, underlining the necessity for coordination and cooperation between the librarian and the audiovisual specialist. He also touched on the role of the library in the junior college, defining therein the latter institution; the cataloging of audio-visual material, including the use of colored cards and separate audio-visual listings in the card catalog; and stressing the necessity of faculty cooperation and coordination. The steps in organizing an audio-visual department were given as:

1. making an audio-visual survey of the campus;
2. appointing a faculty audio-visual committee, or, in a small college, combining this committee with the faculty library committee;
3. analyzing the survey with the committee;
4. expanding the audio-visual holdings with requests from the faculty;

5. setting up administrative procedure for cataloging and housing the material.

Mr. McIntyre stressed the importance of the library's having every piece of reference material available on the sources of 16mm films, 35mm filmstrips; recordings; equipment; and accessories; mentioning particularly the H. W. Wilson Company's *Education Film Guide* and *Education Filmstrip Guide* (both sold on a service basis); and the Educators Progress Service series: *Educator's Guide to Free Films*, *Educator's Guide to Free Filmstrips*, and *Educator's Guide to Free Curriculum Material*. In conclusion Mr. McIntyre mentioned in detail the services of the Bureau of Visual Education. Questions were asked the speaker by the members, and an informative discussion on audio-visual matters followed.

Because of pressure of time, the second speech, "Important Events and Trends in the Junior College Library World," by Elizabeth Shepard, was not given, but Miss Cowan kindly offered to have the speech mimeographed and sent to each junior college librarian in the state.

The section proceeded directly to the business session. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Mrs. Brown introduced the new members of the Junior College Section.

A debt of gratitude was expressed by the chairman on behalf of the Section to Miss Daisy Anderson who served as secretary during the past biennium. Appreciation was also expressed to Miss Bessie Mae Cowan who acted as hostess during the conference and to Miss Elizabeth Shepard who served as secretary pro tem.

The matter of either continuing or disbanding the Section was then presented by the chair, with a discussion ensuing of membership potentiality and possible courses of action open. It was moved and seconded that the Junior College Section be disbanded; that the Executive Committee be petitioned for re-admission to the College and University Libraries Section, with the request that a Junior College Committee be formed therein; and that the junior college librarians continue to meet informally as a group at each biennial meeting of the Association. The motion was unanimously passed.

Miss DeShong moved and Miss Motley seconded the motion that the petition above-mentioned include the request that Mrs. Harlan C. Brown be appointed to act as chairman of the Junior College Committee. This motion was unanimously passed.

Elizabeth Shepard, *Secretary Pro Tem*

Junior Members Round Table

Neal Austin, Chairman

The breakfast meeting of the Junior Members Round Table was held Saturday, October 22, 1955, at the Sheraton Hotel, High Point, North Carolina during the thirty-first conference of the North Carolina Library Association. Neal Austin, Chairman, presented Mr. Carlyle Frarey, of the School of Library Science of the University of North Carolina, who chose as his topic "The Thread of the Loom."* Librarians, he said, are not growing professionally because of professional apathy, preoccupation with their status, and a confusion of their objectives. His discussion of these ideas was of especial interest to the Junior Members.

Neal Austin noted that three Junior Members were serving on the Executive Board of the N.C.L.A. He further stated that this was the first time that such a three-fold position had been held by Junior Members.

I. T. Littleton then presented the slate of officers for the next biennium: Chairman, Elvin Strowd of the Duke University Library; Vice-Chairman and Chairman-Elect, Charles Laugher of East Carolina College Library; Georgia Cox of High Point Public Library; Director, Mary Lou Lucy of the University of North Carolina Library. The other director is to be appointed by the Executive Board, since Betty Will McReynolds had to withdraw her name because of an office in the Public Library Section.

Mr. Austin then turned the meeting over to the new chairman, Mr. Strowd. After a few remarks by Mr. Strowd, the meeting was adjourned.

Betty Will McReynolds, *Secretary*

** Text is published elsewhere in this issue.*

Public Libraries Section

George Linder, Chairman

The business meeting of the Public Libraries Section was held in the High Point YMCA on Friday, October 21, 1955 with George Linder, Librarian of the Catawba County Library, presiding as Section Chairman. Secretary of the Section, Phyllis Snyder, Librarian of the Nantahala Regional Library, read the minutes of the 1953 meeting in Asheville which were accepted without correction and reported a balance of \$37.00 in the treasury.

Brief summaries of the activities of Section committees were made by the following chairmen:

Paul Ballance reported that the Personnel Committee met twice, assisted in planning the Workshop in April and was responsible for the program at one of its sessions. He also gave the financial statement for the Workshop which started with a balance of \$248.96 from the In-Service Training Sub-Committee, collected \$262.00 registration fees, net Workshop expenses totaling \$395.50, leaving a balance of \$119.50.

Miss Elizabeth Plexico reported that the Audio-Visual Committee held six screening sessions to preview films and two planning meetings to plan block bookings in addition to arranging a program for the Workshop which included a demonstration of a film forum.

Miss Evelyn Bishop reported that the Adult Education Committee was responsible for the selection of Mrs. Florence Craig, Adult Education Director of the Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Public Library, as a Workshop consultant. She stated that interest in this field is mushrooming so rapidly that it was difficult to decide on a single project but suggested for the new committee that most frequent requests for assistance came from smaller libraries which wanted to know how to start a program.

Miss Elizabeth Copeland reported that the Development Committee continued during the past biennium to work with the Legislature for increased State funds and prepared informative bookmarks to publicize facts and needs. She recommended the continuation of the committee.

Miss Antoinette Earle, Chairman of the Workshop Committee, reported that all comments indicated that it was a success and she expressed appreciation for the cooperative effort which made this possible.

Miss Jeanette Trotter reported for the Constitution Committee by reading the draft, PROPOSED BY-LAWS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES SECTION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. After some discussion, Paul Ballance made a motion, seconded by Hoyt Galvin, that the Section adopt the new constitution and the group voted its unanimous approval.

The slate of officers for the next biennium was then presented by the Nominating Committee and accepted on the motion of Paul Ballance, seconded by Hoyt Galvin. The new Section officers are:

- **Chairman:** Neal Austin, Librarian, High Point Public Library.
- **Chairman-Elect:** Mae Tucker, Reference Dept., Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Betty McReynolds, Greensboro Public Library.

- **Directors:** Elizabeth Plexico, Librarian, Concord Public Library; Charlesanna Fox, Librarian, Randolph County Library.

Miss Mae Tucker as representative of the Sub-Committee on Recruiting made an appeal for volunteers for a speakers' list which is being compiled to assist on high school Career Days.

The installation of new officers was followed by a motion for adjournment.

Phyllis M. Snyder, *Secretary*

School and Children's Section

Mildred Mullis, Chairman

The School and Children's Section of the North Carolina Library Association met on October 21, 1955, in the Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel, High Point, N. C. Miss Mildred Mullis, Librarian, Morganton City Schools, presided. She welcomed the two groups in attendance, the school and children's librarians.

Miss Cora Paul Bomar, State School Library Adviser, introduced Miss Nora Beust, School Library Specialist, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Washington, D. C., who spoke on her experiences in Korea as an Educational Consultant. Miss Beust stated that it took some time to take in the situation of a war torn country. After meeting with the Minister of Education, she cleared the way for an exhibit of American and Korean books. She showed posters made by the Koreans for the affair and termed the exhibit a success, since about 10,000 people attended. Miss Beust showed some Korean books to our groups and emphasized the fact that Koreans were proud of their heritage.

Miss Mildred Herring, Librarian of Senior High School, Greensboro, N. C., then introduced Miss Nancy Jane Day, President of Southeastern Library Association and State School Library Adviser in South Carolina, who spoke on professional organizations in the Southeast and in the nation. Miss Day stated that our national organization could tackle big jobs, such as doing research on library standards with an appropriation of \$60,000 requested to carry on this study. She urged us to feel a responsibility toward our professional organizations from which we would gain much in the furtherance of our library services.

While in Thailand as a Fulbright Lecturer, Miss Day had many interesting library experiences. She found that people of that country believed in ownership of materials and not use of them; and that getting them to apply what they had learned was quite a problem.

Special guests recognized were: Miss Sallie Marks, Miss Celeste Johnston, Assistant State School Library Adviser in North Carolina, Miss Sarah Jaffarian, National Membership Chairman of the American Association of School Librarians, and Mrs. Mary P. Douglas, formerly State School Library Adviser in North Carolina.

Membership Committee: Miss Elizabeth Williams, Chairman, reported that she had mailed 300 invitations and had sent out 100 invitations to the N.C.L.A. meeting urging the recipients to join our organization.

Projects Committee: Miss Mildred Herring, Chairman, moved that the School and Children's Section of the N.C.L.A. endorse Part 1, item 3, of the N.C.E.A. Legislative Program which was included in the 1953–54 program. Miss Herring moved further, that Miss Antoinette Earle, the representative from the N.C.L.A. to the N. C. Legislative Council, be requested to present the same item for endorsement by the entire membership at the general meeting of N.C.L.A. on Saturday, October 22, 1955. This motion was carried.

By-Laws Committee: Miss Lottie Hood, Chairman, conducted a panel discussion on by-laws. Mrs. Hallie Bacelli gave background of this section of N.C.L.A. Miss Lottie Hood read the proposed By-Laws for Sections of N.C.L.A. Mrs. Vernelle Palmer discussed the importance of a set of governing rules for an organization. Mrs. Mary P. Douglas gave the pros and cons of a constitution and by-laws and pointed out the weaknesses in the proposed by-laws. Miss Cora Paul Bomar spoke on how school librarians work in other states and told of a questionnaire sent out to determine this. The findings of this questionnaire were turned over to the chairman of this section.

The motion that the report of the By-Laws Committee be studied until the next biennial meeting was passed by the group.

The nominating committee consisting of Jane Howell, Chairman, Emma Riddick Parker, Margaret Boyd, Margaret Dupuy, and Louise Reid presented the following slate of officers:

- Lottie Hood, Chairman
- Elizabeth Williams, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman Elect
- Catherine Weir, Secretary and Treasurer
- Cora Paul Bomar, Director
- Eunice Query, Director

This slate was elected by the group to serve for the next two years.

Miss Lottie Hood accepted the office of Chairman and appointed the following committee to study the by-laws: Miss Gertrude Coward, Chairman, Mrs. Eleanor Smith Brown and Mrs. Margaret Ertel.

Miss Hood then declared the meeting adjourned.

Mildred S. Council, *Secretary*

Special Libraries Section

Myrl Ebert, Chairman

The Special Libraries Section of the North Carolina Library Association held its biennial meeting in the Blue Room at the Sheraton Hotel, in High Point, North Carolina, Friday, October 21, 1955. There were thirty-three members and visitors present.

Miss Myrl Ebert, Chairman, called the meeting to order at two-forty-five. The minutes of the last meeting held October 22, 1953, at Montreat, N. C. were read but not approved.

The program was a panel discussion on special libraries with Mrs. Helen Monahan, Librarian of the Mecklenburg County Medical Society Library, acting as moderator. Other panelists were: Miss Alice F. Lauback, librarian of American Enka Corporation Library, who talked on the business and technical library — what it was and what it does; Miss May Davis Hill, librarian of the future North Carolina State Art Library, who described the plans of this dream library, which is to be set up as a service agency for museums but use is expected from the public; Miss Dorothy Long, reference librarian of the Division of Health Affairs, who related with facility the services and uses of the medical library including all health sciences; Miss Katherine McDiarmid, librarian of the Technical Library at State College, who gave an account of the work connected with specialized reference in textiles; Mrs. Elizabeth Berry, Chief Librarian of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salisbury, who spoke about the varied and interesting service rendered to veterans in mental hospitals.*

Following the program, a business session was held. Mr. Littleton made an announcement in regard to recruiting librarians and left blanks to be filled out.

The Chairman discussed the future status of the Special Section as an organ of the N.C.L.A. — committee versus section. The consensus of opinion was that with only eleven or twelve members designated as specialized librarians that the section would convert to a committee and go along as it has with the exception of a Spring workshop to be held in alternate years to discuss problems — if any. A motion to that effect by Mrs. Helen

Monahan and seconded by Miss Laubach that the Special Library Section be dissolved and converted to a committee of the N.C.L.A. — depending on the approval of the Executive Board. This was passed with no dissension.

Mrs. Monahan, chairman of the nominating committee presented the slate of names to be elected for the next biennium; Miss Elizabeth Berry as Chairman and Miss Laubach as Secretary. These nominees were unanimously elected.

Louise M. Farr, *Secretary*

** Talks of panel members will be published in a later issue.*

Trustee Section

William Medford, Chairman

The Trustee Section of the North Carolina Library Association held its biennial meeting following a joint luncheon meeting with the Public Libraries Section. Mr. William Medford, Chairman, presided.

The secretary was absent so the minutes for the 1953 meeting were not available.

George Esser, Assistant Director of the Institute of Government, Chapel Hill, spoke briefly about the proposed Manual on Library Finances. He announced that the printing permit had been granted and requested that a committee be appointed from the Trustee group to study the preliminary draft and help revise it for the printing. The manual is to be available to governmental officials who are concerned with library finances, Library Trustee chairmen and public library directors.

Dr. Roy B. McKnight, Chairman, State Library Board, talked to the trustees about the Library Services Bill and its provisions for North Carolina. He urged trustees and laymen to be sure that congressmen are informed about the bill and its meaning for North Carolina, and to urge them to work and vote for its passage at the next session of Congress. Questions from the floor were addressed to Miss Julia Bennett, Director of the A.L.A. Washington Office. She explained the opposition which had been encountered by the bill and pointed up the answers given to such opposition.

Chairman Medford urged trustees to join the North Carolina Library Association. It was pointed out that according to the amended constitution of the North Carolina Library Association, the designated Section will receive 50c of each \$2.00 membership. This amount will be used to defray various expenses of the Section.

The matter of the official name of the Trustee organization had been presented in the October "Memo to Trustees." It was discussed at this meeting and by unanimous vote the name was changed from Trustee Section to North Carolina Association of Library Trustees.

It was also the decision of the group present to request that the "Memo to Trustees" be continued. The Chairman called on Mrs. Hughey for brief remarks following which he thanked the Commission and its Secretary and Director for the assistance given to the Trustee Section during the past biennium.

It was agreed, since no Constitution now exists for the Trustee Section and a proposed Constitution had not been circulated to the membership, that adoption of a Constitution and Bylaws should be deferred. The retiring Chairman will provide the new Chairman with the sample By-Laws provided by the N.C.L.A. for its Sections.

The report of the Nominating Committee, filed by John Harden, Chairman, was read by Mr. Medford. The following officers were elected:

- Mr. Howard White, Chairman, Burlington, N. C.
- Mrs. W. H. May, Jr., Secretary, Burlington, N. C.

Elizabeth H. Hughey, *Acting Secretary*

All Photographs by Boone

All of the photographs in this issue were taken by our Art Editor, Sam Boone of the University of North Carolina.

Exhibitors at NCLA Conference

[Photograph: A corner of the lobby exhibit area during the NCLA Conference in High Point. Tables displaying books and library supplies are arranged in rows, with several conference attendees browsing. A sign for Follett Book Co. is visible in the foreground. Photo by Sam Boone.]

Although space was limited the exhibits at the Biennial Conference were attractive and well attended. The Association is grateful to the representatives of the firms, listed below, who helped in many ways to make the Conference a success:

- Associated Libraries, Inc. — Mr. John E. Williams and Mr. Charles R. Williams
- Bro-Dart Industries — Mr. Robert Scofield

- Demco Library Supplies — Mr. William Beckett
- Diebold Inc. — Mr. J. B. Cottrell and Mr. W. H. Duncan
- Doubleday and Company, Inc. — Mr. and Mrs. Watson Lambeth
- Follett Library Book Company — Mr. Frank McCann
- Charles M. Gardner & Company — Mr. Robert E. Phillips
- Gaylord Brothers, Inc. — Mr. Vernon Kompe
- The Gerstenslager Company — Mr. Elmer F. Miller
- Kenneth J. Hoerrner, Bookman — Mr. Kenneth J. Hoerrner
- The H. R. Huntting Company — Miss E. Hilyer and Miss M. C. Grigg
- Library Products, Inc. — Miss Mildred W. Adams
- J. B. Lippincott — Miss Mary E. Harvey and Mr. Paul S. Daniel
- The Macmillan Company — Mr. Harold Torbert and Miss Marcia Carroll
- McNaughton Libraries, Inc. — Mr. N. R. McNaughton
- Mrytle Desk Company — Mr. C. T. Latimer, Jr.
- New Method Book Bindery, Inc. — Mr. Robert F. Sibert
- Joseph Ruzicka — Mr. Joseph Ruzicka, Mr. Joseph V. Ruzicka, Jr. and Mr. Merle Bachtell
- The Washington News Company — Mr. Warren G. Hall
- The John C. Winston Company — Mr. Ralph Meisenhelder
- World Book Division, Field Enterprises, Inc. — Mr. J. B. Haney and Mr. Ross E. Templeton

NCLA Committees and Section Officers to Meet

The Executive Board of N.C.L.A. is working on plans for a meeting of all committees and section officers. The meeting will be similar to the one held two years ago when the various parts of the Association planned activities for the biennium. The tentative place and date are the Library of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, on Saturday, March 17. Place and date will be confirmed in a letter to members of this group.

NCLA Constitution

(As Amended October 20, 1955)

Article I. Name

This organization shall be called the North Carolina Library Association.

Article II. Object

Its object shall be to promote libraries and library service in North Carolina.

Article III. Members

1. Membership in the North Carolina Library Association shall be divided into three classes: individual membership, institutional membership and honorary membership.
2. *Individual.* Any person interested in library advancement may become a member, with a right to vote, upon payment of the annual dues of the Association, and upon meeting the requirements for membership as stated in the By-Laws.
3. *Institutional.* Any institution may become an institutional member upon payment of the annual dues of the Association and upon meeting the requirements for membership as stated in the By-Laws. An institutional member shall be entitled to send one delegate to the meetings of the Association with full powers of membership.
4. *Honorary.* On nomination of the Executive Board, persons who have rendered important service to the library interests of the State, but who are not at the time actively engaged in library work in the State, may be elected honorary members by a majority vote of a mailed ballot.

Article IV. Officers

1. The officers of the Association shall consist of a President; a first Vice-President, who shall be the President-Elect; a second Vice-President; a Recording Secretary; a Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer.
2. They are to be elected by ballot, to serve for two years.

Article V. Executive Board

1. *Personnel.* The officers of the Association, the past President, two Directors elected by the Association at large, and the representatives of the Association to the A. L. A. Council shall constitute an Executive Board.
2. They shall serve until their successors take office.
3. The President of the Association shall be the Chairman of the Executive Board.
4. *Powers and Duties.* The Executive Board shall have power: a. to consider and mature plans for the general work of the Association; b. to appoint in case of a vacancy in any office, a member from the Association to fill the unexpired term, until the next regular election; c. to transact the business of the Association within the limits of a budget system.
5. Business of the Association may also be transacted by the Executive Board through correspondence, provided that the proposed action be submitted in writing by the President to the members of the Executive Board, and that it be approved by a quorum of the Board.
6. The Executive Board shall act for the Association in intervals between meetings; make arrangements for the biennial meeting; and authorize the organization of Sections or Round Tables by specialized interests within the Library Association.
7. The Executive Board shall direct and provide for the publications of the Association and may have power to contract for such publications as may seem desirable for furthering the interests of the Association.
8. *Quorum.* Five members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.
9. *Representatives to the North Carolina Library Certification Board.* The Executive Board shall appoint a librarian to serve, with the President of the Association, as a member of the North Carolina Library Certification Board in accordance with the General Statutes of North Carolina.

Article VI. Finances

1. The Executive Board shall approve all encumbrances (any claims on property) and expenditures of Association funds, but may delegate to the President authority to approve encumbrances of expenditures.

2. The Executive Board shall administer the business affairs of the Association, and it shall have power in the interval between the meetings of the Association to act on all matters on which five of the nine members reach agreement.
3. The finances of the Association shall be handled under a budget system.
4. Funds shall be available to the President or his representative toward attending library meetings to represent the Association. These funds must be included in the budget and approved by the Executive Board.
5. No officer, committee or member of the Association shall receive any funds or incur any expense for the Association not provided for in the Constitution, unless authorized in writing by the President; nor shall the Treasurer make any payment except for expenditures so authorized.

Article VII. Affiliations

1. The North Carolina Library Association shall be a contributing member of the American Library Association.
2. The North Carolina Library Association shall hold chapter membership in the American Library Association, and shall elect Councilors for representation on the A. L. A. Council.
3. The North Carolina Library Association shall be a contributing member of the Southeastern Library Association.

Article VIII. Sections and Round Tables

1. Sections and Round Tables of the Association may be organized upon application to and approval of the Executive Board.
2. Each Section and Round Table shall represent a field of activity in general distinct from that of other sections.
3. The officers of the Sections and Round Tables shall be a Chairman and a Secretary, who shall be elected by the membership of the Section or Round Table, and who shall be responsible for the program meetings of the Section or Round Table.
4. Other officers may be added at the discretion of the Section or Round Table.
5. The President of the Association may appoint a Chairman and a Secretary if the Section or Round Table fails to elect officers.

6. With the permission of the Executive Board, Sections and Round Tables may charge fees or dues for their purposes.

Article IX. Meetings

1. There shall be a biennial meeting of the Association at such place and time as shall have been decided upon by the Executive Board.
2. Special meetings of the Association may be called by the President; by a quorum of the Executive Board; or on request of 50 members of the Association.
3. At least 30 days notice shall be given for special meetings, and only business mentioned in the call shall be transacted.
4. Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held upon the call of the President, or at the request of a quorum of the members of the Executive Board.
5. There shall be a minimum of four meetings of the Executive Board during the biennium.
6. *Quorum.* Fifty voting members, representing at least five institutions shall constitute a quorum of the North Carolina Library Association.

Article X. Amendments

1. Amendments to the Constitution may be voted on only when a quorum of the Association is present, and shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present.
2. Notice of the proposed changes in the Constitution shall be mailed to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on the proposed changes.

NCLA By-Laws

(As Amended October 20, 1955)

Article I. Elections

1. The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a Committee on Nominations, which shall include representatives of the various types of libraries in the North Carolina Library Association, in so far as is practical.
2. The first Vice-President shall be the President-Elect.

3. *Officers.* The Committee on Nominations shall present the names of two candidates for each of the following offices: First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and for two Directors at large. In case the First Vice-President is unable to assume the Presidency, the Committee on Nominations shall present the names of two candidates for the office of President.
4. *A.L.A. Council Members.* In elections held in the years in which Council member terms expire, the Committee on nominations shall present the names of two candidates for each representative from the N.C.L.A. to the A.L.A. Council.
5. Consent of the nominees shall be obtained.
6. A ballot containing spaces for further nominations shall be prepared and mailed to voting members of the Association by May 1st prior to the biennial meeting.
7. Ballots shall be marked and returned to the Chairman of the Committee on Nominations within one month after they have been mailed out.
8. Candidates receiving the majority of votes shall be declared elected and shall take office at the close of the biennial meeting.
9. In case of a tie vote the successful candidate shall be determined by lot.
10. If the regular meeting is cancelled, elections shall be conducted within the two months prior to the normal time for such meeting; and the successful candidates shall be announced in the following issue of the Association's official publication.

Article II. Duties of Officers

1. The duties of all officers shall be such as usually devolve upon them in similar organizations.
2. The term of office of all officers shall commence at the adjournment of the biennial meeting following their election, or if the biennial meeting can not be held, upon their election.
3. The President shall, with the advice of the Executive Board, appoint such committees as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Association and define their duties. Committees may be discontinued when conditions require such action.
4. The President is *ex-officio* a member of all committees except the Committee on Nominations.

5. The President shall serve as a member of the North Carolina Certification Board as provided by law.
6. The President shall serve as an alternate Council member of the American Library Association for his term of office.
7. The Secretary shall prepare a report of the biennial meeting or any special meetings of the Association; he shall send one copy to the *Library Journal*, one copy to the *American Library Association Bulletin*, and one copy to the President, who will keep it on file.
8. As soon as the ballots shall have been counted, and the representatives to the American Library Association Council have been established the Corresponding Secretary shall notify the American Library Association who these representatives will be, together with their terms of office.
9. The Treasurer shall be bonded.
10. The officers of the Association shall deposit in the North Carolina Library Commission offices all correspondence, records, and archives not needed for current use.

Article III. Membership

1. *Dues.* Dues of individual members shall be \$2.00 a year.
2. Dues of institutional members shall be \$3.00 a year.
3. Honorary members shall pay no dues.
4. The fiscal year and the membership year shall be the calendar year.
5. Delinquent members shall be notified of their delinquency.
6. Members in arrears for more than one year shall be dropped from the membership roll.
7. There shall be a registration fee for each person attending biennial meetings. This fee shall be established by the Executive Board.
8. Students of Library Science attending the biennial meeting shall pay a registration fee of fifty cents each.
9. New memberships paid during the last quarter of the fiscal year shall be credited to the following year.

10. *Publications.* Members of the North Carolina Library Association shall receive the official periodical publication of the Association or any other publications that may be so designated.
11. No changes in the policies or traditions regarding individual or institutional membership shall be made without approval of the membership by a mail vote. A majority of the votes cast shall be required to make any such change. The Executive Board or the membership at any duly constituted meeting may initiate such procedure.
12. The Treasurer of the Association shall allot to the Sections 50c from the annual dues of individual and institutional members according to the Section chosen by the members when dues are paid. Each member is entitled to the choice of one Section and becomes a member of that Section upon stating the choice.
13. Association members may be members of additional Sections by paying additional dues of 50c for each Section to the Association Treasurer and designating the Sections.

Article IV. Sections and Round Tables

1. Sections and Round Tables must secure the approval of the Executive Board before making any declaration of policy which involves the Association as a whole; before soliciting or receiving funds; or before incurring any expense on behalf of the Association.
2. The Secretaries of the Sections and Round Tables shall file with the Recording Secretary of the North Carolina Library Association their important papers and reports.
3. Sections and Round Tables shall adopt By-Laws which meet the approval of the Executive Board of the Association.
4. The Treasurers of the Sections shall file a financial report with the Treasurer of the Association when requested by the Executive Board.

Article V. Amendments

1. Amendments to the By-Laws may be voted on only when a quorum is present and shall receive a majority vote of the members present.
2. Notices of the proposed change in the By-Laws shall be mailed to the membership at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on the proposed change.

Article VI. Parliamentary Authority

Roberts' Rules of Order, latest revision, shall be the governing authority in any matter not specifically covered by this Constitution and By-Laws.

Section By-Laws

(Adopted by the Catalog, College and University Libraries, and Public Libraries Sections and the Junior Members Round Table. Fill in the blanks in your copy with the section of which you are a member.)

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the _____ Libraries Section of the North Carolina Library Association.

Article II: Objectives

The objectives of this organization shall be (a) to unite in this group North Carolina Library Association members interested in _____ libraries, (b) to provide an opportunity for discussion and activity, and (c) to seek to fulfill the objectives of the North Carolina Library Association.

Article III: Members

Members of the North Carolina Library Association who state a preference for this Section at the time of payment of the Association dues shall become members.

Article IV: Officers

The Officers of this organization shall be: (1) Chairman, (2) Chairman-Elect, who shall serve as Vice-Chairman, (3) Secretary-Treasurer, (4 and 5) two Directors.

The Chairman-Elect, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the two Directors shall be elected at the regular biennial meetings and shall serve for a two-year term, or until their successors are elected and have assumed their duties.

Article V: Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, the immediate Past-Chairman, and the two Directors. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Section and shall have the power to act for the Section on administrative business of the Section in the intervals between biennial meetings. Such administrative business shall include

only that business which necessarily must be dealt with prior to the regular biennial meeting.

Article VI: Meetings

1. The regular meeting shall be held as a section meeting of the biennial meeting of the North Carolina Library Association.
2. Special meetings may be called at the direction of the Chairman, the Executive Committee, or upon written request, signed by 15 of the members and delivered to the Executive Board of the Association.
3. A Quorum for the transaction of the business of this Section shall consist of 25 per cent of the membership of the Section.

Article VII: Elections

1. The Chairman shall appoint a Committee on Nominations who will present the name of one candidate for each elective office, consent being secured from the nominees. Any member or members of the Section may present a candidate or candidates for the elective offices of this Section provided (1) that they notify the Chairman of the Section of such action, in writing, (2) that the notification be signed by ten members of this Section, (3) that the consent of the nominee or nominees has been secured and so indicated on the notification.
2. A majority vote of those attending a regular meeting shall constitute election.

Article VIII: Special Duties of Officers

1. The Chairman shall, with the Executive Committee, appoint such committees and define their duties as may be necessary to carry on the work of the _____ Libraries Section.
2. The Chairman of the _____ Libraries Section shall serve as an ex-officio member on all committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee. The Chairman shall also serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee.
3. New Committees may be created and old committees discontinued by the Executive Committee provided that such action is not contrary to the wishes of the membership of this section as expressed at the most recent meeting of the Section.
4. The Chairman-Elect shall be elected to office, and shall assume the responsibilities and perform the duties of the Chairman in the event of absence, death, disability or

resignation of the Chairman. He shall serve as Chairman during the two years following his term as Chairman-Elect.

5. The Secretary-Treasurer shall perform the duties normally accepted for such office.
6. In the event of absence, death, disability or resignation of the Chairman and the Chairman-Elect during the interval between the biennial meetings, the Executive Committee shall fill such vacancy or vacancies by the appointment of a member or members of that committee. Such appointment or appointments shall remain in force until the next regular meeting of the Section.

Article IX: Parliamentary Authority

1. Robert's Rules of Order, latest revision, shall be the governing authority in any matter not specifically covered by these by-laws.
2. Nothing in these by-laws shall conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the North Carolina Library Association.

Article X: Amendments

1. These rules may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a meeting called in accordance with the by-laws of this Section; or by a mail ballot, provided that (1) the request for such action be submitted to the Executive Committee in writing and signed by 15 members of the Section, (2) the total number of returned ballots be not less than 25% of the membership of the Section (3) two-thirds of the mailed ballots returned shall be in the affirmative.

The Role of the Bookseller*

By Jeremy North†

It is my understanding that a hundred years ago almost the only type of bookseller here in the South was the travelling bag-man or colporteur, who carried samples of his stock about with him from place to place. This proves beyond any doubt whatsoever that the original carpet-bagger was a bookseller. And since I am a bookseller who comes to the South from England but via the Yankee state of Rhode Island, I sincerely trust that I shall not prove to be the unpleasant type of carpet-bagger known to your history.

It is presumptuous of me to stand here and talk to you about "The Role of the Bookseller in Relation to the Librarian, the Researcher and the Collector." It is presumptuous of *any* bookseller to talk on this subject in purely philosophical terms, because — after all — a

bookseller sells books for a *living*, and not as a species of contribution to the public good. It is not much of a living, true. The old-fashioned sort of antiquarian and second-hand bookseller, to which tribe I count myself happy to belong, does not make much money; but he has a good deal of quiet enjoyment. I became a bookseller because — of all the many ways in which it is possible to struggle for a living — I think that bookselling is the most pleasant way of going bankrupt known to civilized man.

The bookseller is a queer sort of fish in modern waters. He labors under the handicap of exercising a profession which is not a profession, he works at a trade which is not a trade, and he conducts a business which it is impossible to make businesslike.

Bookselling is, as you know, a very ancient calling, trade or profession, and the history of bookselling is a fascinating and little-known subject. Indeed, the number of useful books on the subject can be counted on the fingers of an accident-prone circular saw operator.

The most amusing and illuminating memoirs of an old-time bookseller known to me are those of James Lackington, a battered copy of which has been with me some twenty years. Lackington opened his bookshop in a very mean street of London on Midsummer Day, 1774. You may be interested in learning what his stock on that opening day consisted of.

Fletcher's Checks to Antinomianism in five volumes, Watt's Improvement of the Mind, Young's Night Thoughts, Wake's Translation of the Apostolical Epistles, Fleetwood's Life of Christ, the first twenty members of Hinton's Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, some of Wesley's Journals and some of the pious Lives published by him. In addition a bagful of old books, chiefly divinity, purchased for a guinea from the friends of an holy brother lately gone to heaven.

The bias was certainly on the side of serious thinking, but fortunately for Lackington men were serious thinkers in his day. He put the value of his stock on opening day at five pounds — or about twenty dollars at the time. In the course of ten hard-working years this happy bookseller built up his business so assiduously and fortunately that by 1784 he was selling over one hundred thousand volumes a year. Even in an age when books were almost the only entertainment available, that is a vast turnover, and I doubt whether any second-hand bookseller today, anywhere, can boast of so large a yearly sale.

Lackington owed his success as a bookseller to two simple things: He paid better prices than anyone else when he bought, and he sold more cheaply than anyone else when he sold. You may be interested in learning his method of buying.

When I am called upon to purchase any library or parcel of books, either myself or my assistants carefully examine them, and if desired to fix a price, I mention at a word the utmost that I will give for them, which I always take care shall be as much as any bookseller

can afford to give. If the seller entertains any doubt respecting the price offered, and chooses to try other booksellers, he pays me five per cent for valuing the books; and as he knows what I have valued them at he tries among the trade, and when he finds that he cannot get any greater sum offered, on returning to me, he not only receives the price I at first offered, but also a return of the five per cent which was paid me for the valuation. But to such as fix a price on their own books I make no charge, either taking them at the price at which they are offered me, or if that appears too much, immediately declining the purchase.

This equitable mode I have the pleasure to find has given the public the utmost satisfaction.

I think you will agree with me that Lackington's method is about the fairest that could be devised in transactions of this sort. It could be practiced today with advantage whenever private persons dispose of their collections of books to a bookseller.

The bookseller and antiquarian was a power in the world of letters during the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries. He was not only a seller of books, he was usually also a publisher and, above all, a patron of writers. You will remember that the great bookseller Cave got Samuel Johnson his start as a hack-writer in London's Grub Street, and stood behind most of the great works which flowed from Johnson's somewhat indolent pen. And Dr. Johnson never forgot his debt to the booksellers.

You will also remember that the bookseller Constable spurred on Walter Scott in his fabulous career of writing for more money than anyone since has been able to make by his pen. What Scott as author, and Constable as publisher and bookseller, made out of that seemingly endless series, the *Waverley Novels*, would make small beer indeed of the combined earnings of *Gone With the Wind*, *From Here to Eternity* and *The Caine Mutiny*, including film and television play rights.

When Constable over-reached himself in 1825 and went bankrupt, he brought Scott down with him in the crash. Between them they owed an amount worth in today's money some three million dollars. You will recall that Scott spent the rest of his life writing hard to pay off his debts. And Constable, the bookseller, started again from scratch and founded the firm which is still one of the foremost in British publishing.

I have dwelt a little while on the past of bookselling, and bookseller because, of all callings, that of the antiquarian bookseller is *most deeply rooted in the past*. The antiquarian bookseller of our time daily handles (or, I hope, fondles) books which his colleagues of a hundred, two hundred or three hundred years ago, bought and sold, and which ordinary people or celebrities of those days used and cherished. No bookseller who has a modicum

of imagination can fail to win pleasure and zest from the close ties with men long dead which his calling gives him.

To get back to our own times. An antiquarian, or second-hand bookseller, *may be defined as one who keeps a transient hotel, as it were, for books passing from one owner to another.* However, he does not give house-room to *all* books. In that respect he is a good high step above the junk shop proprietor. The junk man takes in *all* books. The antiquarian bookseller is more selective.

Of the thousands of books which are published every year about 80% are unwanted, unhonoured and unsung as soon as the publisher's publicity drum ceases to reverberate. A good many of these books, perhaps, should never have been published at all. The remaining 20% — and that is a high and optimistic percentage — are more or less useful books, with a life span running to five, ten, twenty or even fifty years. And of these useful 20% there is a small select percentage of books — a very, very small percentage — which remain useful for a much longer period, some of them indeed, being immortal.

It is these useful books of all ages which form the mainstay of an antiquarian bookseller's stock, and he serves a useful purpose for the librarian, the researcher and the collector, in seeking them out and making them available.

I do not wish to minimize the possibilities of the junk shop. Many a man has found a treasure there, though the search is dusty, long and usually disappointing. But many more men have found treasures in antiquarian and second-hand bookshops, because no bookseller can be a specialist in all fields or subjects, and extreme bargains may be found in any bookshop by the person who has his wits about him.

The antiquarian bookseller, then, serves a useful purpose for the librarian, researcher and collector by finding, buying and stocking useful books, which cannot readily be found anywhere else. He also serves a useful purpose to those who own useful books by acting fairly and properly to those who wish to sell their books.

Of course the economics of bookselling are such that the private person wishing to sell, is almost always disappointed at the price offered by a bookseller. Everyone has a higher regard for his own property, his own collection of books, than anyone else could have.

Supposing that you spent twenty years, twenty intelligent years, in getting together a collection of books on the War Between the States, published in the South during the war. And supposing that at the end of twenty years your collection of such books numbers 500.

And now you want to break your heart by selling this prized collection. *What is it worth?* You remember that some of the items cost you a good deal of money. Others you were lucky

enough to pick up for a song. But think of the man-hours you spent during those twenty years, burrowing in junk shops, browsing in bookshops, travelling hundreds of miles to track down a rumour that someone had an interesting item in your field. When you consider all these things you may justifiably feel that your collection of Southern books about the War between the States is worth quite a bit of cold, hard, cash.

So you ask a second-hand bookseller to look at your collection and make you an offer. He comes along and inspects the collection and then makes his offer. Ten to one that offer will seem too small to you. Very possibly that bookseller is the wrong one for your collection, but if he is a good bookseller he can be helpful to you even if he is not interested in the subject of your collection, and has no customers sharing your interest.

When a specialized collection of this sort is to be sold it is best for the owner to bear in mind a number of points:

1. Most important: Remember that, in the case I have cited, you have had twenty years of pleasure out of your collection. Any doctor will say that an interesting hobby adds immeasurably to a man's well-being. So a collection of books cannot entirely be valued in money, even though many shrewd collectors get back much more than they laid out for their books.
2. Get a reputable bookseller to come and see the collection and make an offer. If he cannot see his way to make his offer high enough to agree with your own ideas, then discuss with your bookseller friend the possibilities of disposing of the collection at auction or by specialized catalogue, directed at libraries and private collectors interested in your field.
3. Thirdly: In case you are snatched away from this earth before you have sold your collection — leave your wife the names of librarians, booksellers and collectors who are most likely to take it off her hands at a fair price. Otherwise the poor woman, left alone with her memories and the collection, may dispose of the latter all too unwisely.

There have been, and for all I know, still are, too many unscrupulous persons on the fringes of bookselling, as there are in most fields. There are not many unscrupulous booksellers — proper booksellers — for they have bookshops and reputations to keep up. But there are and have always been, men on the fringes of bookselling who have made it their business to pay as little as possible for valuable books. In particular, New England, has been scoured thoroughly during the past fifty years, by men with a sharp nose for literary property of value, and a determination to get it for next to nothing.

Now I know at least three very pleasant and absolutely fair so-called book scouts, but some others working under that general title are a curse. Any of them have little or no knowledge or respect for books except for the "highlights" of Americana. They may come to a house and find, in a collection of a thousand books, perhaps ten or twelve interesting items of Americana. So they set a price on the whole lot based on what they know they can get from a bookseller or library for those ten or twelve items. In selling to such a person the seller cannot possibly get the best price, for the books are carted away, the ten or twelve "highlights" are sold to a bookseller or put up for auction, and the remaining nine hundred odd are sold cheaply to another bookseller. And because there may be among these books, several or many of far greater value than the ten or twelve of Americana, the former owner has had the worst end of the bargain.

Anyone who has a collection of books to sell, should call in a reputable bookseller. Using Lackington's eminently fair method, the bookseller will not object to the owner trying other booksellers for a better offer. The moral is, when selling books be sure of your man before you let them go to the first comer.

There are, of course, trade associations which safeguard the interest of both the public and the bookseller. I myself belong to the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, belatedly founded only a few years ago, and to the much older Antiquarian Bookseller's Association (International) of London. Membership in such associations guarantees that a bookseller is competent and just. It is common sense to turn to a bookseller whose reputation is vouched for by his membership in such an association, when a collection is to be sold.

Now, one of the most fascinating things about bookselling is the *Catalogue*. It is a great pleasure to compile a good Catalogue and to send it out over the country and abroad, hoping that it will do well. The days immediately following upon the launching of a catalogue are always filled with excitement. One hopes for a barrage of long-distance telephone orders, for swarms of Western Union telegraph boys, and for bags of mail.

But it is not only a pleasure to compile and issue a Catalogue. I, for one, think that a second-hand bookseller's catalogue is the most interesting of all reading matter. And many share my feeling. It is certain that the ranks of bookseller's Catalogues, many hundreds every year from England and America alone, are the most important ephemerae in the world of books. *For they are the stuff of living Bibliography.* Were you to arrange in some order every catalogue issued by every English and American bookseller over the past fifty years, you would probably come very close to having a *complete* Bibliography of every subject and author since books were printed in English.

The English bookseller favours the mixed catalogue, the miscellany, and some of them — bless their hearts — favour a little humour. I don't think that a little quiet humour is out of place in a book catalogue, and personally permit myself little asides in compiling the descriptions. I shall not forget the many appreciative remarks written to me after I described the condition of a copy of *Letters on Early Rising* as "weak at the joints."

I can quite understand that you librarians dislike the mixed catalogue or miscellany, since the haphazard arrangement makes your task of searching for wanted titles so much the harder than in a catalogue which is methodically arranged or is devoted to one subject. However the English booksellers are set in their old-fashioned ways and most of them persist in issuing miscellanea. Mind you I think that miscellany is the most enjoyable type of catalogue to browse through. One never knows what one will find next.

There it is, in a slightly tattered envelope. You take it out, and immediately you are seduced by a verbose and mellifluous title page. Something like this:

Catalogue Number 1367

Being a Gallimaufrey of choice and valuable books lately purchased from the Executors of the late Lord Featherstonehaugh of Barstow Castle . . . And including among upwards of fifteen hundred noteworthy items:

A SUPERB COPY OF THE GUTENBERG BIBLE in a state of freshness almost impossible to overpraise . . .

The excessively rare first edition of THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK, with copious annotations and corrections in Shakespeare's own hand . . .

The only known copy of A DISCOURSE OF PRINTING, from Caxton's press in 1477, and believed to be the first book to be printed in the English language . . .

A rich and varied collection of items of American interest, including Sir Walter Raleigh's *Manuscript* JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE INTO VIRGINIA . . . and a copy in almost pristine state of the celebrated BAY PSALM BOOK . . . together with a great many other items of the utmost choiceness . . . now offered for sale at moderate prices

What book lover can resist a catalogue of that sort? Every day of every year some English or American bookseller issues a catalogue. Perhaps they do not all contain treasures such as I have just announced, but it is certain that in every bookseller's catalogue there are wonderful books at bargain prices. Anyone who is seriously concerned with books, be he librarian, bookseller or collector, *must* take notice of antiquarian bookseller's catalogues, and constantly keep his eye in by reading them in search for wanted titles.

When I started issuing catalogues seven years ago I sent them to 600 university librarians. After about three years something like half these libraries had found something to buy — sometimes a nice fat order, sometimes a single useful book for a small sum. But there were still 300 libraries from whom I had heard nothing after I had sent them twelve to fifteen catalogues. So I wrote to these 300 librarians, asking if they wished to continue to receive my catalogues, and asking for some guidance as to their fields of interests, so that I could avoid sending them catalogues on subjects outside of their interests. I had many pleasant letters in return, but one particular answer caused me the utmost surprise and consternation. This librarian wrote, "We do not purchase from second-hand bookseller's catalogues, but rely entirely on bequests and gifts as regards out of print books."

Well, we all know that most university and public libraries are short of funds, like booksellers, but imagine running a library on the remote chance that gifts of books will fill out gaps in the collections and supply badly needed titles!

Finally, a few words about the value of books.

Booksellers — and librarians for that matter — are frequently approached by persons wishing to find out the value of a particular book in their possession. The commonest enquiry of this sort which comes to a bookseller is the dear old lady, or dear old gentleman, who comes in or writes in asking: "I have a Bible which has been in our family since 1840. My friends tell me that it may be very valuable. What is it worth?"

And dear old ladies or dear old gentlemen are always bitterly disappointed when you tell them that in 99 cases out of 100 a family Bible is only of value for sentimental and family reasons, and worth little or nothing to an outsider.

Another common enquiry runs along these lines: "I have a book published *over 200 years ago*. It seems to be a volume of sermons, and is in rather shabby condition, but so old a book must be worth quite a lot. What will you offer for it?"

As we know, age is not criterion of value in a book, excepting that *anything* from the very Dawn of Printing has a substantial intrinsic value. But the general public, even intelligent people, constantly confuse age with value, and are always disappointed when told that the treasure which they hold is not worth its weight in gold.

In making a valuation the Bookseller, like the librarian, has these things to go on:

1. Auction Records. What sort of prices has the book obtained during the last ten to fifteen years at Book Auctions in England and America.
2. His experience. A constant reading of a great many bookseller's catalogues gives one a pretty good idea of values.

In the case of a book important enough to have stood by itself at auction — but which has not actually appeared at auction — and which does not appear to have been listed in any Catalogue within memory — the Bookseller must base his valuation on the *probable importance* of the book to the right library or libraries, and the best thing he can do is to consult with the librarians most likely to be interested, to explore the extent of that interest. Between them, the librarian and the bookseller, will be able to arrive at a pretty fair sort of price for the owner.

But values and money are not, fortunately, everything in the business of bookselling. If that were the case I am sure that booksellers would be far more unpleasant, sharp and businesslike fellows than they really are.

A great deal of money has been made out of important books and literary properties, but only when extremely wealthy patrons — a J. P. Morgan for instance — backs the bookseller of his choice with unlimited capital.

If I had a quarter of a million dollars right now I am sure that I could double it in five or six years. I would search out and buy manuscript books of the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. They are beautiful things, there are not so very many of them left outside of libraries, they cannot be forged, and they can be bought now for not too excessive prices. If I were to scour the English and Continental dealers, laying out my quarter of a million dollars shrewdly during the next year or two, my stock of manuscript books of the Middle Ages would be unique in the world, and could not fail to appreciate very considerably in a few years.

But I am afraid that anyone able to back me with a quarter of a million dollars is more likely to play the stock market instead, so that I — like my bookseller colleagues — must forget the jam and concentrate on the bread and butter of bookselling — finding, buying and selling useful books at moderate prices.

I hope that you will drop in and see my bookshop whenever you are in Durham. In Rhode Island I could truthfully bill myself as "the most remotely situated Bookseller in America." I sold books from an island, with a \$2.50 ferry at one side and a \$1.50 toll bridge at the other. There are no such difficulties for anyone to look me up in Durham.

** Address before the College and University Libraries Section, North Carolina Library Association, High Point, N. C., October 21, 1955.*

† Mr. North owns the Friendship Bookshop, 1931 Chapel Hill Road, Durham, N. C.

Tar Heel Librarians

Dr. Susan Grey **AKERS** is traveling down to Salisbury for several days each week to catalog the books in the Rowan Memorial Hospital's School of Nursing.

Miss Carrie **BROUGHTON** will retire as State Librarian on June 30, 1956. Miss Broughton joined the State Library staff in 1902 and has been State Librarian since 1917.

Mrs. Blanche H. **CLEMENT**, librarian of the Davie County Library, Mocksville, is probably the first woman to be appointed as foreman of a Grand Jury in North Carolina.

Miss Nannie A. **CROWDER** resigned as part-time librarian of the Franklin County Library in Louisburg effective January 1.

Miss Frances Dill **GISH** was appointed field librarian of the North Carolina Library Commission January 1. Miss Gish comes to North Carolina from the Dalton Regional Library, Dalton, Georgia.

Mrs. Susan **GRAY** resigned, effective January 1, as field librarian in the North Carolina Library Commission. After February 15 she will be coordinator of services for the Durham Public Library.

Mrs. Elizabeth H. **HUGHEY** has been appointed as State Librarian effective July 1, 1956. Mrs. Hughey was selected by the State Library Board to head the reorganized agency which will include functions of the present State Library and of the North Carolina Library Commission.

Margaret **JOHNSTON** has resigned as librarian of the Haywood County Library, Waynesville, effective February 1. Miss Johnston will become librarian of the Rockingham County Library, Leaksville, on March 1.

Mrs. Bessie W. **SCOTT** has resigned her position with the North Carolina Library Commission to accept a position as first assistant in charge of extension in a public library in Ohio.

Miss Clyde **SMITH** was named "Wake County Woman of the Week" on the WRAL radio show "Woman's Magazine of the Air" on December 22.

Miss Ila Mae **TAYLOR** of Appalachian State Teacher's College, Boone, was married to John Mitchell **JUSTICE** in December.

A Thread in the Loom*

Carlyle J. Frarey

Associate Professor, School of Library Science University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Last spring, at a conference in Chapel Hill attended by practicing librarians and school teachers from all parts of the state, the participants reached general agreement on and mutual understanding of a number of problems relating to education for librarianship. Throughout the proceedings, however, they voiced frequently one common theme. There is need, the conferees agreed, for library schools to give more attention to developing a suitable "professional attitude" in library school students. The frequency with which this recommendation was made suggests rather pointedly that newly-trained librarians do not have a professional attitude, or, at least, do not have a sound one.

Cursory examination of library school programs offers substantial evidence that the schools have never disclaimed this responsibility and do, as a matter of course, give considerable attention to developing this elusive quality in their students. No doubt they have not always been successful. Nevertheless, without excusing the schools for any shortcomings in their methods, I have been wondering recently whether this seeming lack of sound professional attitudes in the young may not perhaps reflect a diminution of good professional attitudes in the older members of the profession — at least in some of them. I think perhaps it does, for the young in our society learn from their elders, and if the model falls short of perfection, the copy is likely to exhibit the same defects.

What do we mean by professional attitude? It is not easy to define something which is both abstract and necessarily complex, but it may be possible to summarize it in a meaningful way. If so, I would describe professional attitude as the conscious, willing acceptance of responsibility to be active in helping to build a society within which individual members have the widest opportunities for self-realization and the "good life," and to assist the individuals who comprise this society to achieve the maximum self-realization of which they are capable. Such an attitude requires that one's own ambitions be subordinated to the common good and that one's own efforts be directed as much or more to the improvement of the other fellow's lot as they are to the improvement of one's own. The professional person is dedicated to giving service to his fellow men in order that they may realize the best that is in them, and such dedication is a characteristic of every profession, be it medicine, law, education, social work, or librarianship.

It is not surprising that this responsibility of the professional person has become somewhat obscured in a society which has, for a generation or more, attached more importance to material gains than to immaterial values. It would be disturbing, however, if the

professionals in our society were not to call attention to the dangers in this one-sided development of society and to do what they can to restore a proper balance between the material and non-material aspects of life. On the whole, the record of librarians in describing the dangers and in working to restore balance is a good one. Even so, it seems to me that there are some evidences of chinks in our professional integrity, gaps, if you will, in our professional attitude which we ought to repair before they develop into major breaks.

Three of the most pernicious chinks are my concern in this paper. They are 1) professional apathy, 2) preoccupation with status, and 3) confusion of objectives. Let us examine the evidence for each in order to identify our shortcomings and thus be able better to correct them.

There are several disturbing signs of professional apathy among librarians. First in importance, perhaps, is a widespread lack of interest in the profession as a whole. In part this is reflected by the surprising failure of many librarians to belong to, support, and participate in the activities of the several professional associations, often on the grounds that "I get nothing out of belonging." (It is interesting to note here the subordination of the common good to individual gain.) In part, this lack of interest in the profession as a whole is reflected in the atomization of the professional associations into smaller interest groups. Special interest groups are both desirable and necessary in the larger professional associations, for only through such organizations is it possible for the individual member to participate fully in the affairs of the larger body. However, all too frequently such special interest groups are organized solely on the basis of a presumed need to give special attention to special problems and without recognition of or concern for the multitude of problems which are, or ought to be, the common concern of all librarians, regardless of their special interests. Evidence of this atomization can be found in the rapid growth in recent years of the several divisions and sections of the American Library Association, the multiplication of library associations, and the popularity of splinter groups, for example, the documentalists. Even library school teachers are guilty, for they have two professional associations for their relatively small segment of the profession: the Association of American Library Schools which admits personal members, and the Library Education Division of the American Library Association which is, of course, not limited just to library school teachers. The fault does not lie so much in the multiplication of these groups as it does in the tendency of many librarians to identify themselves so particularly with the special interest group, the state or regional association, or the segment of the national associations that they lose sight of common needs and goals and fail to work together most effectively to achieve them.

A second sign of professional apathy is our attitude toward recruiting new members for the profession. How often we all deplore the scarcity of able young people training for librarianship; how little most of us do actively to remedy the situation! The problem of recruiting is not a simple one to solve. It has been with us for many years. It cannot be said that maximum effort has been directed to its solution, for our typical response is to dismiss recruiting as a personal concern and assign it to a committee. A less apathetic professional group might accept the problem as an individual challenge as well as a collective one when confronted with a wealth of evidence that the committee technique alone is not likely to solve it.

A rather negative attitude toward education for librarianship is a third disturbing manifestation of professional apathy. There is abroad in the land much uninformed and non-constructive criticism of the patterns of formal training for librarians developed by the library schools during the last decade. Such criticism, moreover, is often accompanied by a surprising lack of concern and even disdain for any helping to improve them. The schools have expressed their interest in cooperation with the practicing members of the profession in their efforts to design the most effective training programs to achieve mutual objectives repeatedly, yet positive suggestions for improvement in the educational programs and active cooperation by libraries and librarians with the schools to obtain this end are rarer than they ought to be.

And, fourth, many of us simply fail to keep up with our profession — to read and to be informed about new developments and new ideas in library service. We have a responsibility as individual members of the profession to take part in exploring new ideas and testing their validity, and in forging from the new and the old better professional library service than our predecessors were able to furnish. Education for librarianship does not end with the award of a certificate or a degree; it is a life-long process. The responsibilities which we accept as librarians to help others achieve their greatest potential in society are grave ones requiring humility, sympathy, understanding, and knowledge. We need to cultivate and develop these qualities throughout our lives.

In this connection it might be well to recall Sir Francis Bacon's admonition which appears at the head of the editorial page in each issue of *The Publishers' Weekly*. How many of us have ever noticed it there, or pondered its meaning if ever we read it?

I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor themselves, by way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereunto.

Professional literature, some programs and discussions at conference meetings, and on-the-job attitudes of many of us afford ample evidence that we librarians are tending to become overly-preoccupied with our status. In forging a truly professional library service, library administrators, personnel officers, and library school instructors, among others, have given close attention to the need to distinguish between professional and non-professional activities in libraries. Such differentiation is essential to effective and economical library services and is necessary to the definition of the profession of librarianship itself. Apparently the emphasis placed upon this distinction has been in part misunderstood. I have heard several employers comment upon the attitudes of their newer and younger employees toward professional and non-professional work. Some younger librarians are reported to have refused to perform any duties which might be considered non-professional even when such activities constitute only a minor and truly insignificant portion of their work assignments. This is real failure to understand the reasons for the distinction and reflects a poor comprehension of the whole work of the librarian. Inevitably all of us must carry on some "non-professional" activities in order to carry out our "professional" responsibilities, and it is neither realistic nor defensible to insist that so sharp a division be made here that one's status is impaired if any "non-professional" work of any kind remains a part of one's duties. Such an attitude also belittles the real contributions to good library service made by our non-professional employees.

The relatively poor economic status of librarians compared with that enjoyed by some other groups in our society, and the false values which society has attached to material gains have resulted in many demands by librarians for higher salaries, shorter working hours and longer vacations. Certainly improved economic status for the librarian is essential to good library service, but all too often these demands emphasize personal gain alone and fail to recognize that any benefit or privilege realized carries with it a responsibility. More money for less work should produce better work, yet there seems to be little thought by many of those who seek these benefits that this is a concomitant condition. Demands from academic librarians that they be granted "faculty status" do not often carry assurance that the librarians are prepared to accept all of the consequences of such status, including the onerous burden of committee assignments which is the typical lot of the faculty member in most American colleges and universities.

There is also a disturbing sign of preoccupation with status in the increasing insistence upon special recognition for the school librarian, the special librarian, and others, often accompanied by demands for special training programs to prepare these people for their assignments, even if such training must be given at the expense of fundamental general education, long thought to be an essential for good library service.

Lest these remarks be misunderstood, I hasten to add that I have no quarrel with a realistic distinction between professional and non-professional duties, with adequate salaries, fair working hours, and generous vacations, nor with legitimate efforts to improve one's status. As a profession we should work collectively and individually as much for the betterment of our fellows in librarianship as for the welfare of society generally, but we must not lose sight of our responsibility in the process. Improved status is a valid gain only when it enables us to do our job in society better; it is invalid when it is sought for purely selfish ends.

The third chink in our professional attitude was described as a confusion of objectives. While great clarification of our objectives has taken place through the years, there is still much room for improvement. The materials of our profession — books, papers, pamphlets, magazines, and other graphic, pictorial, and now sound records of civilization — are intended to be used. If they were not so intended, there would be no need to preserve them and pass them along to future generations. Yet there are many among us still who subscribe only half-heartedly or not at all to this *raison d'être* for librarianship: the cataloger who obscures the content and usefulness of a book in order to make his description of it conform precisely to a code of rules; the curator of a special collection who impounds the materials entrusted to his keeping in a vault so as to preserve them from use; the head of circulation services who restricts access to library collections for purely administrative reasons, because management is easier that way; the interlibrary loan librarian who refuses to borrow or lend materials for the use of others because the reasons for borrowing or lending do not conform precisely to the provisions of the interlibrary loan code; the librarian who squanders his financial resources on collections which would be nice to have but for which there is neither a demonstrable local need nor any regional or national responsibility to collect them. In fact, any librarian who establishes a practice which interferes with the fullest possible usefulness of his collections and who justifies his action on the grounds that his way is easier or less troublesome than some other and who does not consider and weigh judiciously all the effects of his decision upon the use of his library is guilty of confusing the objectives of library service. He also demonstrates his lack of a sound professional attitude.

And now these remarks have become a sermon. Even the text is from theological sources. The late Henry Ward Beecher once interpolated the following extemporaneous thought into one of his sermons:

He who is false to present duty breaks a thread in the loom and will find the flaw when he may have forgotten its cause.

Since the records do not show which sermon was thus amended, it has not been possible to identify the particular sin which exercised Beecher. It may have been indifference. But I

think his thought may have some real meaning today with reference to this matter of professional attitude.

There are those among us who lose interest in our work, who become clock-watchers, and who, among friends at least, express dissatisfaction with what we are doing. The library is our "office," and we consider it in that light. We live not for the hours of work, but for the hours of leisure, not for the majority of the year, but rather for the vacation respite. We become unhappy and frustrated, and we blame our work or our working conditions for our unhappiness and dissatisfaction. We become apathetic about our profession, overly-concerned with our position within it, and confused about our aims, our objectives and our responsibilities.

Let us rephrase Dr. Beecher. He who does not cultivate and maintain a sound professional attitude contributes to his own dissatisfaction with his work and to the potential decline and increasing ineffectiveness of his profession within the society it serves. He observes and decries the results without recognizing that he has himself contributed to bringing about the very conditions he deplores. A poor professional attitude is like the broken thread in the loom. It results in a second-rate and unsatisfactory product.

Librarianship is certainly a long way from deteriorating into a second-rate profession, but the concern about unsatisfactory professional attitudes now often expressed by many librarians suggests rather forcefully that we had better take another look at ourselves and repair our professional faults in order to make sure that our libraries continue to serve effectively that society which supports them and of which they are an important part.

** Talk delivered at the Commencement luncheon of the UNC School of Library Science Alumni Association, Chapel Hill, 4 June 1955, and at the breakfast meeting of the Junior Members Roundtable, North Carolina Library Association, High Point, 22 October 1955.*

Visiting Celebrities

[Photograph: Two side-by-side photographs. Left: two women in conversation, one wearing glasses. Right: two men in suits, one facing the other. Caption reads: "Visiting Celebrities." No photographer credit given.]

Adding greatly to the personal as well as the professional benefits derived from the conference was the participation by the nationally known visitors shown above. Miss Julia Bennett, Director of the Washington office of the American Library Association, was the

speaker at the Public Libraries and Trustees Sections luncheon. Mrs. Orcena Mahoney, Executive Secretary of the ALA Division of Cataloging and Classification, spoke to the Catalog Section. Our own Dr. Ben Powell served as official host to the speaker at the first General Session, Dr. L. Quincy Mumford, Librarian of Congress and past-president of the American Library Association.

Notable Books of 1955

The following books were chosen by the Notable Books Council, Public Library Division, American Library Association. The list was announced at the Midwinter meeting of ALA.

Allen, G. W., *Solitary Singer*, Macmillan Anderson, Erica, *World of Albert Schweitzer*, Harper
Barth, Alan, *Government by Investigation*, Viking Bates, Marston, *Prevalence of People*,
Scribner Bishop, J. A., *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*, Harper Bourlière, François, *Mammals of
the World, Their Life and Habits*, Knopf Bowles, Chester, *New Dimensions of Peace*, Harper
Bridgeman, William, *The Lonely Sky*, Henry Holt Burrows, Millar, *Dead Sea Scrolls*, Viking
Carson, Rachel, *The Edge of the Sea*, Houghton Mifflin Chase, Gilbert, *America's Music
from the Pilgrims to the Present*, McGraw-Hill Chase, M. E., *Life and Language in the Old
Testament*, W. W. Norton Clifford, J. L., *Young Sam Johnson*, McGraw-Hill Davenport, R. W.,
The Dignity of Man, Harper De Santillana, George, *The Crime of Galileo*, Univ. of Chicago De
Voto, Bernard, *The Easy Chair*, Houghton Mifflin Fine, Benjamin, *1,000,000 Delinquents*,
World Fromm, Erich, *The Sane Society*, Rinehart Goodenough, E. R., *Toward a Mature Faith*,
Prentice-Hall Gunther, John, *Inside Africa*, Harper Hachiya, Michihiko, *Hiroshima Diary*,
University of North Carolina Press Hanson, Lawrence, *Noble Savage*, Random Herberg,
Will, *Protestant, Catholic, Jew*, Doubleday Hoyle, Fred, *Frontiers of Astronomy*, Harper
Irvine, William, *Apes, Angels and Victorians*, McGraw-Hill Jackson, R. H., *The Supreme
Court in the American System of Government*, Harvard University Press Life Magazine, *The
World We Live In*, Simon and Schuster Lindbergh, A. M., *Gift from the Sea*, Pantheon
Luethy, Herbert, *France Against Herself*, Frederick A. Praeger MacGowan, Kenneth, *The
Living Stage*, Prentice-Hall Markandaya, Kamala, pseud., *Nectar in a Sieve*, John Day Millar,
G. R., *Crossbowman's Story of the First Exploration of the Amazon*, Knopf N. Y. Museum of
Modern Art, *The Family of Man*, Simon and Schuster Niebuhr, Reinhold, *The Self and the
Drama of History*, Scribner Oldenbourg, Zoé, *The Cornerstone*, Pantheon Peterson, R. T.,
Wild America, Houghton Mifflin Phillips, Wendell, *Qataban and Sheba*, Harcourt
Reischauer, E. O., *Wanted: an Asian Policy*, Knopf Tenzing Norgay, *Tiger of the Snows*, G. P.
Putnam's Sons Trilling, Lionel, *The Opposing Self*, Viking Tunnard, Christopher, *American
Skyline*, Houghton Mifflin Van der Post, Laurens, *The Dark Eye in Africa*, William Morrow
Walker, R. L., *China Under Communism*, Yale University Press Weeks, Edward, *The Open*

Heart, Little, Brown West, Rebecca, A Train of Powder, Viking White, Walter, How Far the Promised Land? Viking

Help Needed On Annotated List of North Carolina Fiction

The Joint Committee of NCLA and NCETA have begun work on an annotated list of fiction about North Carolina. The first step is a preliminary listing of titles which will be considered. The Committee would like volunteers from NCLA who would be willing to check this preliminary list indicating any omissions and suggesting which titles listed should be omitted. Librarians will find a good list a needed reference tool. Let's help the Committee make it a good list. Send a postal to the Chairman, Professor Richard Walser, P. O. Box 5308, Raleigh, North Carolina, saying you will be glad to check the list.

NCLA Executive Board, 1955–1957

[Photograph: Eight people posed around a table at the close of the 1955 Conference. Four are seated in the foreground and four stand behind. Photograph by Sam Boone.]

The members of the Executive Board of the North Carolina Library Association for the next two years paused for this picture at the close of the 1955 Conference: *(seated)* Marjorie Hood, Treasurer; Mae Tucker, Corresponding Secretary; Olan V. Cook, President; Celeste Johnston, Recording Secretary; *(standing)* Marianna Long, Second Vice-President; Charles M. Adams and Elaine von Oesen, Directors; and Mrs. Vernelle G. Palmer, First Vice-President and President Elect. Miss Charlesanna Fox, Past-President, and Harlan C. Brown, ALA Councilor, are also members of the Executive Board.

Directory Issue

Plans are underway to include a directory of the members of the North Carolina Library Association in the April issue of *North Carolina Libraries*. Please check the mailing label on this issue for any error. Also check to see that your dues have been paid. Dues and corrections should be sent to Miss Marjorie Hood, Treasurer NCLA, The Woman's College Library, Greensboro.

North Carolina Literary Awards, 1955

The following Tar Heels were awarded prizes during the annual observance of "Culture Week" in Raleigh early in December: Professor Jay B. Hubbell of Duke University won the Mayflower Cup for non-fiction for *The South in American Literature*. The winner of the Sir Walter Raleigh award for fiction was Mrs. Frances Gray Patton with *Good Morning, Miss Dove*. Ruth and Latrobe Carroll, of Asheville, won the A. A. U. W. award for the best juvenile for *Digby, the Only Dog*. The Smithwick Cup given for state and local history went to Mrs. Ethel W. Arnett for *Greensboro, North Carolina, The County Seat of Guilford*. No award for poetry was made this year.

The Editor's Book Notes

Governor Tryon and His Palace, by Alonzo Thomas Dill. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1955. 304 pp. \$5.00

The title of this book is somewhat misleading. The book is a well documented and very readable history of eastern North Carolina in the colonial and revolutionary periods. New Bern and events therein are most fully described, but the action takes the reader from the Virginia line to Charleston and west to Orange, Rowan and Mecklenburg counties. The author is most skillful in the use of quotations, giving the reader an impression of reading eye-witness accounts without the disadvantage of colonial type (or script) in faded ink on yellowed pages.

"Documentary Notes" for each chapter identify the principal sources of information, frequently describe the contents of manuscript sources, and refer the student to additional material. An excellent bibliography lists unpublished material under the institutions owning it and locates newspapers and periodicals of the period. The index is very detailed.

Every library in North Carolina will find this book a useful addition to its history collection.

Greensboro, North Carolina, The County Seat of Guilford, by Ethel Stephens Arnett; written under the direction of Walter Clinton Jackson. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1955. 492 pp. \$6.00

A great deal of research has preceded the writing of this history of Greensboro and Guilford County. The bits and pieces of North Carolina history which can in any way be related to this geographic section are presented in topical chapters. The most popular chapter will probably be "In Times of War." Here Mrs. Arnett has succeeded in obtaining a narrative

quality absent from other chapters. Of some interest to librarians is the chapter captioned "The Press and Creative Writers." The first portion includes brief histories of early Greensboro newspapers evidently based on both examination of existing files and evaluations by other historians. The rest of the chapter is devoted to the mention of authors having any connection with Greensboro whether birth or a few years residence, listing titles, but no dates, and quoting an occasional sentence of evaluation from a literary critic.

Local history writing is a difficult task. Mrs. Arnett's competence in this field has been recognized by the award of the Smithwick Cup for state and local history for 1955. One of the pitfalls of a local historian is the free use of "firsts" and "one of the bests." Unless such statements are made in the reviewer's field, errors are not readily noted. Mrs. Arnett erred in stating that the Greensboro Public Library had "the first bookmobile south of Maryland." Guilford county's first bookmobile, as she states, was purchased in October 1926 (with receipts from the dog tax). Durham County had the first bookmobile in North Carolina. It was called "Miss Kiwanis," after the club which donated it, and was put in operation in October of 1923.

There are no footnotes and the text does not always make clear the source of information. There is a bibliography of sources including other histories, unpublished manuscripts, newspapers and periodicals. The appendix lists postmasters, mayors and city council members, ministers and presidents of the Chamber of Commerce. It also includes statistical tables and information about banks and other businesses omitted in the main body of the book, special celebrations, natural calamities and distinguished visitors.

The UNC Press has produced a very handsome volume, with a well-constructed binding and good print on ecru paper. Only the end-papers strike a discordant note.

A Check List of Legislative Journals Issued Since 1937 by the States of the United States of America, by William R. Pullen. Chicago: American Library Association, 1955. 68 pp. \$2.00

This chronological listing of state legislative journals is a needed supplement to Macdonald's *Checklist* published in 1938. The entries are chronologically arranged under each state's legislature and contain the dates of the session, name of the session, pages and volumes in printed journals, and the name of the issuing house.

Legislative journals are an important source of political history and frequently include documents not published as separates. Dr. Pullen's *Check List* is a welcome and valuable tool for all libraries which have state legislative documents. As head of the documents department of the University of North Carolina Library, the author was well aware of the need for this checklist. He has done an excellent job of it.

School Library News Notes

By Cora Paul Bomar*

"Let's Visit School Libraries" is the title of the 25 minute color film that has been produced by the Department of Public Instruction. It presents a cross section of North Carolina school libraries — how they are planned, organized, and operated. All scenes are actual situations taken in nine school systems from the mountains to the sea. Several hundred people were in on the planning, filming, and editing of this documentary production. It was directed by Cora Paul Bomar and Celeste Johnston, school library advisers and by James M. Dunlap, former adviser in Resource-Use Education. Mrs. Mary P. Douglas served as library consultant. The premier showing of this film was held at Mars Hill early in August during the statewide superintendents' conference. Miss Bomar and Miss Johnston are planning regional in-service study meetings at which librarians and supervisors will have an opportunity to see the film and assist in working out a study guide. This is a teaching film designed to be used by both lay and professional groups.

A four-way switch is in the making in North Carolina. It began when a leave was granted Margaret E. Kalp, Associate Professor in the School of Library Science, University of North Carolina, for the spring term of 1956 in order that she might continue work at the Graduate Library School in Chicago for the PhD degree. Cora Paul Bomar, State School Library Adviser for North Carolina, was invited to replace Miss Kalp for the spring term. This in turn meant a temporary replacement for Miss Bomar's position in the Department of Public Instruction. Present plans are for Eunice Query of the Library Science Department at Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, N. C., to be Acting State School Library Adviser while Mrs. Eloise Camp Melton (former State School Library Adviser now living at Boone) teaches Miss Query's courses at Appalachian State Teachers College. Perhaps after June 1 a report will be in order to tell about the benefits of this exchange program within a state.

School library supervision on the local level is increasing in North Carolina. 26 of the 174 school administrative units now have this service. Mt. Airy City, Salisbury City, Asheville City and Forsyth County added school library supervisors this year.

Charlotte City School libraries are well staffed this year. The school library supervisor has under her supervision 43 full-time certified school librarians. This is an average of one full-time librarian for every 20–25 classroom teachers.

Mrs. Vernelle Palmer, Library Consultant for the Salisbury Schools and Librarian of Boyden High School, has an article, "Termpaper Teamwork," in the October 15 issue of *Library Journal*. This is an interesting description of cooperative planning of teachers and librarians in helping students develop good research habits.

* *State School Library Adviser, Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh.*

A Glimpse of Library Conditions in Iran in 1954/55

By Susan Grey Akers*

[Photograph: Dr. Susan Grey Akers at a podium, speaking at the North Carolina Library Association conference, High Point, October 22, 1955. The text of the article begins to the right of the photograph on the original page.]

Before attempting to give you a brief account of my experience in teaching library work in Iran it seems necessary to try to outline the frame in which it was done, to tell you something of conditions in general in Iran. It is a beautiful country if one likes rugged brown mountains and desert and deep blue sky. Much of it is mountainous with altitudes varying from 4,000 to 12,000 feet, hence planes fly nearer the earth than in countries of lower altitudes; especially is this true of Iranian Airways as they do not have the oxygen equipment to fly above 10,000 feet. Prominent in the landscape as seen from a plane are the underground water canals, *kanats*, resembling strings of giant ant-hills.

My work was done in Tehran, the capital, population 990,000 and Shiraz, population 129,023. These population figures may give you an erroneous impression, if you have not been in Iran. One expects large stores with merchandise in general use by peoples everywhere, traffic control, etc. Small stores or shops abound in Tehran and there are many "sidewalk merchants." An extreme case was a young boy who spread out a paper or old cloth and displayed his stock of English walnuts in groups of three; having perhaps a total of 100 to 150 nuts. I once counted an old man's stock of cookies displayed on a tray, by which he sat. There were twenty-five. More ambitious "sidewalk merchants" have shelves which they fasten to, or lean against, a wall. Then they spread out their motley merchandise: perhaps a dozen cakes of palm olive toilet soap, a few boxes of toothpaste, bath towels, men's ties. At dark the shelves are lighted more brightly than the surrounding area by one or two oil lanterns hung above them from the wall. All homes and institutions are surrounded by mud walls, 10–15 feet high, with a door, or in some instances a gate. So one walks along walls, with occasional glimpses into gardens and courts.

Tehran is in process of installing a water system, meantime open sewers (*jubes*) run through the city. The water, which comes from the nearby Elburz Mountains, is turned on at intervals during the day and rushes through these sewers. The Koran states that running water is pure, the poorer people use this *jube* water for all purposes. There are also many water carts in the streets from which purer water may be bought. The horses which draw the water carts frequently have blue beads strung across their foreheads to keep off the evil eye. Some have mane and tail dyed with henna or have henna spots painted all over their bodies. Henna is thought to give beauty and strength. Many women henna their hair or a lock of it. Some men henna their beards and hair.

In addition to the cars and horse drawn water carts, there are horse drawn *droshkies* (which are no longer the carriages of the wealthy but have become the conveyances of the poor for hauling such things as lumber, vegetables, or taking their families from place to place). There are a few handcarts and innumerable donkeys with feed bags around their necks and often attractively embroidered saddle bags or sacks on their backs. There are pedestrians and every now and then, a flock of turkeys or sheep, or a string of camels.

Many of the uneducated women of Iran, especially the older ones, continue to wear the *chuddar*, the long, full mantle which covers them from head to toe. Once I saw a woman in a *chuddar* having difficulty lighting her cigarette from a cigarette lighter while holding the *chuddar* across her chin with one hand. Tribesmen are occasionally seen with their head and waist shawls to use the language of *Haji Baba*. *Mullahs* with their flowing robes and turbans of white or black wound on their heads are numerous. The majority of the people wear western dress.

Traffic laws have been passed and are beginning to be respected and policemen are being trained. Streets are broad and paved, i.e. the avenues, or *khibanis*, which are intersected by narrow paved or unpaved alleys, or *kutches*. Electric street lights make the streets fairly light at night. Corrugated iron shutters, fastened with padlocks, are pulled down over windows and doors whenever a shop is closed, as is done in many countries.

Transportation and communication are yet in the early stages of development. Railroads connect a few of the larger cities, but because of their lack of suitable facilities are rarely used by foreigners. Railroad development was delayed by the pressure of other more powerful countries. Railroads running north and south would have suited the Russians and railroads running west and east would have suited the British. Each opposed railroads running in the direction which would have suited the other. Hard surfaced highways are recent conveniences. There is one running east from Tehran for at least thirty miles; another goes part of the way from Tehran south to Isfahan and Shiraz. Many roads are just trails through the sand. The larger cities have telegraph connections, but they are slow. A

telegram sent from Shiraz to Tehran, a distance of about 450 miles as the crow flies, takes a couple of days. Mail is also very slow, but with few or no trains between points, poor roads, and planes landing only at a few of the cities, what else can one expect.

One of the things about Iran that strikes a newcomer most is the number of holidays which the Iranians observe. Almost all of them are connected with the Mohammedan religion and are solemn or sad holidays. One celebration goes back to Zoroastrianism, the dominant religion until Iran was conquered by the Arabs about 650 A.D. On the eve of the last day of the old year, which comes in March, the custom of building a bonfire and jumping over it to cleanse one of evil is still observed by many of the uneducated people of Iran. And the educated ones frequently give parties that evening and carry out the old ritual. On leaving the University of Tehran campus that evening I observed small bonfires burning on top of the two entrance pillars, and my interpreter explained that was because of the Zoroastrian custom. On the thirteenth day of the New Year practically everyone leaves his home for a day in the open and a picnic lunch. This custom originated in ancient times when the thirteenth was considered an unlucky day. It gives the evil spirits a chance to enter and leave the premises while the family is away.

Other holidays commemorate the anniversaries of the birth and death of Mohammed, the birthdays of some of the twelve Imams, the birthday of the Shah. New Year's, *No Ruz*, is the happy Iranian holiday. It lasts about a month and seems to involve new outfits for each member of the family, or at least for each of the children; gifts for the family, especially the children; and spring housecleaning. The most solemn celebration is *Ramazan*, which lasts a month. During that time one fasts from dawn to dusk. This period, too, is observed by the uneducated and poorer people rather than the educated ones. The last day of *Ramazan* is a holiday of rejoicing. Planning a course of study in Iran involves taking cognizance of all these holidays and remembering that Friday is the Mohammedan Sabbath.

An interesting interruption to our library workshop in Shiraz was the five-day visit of the Shah and Queen. The Shah came to dedicate the Namazi Medical Center, the new cement factory, etc. The preceding weeks the city authorities and the Namazi Medical Center authorities made and unmade plans *ad infinitum*. Triumphant arches, with representations of Darius and other figures associated with nearby Persepolis were made, gilded, and hung with Persian carpets. Persian carpets were hung as decorations over the fronts of many buildings and spread on the steps, especially of those buildings the Shah and Queen were to enter. The Shiraz officials borrowed about a dozen of the OMI (Operation Mission Iran) jeeps and painted out the U. S. A. markings on them and painted on: Shiraz Police Department. (That was just to make a good showing. The jeeps were no doubt returned

afterwards, but it was left to the Americans to have "Shiraz Police Department" painted out and the proper designation put on again.)

Not only important Iranians came down from Tehran for the Shah's visit, but also important Americans from the Embassy and Point Four, so there were few available cars for the Americans working in Shiraz. Furthermore, taxis were not allowed on any street on which the Shah was expected to pass and this was effective for some time before he was due. Hotel Park Saadi (named after the poet, Saadi) was utilizing every bed; so I was asked (through an American who lived in the hotel, as Iranians do not like to do unpleasant things and would be embarrassed to ask me) to give up my room. I moved to the McAfee's who lived in a large compound across the river (river bed would be more accurate as it is perfectly dry for the greater part of the year). It was an interesting walk across the river bed from which mountains could be seen in the distance. I passed flocks of goats and their herdsmen, clad in typical eastern dress, and saw hordes of women washing clothing at a creek near the McAfee's.

All of the Americans were invited to the dedications, which included the capping of the nurses at the Namazi Medical Center by the Queen, followed by a buffet dinner in the garden of the Municipal Building. (Their highnesses promenaded through the garden and then went inside for their dinner while we had ours in the garden.)

All things are done indirectly in Iran and one must go through proper channels. I was to be reminded of this many times. The State Department suggested that I go to Iran about the first of October, as the University began about the first of November and I should need to find out about conditions and make my preparations. On October 29th, at the conference which Mr. Angel of the U. S. Department of Archives and I had with the registrar and the professor in charge of the Institute of Library Science and Archives at the University of Tehran, we were asked if we would like to postpone the opening of our courses until later, so that we could invite our American friends. We said we should prefer to have the first meeting on the 30th, as had been previously agreed.

The Institute was for only six months, but my grant from the State Department was "for not more than nine months" so it was decided that I should stay on if other library opportunities occurred as there is much to be done for Iranian libraries. The U. S. Information Service Librarian, Miss Martha Guse, was told when she was in Shiraz in the fall that the Director of Education would like to see the staff of the Shiraz National Library have some training. In February the Director of the new Namazi Medical Center came to Tehran to ask Miss Guse if she could train a couple of girls on his staff to care for the School of Nursing Library and the library for the doctors. He also wanted help in planning for the equipment for these libraries, which must have the appearance of libraries when the Shah came to dedicate the

Center. She and I went to Shiraz and during our brief stay the library-minded dean of the Medical Faculty of Shiraz brought together the Director of Education, the Director of the Center, some of the Point Four people to meet with us. The result was that I was asked to come down in May to hold a library institute or workshop.

Miss Khachaturian, Assistant Librarian of the U. S. I. S. Library in Tehran, an Iranian, went with me to Shiraz and served as interpreter and assistant. The Workshop was held in the reading room of the National Library. The library was closed so that we might use the room and all of the members of the library staff might attend the workshop.

We had twenty-one students. They were from the Namazi Medical Center, Shiraz National Library, Medical Faculty Library, an agricultural school, a school for teachers, and elementary and secondary schools. Their formal academic education ranged from a ninth grade graduate to one who had a master's degree, but the majority had only a ninth grade education. We brought mimeographed materials, which had been translated into Farsi; library films and filmstrips, which showed U. S. libraries in action; and some American books on library science. We offered three courses: library administration (which included one lesson each on the principle of book selection and on reference work), classification according to the Dewey Decimal Classification (as this system was already in use in a few Iranian libraries), and cataloging. Miss Khachaturian and another Iranian, who is especially interested in school libraries, had visited book shops in Tehran and made a list of the most suitable books available, for recommendation to school librarians. We distributed this list to the students and bought some of the books for the students to use in their work.

Our schedule was: class in classification or cataloging from 8:00 to 9:15 a.m., time out for tea (which we had with the Director of the National Library and sometimes his first assistant, there are always social gradations to be observed), practice work for about an hour and a half, a shorter break, then the class in administration. We adjourned at noon. At 2:00 p.m. Miss Khachaturian and I would come back to the library to revise the student's work and make the necessary preparations for the afternoon's work and that of the next morning. The students returned at 4:00 p.m. and had two hours of practice work in connection with the administration course. This might consist of drawing a plan of their libraries showing the location of the doors and windows and how the furniture was placed or processing a book aside from the classification and cataloging. Some afternoons we had only a short practice period followed by the showing of a film or filmstrip at one of the Point Four buildings.

Because the number of holidays in Iran equals the number of varieties of Heinz' pickles, in the three weeks' workshop there was only one period of five consecutive days of work. In theory we met daily, Saturday through Thursday, as Friday is the Mohammedan Sabbath.

We were very much pleased with the interest of the students and the regularity of their attendance (not an Iranian attribute). Everyone came every day and practically on time, with only an occasional, unavoidable absence. The morning that the Shah and Queen and their retinue arrived by plane, we had no classes as we knew that, following the Iranian custom, the students would want to go to the airport. To our delight they asked if they could come an hour earlier that afternoon so as not to miss too much work!

The books in the Medical Faculty and the Namazi Medical Center are American books, hence the students from those institutions necessarily had to learn to classify and catalogue books in English. Some of them read, wrote, and spoke English quite well; others knew little or no English. The students from the other institutions worked only with books in their own language, Farsi. I presented the topics in English and Miss Khachaturian interpreted them, which meant that most of the time I said a sentence or two, then she translated it. We wrote on the blackboard a great deal; dividing the board into two sections. I wrote in English, she in Farsi, with some good natured chaffing when I took more than my share, which frequently occurred as English writing takes more space than Farsi. In the practice work Miss Khachaturian took charge of the fourteen students who worked with Farsi books and I worked with the seven who used English books. When necessary I utilized as interpreter a student who worked with Farsi books but who taught English literature and spoke rather good English.

For the practice work we used the books in the National Library, a case of 99 paper-backed books which the U. S. I. S. Library in Tehran gave us. We could borrow books and periodicals from the Medical Faculty Library, a fact which shows the generosity and progressive spirit of Dr. Ghorban, the dean. Iranian libraries are just beginning to permit books to be taken out of the library. Books belong to the government, which is so centralized that most universities and schools are at least government supervised. If a book is lost the librarian must replace it, as he is personally responsible for all of the books. Another law which makes library service, as we know it, difficult, is that no book may ever be withdrawn from a library. This means that most libraries are crowded and many of their books are of no use. For instance, after borrowing medical books from the Medical Faculty one day, the Director of the National Library suggested that it would be much easier to use their collection which included medical books. Some of them were medical books in French published around the beginning of the twentieth century. Probably most of them never should have been added to the library and now they cannot be withdrawn. The fact that they were in French was an asset, however, for the French influence is so strong and of such long standing that many more Iranians can speak and read French than English.

The day after the workshop ended Miss Khachaturian and I visited the Agricultural School and a Secondary School library where students from the Workshop taught and had charge of the library. We found them already trying to put into practice what they had learned. The Medical Faculty has a fair library, many new and recent American books on medicine. It had been organized by Miss Khachaturian a few years ago, and she had persuaded them to have two copies of the most needed books and put one copy in the Reference Collection and circulate the other. In this way they were never without a copy of every book in the library. We found that they had re-arranged the room to incorporate the suggestions made when their plan was discussed in the administration course.

The basic idea in Iranian libraries is to preserve the material rather than to use it. The two laws which I mentioned above, one, that since books are government property the librarian is personally responsible for them, and the other, that no book must ever be withdrawn from the library, result in book collections which leave much to be desired and in a non-reading people. There seems to be a lack of mental curiosity, little research work is being done hence very little reference work is done. So far as I could ascertain there are no national encyclopedias, national bibliographies, no handbooks.

In the development of libraries: first comes the writing of books and publishing; second, libraries with large enough book collections to include the many subjects in which people are interested or can be interested; third, collections freely accessible and publicized. The availability of paper of good quality and book binderies which do good work are also important. These things must co-exist and progress together. Furthermore school, college, and university libraries are not really necessary if the method of teaching is the use of one textbook or the lecture, especially if the results are measured by examinations based upon the memorizing of the textbook or the notes from the lectures. In Iran for about a month at the end of the academic year college and university students and probably secondary school students as well walk up and down the campus or park walks, along little-used streets and alleys memorizing their notes. Changes in teaching methods are necessary if the books are to become a vital part of education. If one cannot read, reading is neither a recreation nor a source of information and ninety per cent of the people of Iran do not know how to read, though today a good deal is being done to remove illiteracy throughout the country. Educational facilities must be provided; elementary education, at least, must be compulsory; and books must be freely available if a nation is to become a nation of readers.

When one looks at a map of the world and sees the very small portion which is occupied by Europe, the British Isles, the United States, Australia, and Canada as compared to the huge continents of Asia and Africa; and remembers the small proportion of the population of

these latter continents which is literate, one begins to realize, especially if one is a librarian, how great is the problem of having an enlightened democracy; how tremendous the task of providing information for the people everywhere (having first taught them to read).

** Address to the North Carolina Library Association, High Point, N. C., October 22, 1955.*

North Carolina Library Association

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- **President:** Mr. Olan V. Cook, Associate Librarian, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
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- **A.L.A. Council:** Harlan C. Brown, Librarian, North Carolina State College, Raleigh. (Term expires 1959); alternate: the President.
- **Joint Committee (with NCETA) of North Carolina Literature and Bibliography:** Mr. Carlyle J. Frarey, Chapel Hill; Miss Mildred Herring, Greensboro; Mr. William S.

Powell, Chapel Hill; Miss Mae Tucker, Charlotte; Miss Elaine von Oesen, Raleigh; Miss Jane B. Wilson, Durham.

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- **Public Library Certification Board:** The President; Miss Charlesanna Fox, Asheboro.

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