

"Spreading the Gospel of Librarianship"

Annie Smith Ross: First Librarian of Charlotte

by Shelia A. Bumgarner

On May 14, 1904, library history was made in Greensboro, North Carolina. At the invitation of Annie Smith Ross, the first librarian of the Carnegie Library of Charlotte, seven librarians met and organized the North Carolina Library Association (NCLA). Very little has been written about Ross, whose brief career lasted only from 1902 to 1910. Although Louis Round Wilson and others have credited her with the establishment of NCLA, Ross, like many of her female counterparts of the early twentieth century, became an obscure figure in library history.¹

The literature of the past twenty years concerning female librarians prior to 1910 is steeped in feminist and revisionist theory that tends to generalize the low social status of female librarians and its negative impact on the profession.² Consequently, scholars often overlook the accomplishments that these women made to the development of professional librarianship. Today, however, more library scholars, such as Dr. James V. Carmichael and Mary Niles Maack, are "digging" into our professional history and researching the lives of these unsung pioneers. It is only fitting that in this *North Carolina Libraries* fiftieth anniversary issue we examine the career of Annie Smith Ross, whose professional dedication led to the establishment of the North Carolina Library Association. In doing so, we gain insight into the role that women played in the development of the profession in this state.

Anne "Annie" Lettia Smith was born on March 4, 1866, and spent her childhood in northwestern Alamance County, North Carolina, near the present-day town of Elon College. She was the oldest of twelve children born to Laura Barbara Boone (1845-1903), who was from a prominent Alamance County family, and Captain Thomas T. Smith (1845-1932) of Mississippi. Thomas Smith was a Confederate veteran who moved to Alamance and ap-

parently tried his hand at farming.³ By 1870, the family moved to Charlotte and Captain Smith assumed the position of railroad agent with the Central Carolina Railroad Company. He would later work for the Richmond & Danville Railroad Company. Six years after moving to Charlotte, he purchased the house at 210 Myers Street that would be the family residence for the next fifty years.⁴

The early part of Annie Smith's life gave no indication that she would enter into a profession of any kind. Her life followed the pattern established for most young ladies from prominent families in Charlotte. She attended the Charlotte Female Institute, now Queens College. During the 1881-1882 session, Annie Smith received certificates in history and literature. She graduated from the school, but extant school records do not indicate the year. This was quite an achievement even by the school's standards because few students actually completed the rigorous instruction in mathematics, science, history, English, Latin and modern languages, as well as music and art.⁵ Three years later, Smith married James T. Ross on January 27, 1886, at the Second Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. Ross was a traveling salesman for the Schiff Company, a tobacco wholesale business. The Rosses made their home in Charlotte on Trade Street with Anna Jackson, widow of General Stonewall Jackson.⁶ For the next sixteen years, Annie Smith Ross lived in apparent domestic bliss, unaware of the approaching dramatic events that would eventually change the course of her life.

The year 1901 was a very important one in Charlotte for those who longed for a free public library. Prior to the construction of the Carnegie Library, the Charlotte Literary and Library Association provided library services for a fee from 1891 to 1900. When the association closed its doors in 1900, its book collection was turned over to the schools, and the library became known as the Charlotte Public School Library. Through the efforts of alderman

Thomas S. Franklin, the city of Charlotte received a gift of \$25,000 from the Carnegie Corporation for the construction of a library. As in accordance with all of Carnegie's grants, the city of Charlotte had to furnish a site and provide \$2,500 annually for the maintenance of the library. On May 6, 1901, the citizens of Charlotte approved a tax increase, which provided the necessary funds for the new library. A site was selected in the 300 block of Tryon Street, and construction was soon underway.⁷

For Annie Smith Ross, the year 1901 would take on a different meaning. On December 6, 1901, her husband James died of pneumonia.⁸ The couple's only child, an infant son, had died the previous year. Ross soon returned to the security of her parents' home on Myers Street and probably considered the possibilities before her. At the turn of the century, there were few professional avenues for women such as Ross, who were well-educated and from the middle class. Teaching, social work, and librarianship were among the few activities viewed as suitable occupations for young women with breeding and social position. Each of these professions was characterized by a zealous mission to assist the less fortunate and to improve the quality of life for those they served.⁹

How and why Annie Smith Ross came to be selected as Charlotte's first librarian may never be determined. True, she was educated, and she maintained social connections through her membership of the newly organized Charlotte Woman's Club and her friendship with Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, but there were probably a number of individuals with similar backgrounds. There were discussions around town as to who would receive the position. Yet there was no immediate consensus as to who should actually head the new library. For example, in an October 8, 1902, letter to the *Charlotte News*, the name of Richard N. Tiddy, the local Shakespearean scholar, was suggested. Unfortunately, the local

newspapers fail to provide any clues concerning the decision behind Ross's selection. The board simply announced on November 11, 1902, that she would become the librarian of the Carnegie Library of Charlotte.¹⁰

Ross was now faced with the prospect of organizing a library and directing library services for the citizens of Charlotte. She apparently realized the immediate need for professional training. According to Louis Round Wilson, Ross left for Atlanta shortly after her appointment in order to study with Anne Wallace of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta. Wallace was a remarkable woman in her own right. She solicited the assistance of the Carnegie Foundation, which provided the necessary funding in 1899 for the Carnegie Library of Atlanta, which eventually opened in 1902. Wallace was also instrumental in organizing the Georgia Library Association and the Georgia Library Commission. With the opening of the Atlanta library, Wallace was faced with a serious shortage of qualified assistants. According to the 1899 plan for library development in Atlanta, she established an apprenticeship program for young librarians. When Ross journeyed to Atlanta in 1902, the program was in full operation. Apprentices worked at the library seven hours a day and received training in reference service, cataloging, and other technical work. The apprenticeship program, as well as the Carnegie Library School of Atlanta that followed, inevitably influenced the development of librarianship in the South well into the 1930s.¹¹ From all accounts Ross returned to Charlotte with a strong sense of professional dedication and enthusiasm that would be advantageous not only to the citizens of Charlotte, but also to the library profession across the state.

Upon her return from Atlanta, Mrs. Ross and assistant librarian, Sallie H. Adams, began the task of preparing the collection that the library inherited from the Charlotte Literary and Library Association. Together they cataloged books and created both a dictionary and a subject card catalog, as well as a shelflist. Workers moved the books from City Hall to the new library on June 1, 1903.¹² The Carnegie Library of Charlotte opened its doors to the public on July 2, 1903, following an opening ceremony by the leading civic leaders of the day. The highlights of the ceremony and the informal reception hosted by Annie Smith Ross made headlines in both the *Charlotte News* and the *Charlotte Daily Observer*.¹³

The annual reports of the Carnegie Library of Charlotte provide insight to Ross's wide range of professional duties. As the librarian, she was responsible for

providing reference service and conducting reader advisory, creating programs for both children and adults, and supervising the technical work of cataloging and repairing books, as well as training potential assistants. According to the library's charter she was also responsible for an odd assortment of museum artifacts, which consisted of historical memorabilia and a rock collection. Ross's salary increased during her tenure from \$480 per annum in 1903 to \$720 in 1908. The library board of trustees was always complimentary of her work and supported her efforts to improve library services in the city. She made the Carnegie Library the central focus of Charlotte's cultural activities by arranging musical recitals, guest lectures and dramatic readings.¹⁴

From all accounts, the public was delighted and surprised with the design and beauty of the Carnegie Library that initially housed 2,543 volumes. Twenty-five residents registered for library cards on that first day. Six months later, 1,480 of Charlotte's 18,000 citizens were library card holders, including 238 children. During the first six months of operation, the library circulated 11,390 books, and by the end of the year, circulation doubled to 26,767. Ross attributed the high circulation rate to the booklists and illustrations that she designed to stimulate interest in specific books. Promotional materials were displayed on the bulletin board in the reading room.¹⁵

Annie Smith Ross exhibited tremendous skill as a library promoter. The three newspapers in Charlotte, the *Charlotte News*, the *Charlotte Daily Observer*, and the *Charlotte Evening Chronicle*, frequently featured a column highlighting the activities of the library and the achievements of the librarian. The *Charlotte News*, for example, ran a weekly column. From most accounts, Ross was an enthusiastic librarian and a good administrator, but she was also known for her tremendous warmth, grace, and poise. She especially sought the cooperation of local civic and professional organizations, such as the Charlotte Woman's Club and the Charlotte Engineering Club. Ross encouraged them and other groups to use the children's room in the library for their meetings. In return, the members of these organizations provided valuable support for the library and helped raise funds for books and library activities. Newspaper accounts describe Ross as a person who reached out to all classes. A 1904 study of Charlotte library users shows that a variety of people used the public library, including teachers, students, farmers, stenographers, lawyers, and mill workers.¹⁶

Like most librarians of her day, Annie Smith Ross was overworked. Adopting a

plan that was similar to the library apprenticeship program in Atlanta, Ross announced in the *Charlotte Evening Chronicle* that a training school for young women interested in librarianship would be offered at the Charlotte library. An entrance examination was held on April 1, 1904, and the first trainees, Letia Warely and Anne Pierce, began their work on June 20, 1904. Anne Pierce would later serve as the librarian at the Carnegie Library in Charlotte from 1918 to 1937.¹⁷

Ross also returned to school in June and July of 1904 when she enrolled in Louis Round Wilson's summer library school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Charlotte library's trustees approved of her attending the school and paid her expenses, including the five dollars tuition. The program was developed in response to the growing interest in libraries across the state. Wilson provided instruction in book selection, technical services, and activities associated with reference work.¹⁸

It is obvious from reading Ross's annual reports that she derived great professional satisfaction from working with children. Not content to remain behind the desk, Ross sought out new readers by visiting the schools and encouraging the children and the teachers to come to the library. A separate children's reading room, which was still a novelty in many American libraries, was organized in 1904 and was open from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Access was restricted to children attending Charlotte public schools who were at least twelve years of age. In order to reach out to the younger children, Ross established a story hour program every Friday, which attracted over a thousand children during her administration annually. By 1906 the library regrettably lacked the necessary books and staff to continue the story hour on a regular basis, but the program remained popular even when it was held irregularly.¹⁹

Ross also designed special lecture programs for children. One of the most successful lectures was "Bird Day," which was held on April 28, 1904. The guest speaker was T. Gilbert Pearson, state secretary of the Audubon Society and an instructor at the State Normal School at Greensboro, now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Ross took great pains to decorate the room with eggs and nests from various species. This program was enormously popular with the children, and over four hundred young Charlotteans attended.²⁰

The Carnegie Public Library was one of the most prominent public institutions in Charlotte. Through hard work and

perseverance, Ross enhanced the library's appeal. Unfortunately, she did not receive the financial support necessary for her to complete the objectives that she believed were essential to providing quality library service. From 1907 to 1910, Ross bitterly complained in her annual reports about the conditions of the library. Although the demand for books and materials was high, the appropriations remained about the same as when the library began in 1903. Children's books were particularly susceptible to wear and tear. Ross reported that there were children who claimed to have read every book in the children's section. Throughout her career, she constantly implored the board to provide more funds for books. Appropriations ranged from \$850 to \$1,000 each year during her tenure as librarian.

To her dismay, the citizens of Charlotte turned down a proposal that would increase the funding for the library but not raise their taxes. The public's lack of knowledge about the city's revenue appropriations was the primary cause behind the failure. The maintenance of the building suffered, and, consequently, no major improvements were made during the seven years Ross served as librarian. Staffing was another major problem. The apprentice program ended because Ross could no longer afford to hire the young women once they completed the program, and she simply had no time to coordinate their activities. During most of her tenure, Ross's staff consisted of herself, a library assistant, and a janitor.

To augment the library's book budget, Ross initiated a book rental program, and she enlisted the assistance of the Charlotte Women's Club and other members in the community in fundraising activities. The book rental program began in 1906 and flourished through 1908. Works of fiction were leased for two cents a day, and the books became part of the regular circulat-

ing collection as they declined in popularity.²² The Charlotte Women's Club, of which Ross was an active member, was a strong supporter of the library. The club organized several fundraisers, including a Peddler's Parade in 1905 in which the ladies dressed in costumes from around the world and sold "foreign" wares from decorative booths. One of the club's most successful fundraising ventures was "Tag Day" in April 1909. The ladies of the club would stand at strategic locations in the city and "tag" individuals who would be expected to contribute to the book fund. "Tag Day" was a success and netted the library four hundred dollars for books in the children's department as well as for the

purpose was evident as was her dedication to the profession. At the national level, she was a member of the American Library Association and attended its meetings in 1904, 1906, and 1907.²⁴ In North Carolina, Ross saw a need to "spread the gospel of librarianship" to ensure library cooperation and the development of libraries throughout the state.²⁵

According to most sources, Annie Smith Ross began formulating plans for the establishment of a state library association soon after returning from her initial training in Atlanta. In January 1904, she sent a letter of invitation to eighteen librarians across the state to meet with the pur-

pose of forming a state library organization. Six people heeded her call, and on May 14, 1904, the group met in Greensboro. Those in attendance were Annie Smith Ross; Louis Round Wilson of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Dr. Charles McIver, president, and Anne F. Petty, librarian, who were both from the State Normal and Industrial College for Women, now UNC-G; J.P. Breedlove of Trinity College Library, now Duke University; R. D. Douglas, Editor of the *Greensboro Daily News*; and

Bettie M. Caldwell, librarian of the Greensboro Public Library.

These diverse groups discussed the need for a state library association and the benefits that could be derived from it. Louis Round Wilson called for a vote to establish the organization, which passed unanimously. The group mapped out a charter and a drafted a constitution, and elected the following officers: president, Annie Smith Ross; vice-presidents: Dr. McIver and Mr. J.A. Bivens, Principal of Charlotte High School; secretary-treasurer,



Annie Smith Ross (second from the right) sits with her colleagues during the 1906 American Library Association Conference at Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island. *Photo courtesy American Library Association Archives, University Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.*

adult reference and fiction collections. Schoolchildren held special performances to raise funds. Local newspaper accounts and the library board of trustees attributed this response to the public's devotion to the library and to Ross, who was well-known for her warmth and professionalism.²³

Throughout her tenure as the librarian of the Carnegie Library, Annie Smith Ross embraced the idealism of the modern library movement and its faith in the ability of the library to open the windows of the world to the public. Her singleness of

Louis Round Wilson. Mr. Breedlove and Miss Petty were named to the Executive Committee. Ross quickly extended an invitation to hold the first full conference of the new association in Charlotte, and November 11 - 12, 1904 were selected as the dates for this meeting.²⁶

Annie Smith Ross would serve as president of the North Carolina Library Association from 1904 to 1908. In that capacity, she worked hard to maintain a cooperative relationship with the North Carolina Women's Federation, which sponsored traveling libraries, and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, which was responsible for rural library service. She spoke openly of the need for a state library commission and obtained the support of the Women's Federation for the idea at their annual meeting in 1906. During Ross's administration, NCLA quickly became a cohesive organization that would prove to be an effective voice for promoting library service in North Carolina.

A study of NCLA minutes from the annual meetings from 1904 to 1908 reveals the major challenges that North Carolina librarians faced during the early twentieth century. The papers presented and the discussions that followed focused on the necessity for library cooperation, the importance of maintaining good relations between the public library and the community, as well as the public schools, and the need for additional public libraries in rural North Carolina. As the association gained recognition in the state, NCLA sought to expand its influence and lobby for a state library commission that would insure quality library services. These goals became the objectives of Tar Heel librarians and would influence the activities of NCLA's members for years to come.²⁷

Forty-nine librarians, educators, and other library supporters attended the first annual meeting of NCLA in Charlotte on November 11-12, 1904. Ross opened the meeting with a short speech in which she stated the purpose for the association. For the next two days, the members attended lectures by some of the leading librarians in the south, including Anne Wallace of the Carnegie Library of Atlanta and L.H. Hopkins of the Louisville Public Library. The Carnegie Library of Charlotte's Board of Trustees and the Charlotte Woman's Club hosted luncheons and receptions at the Colonial Club on Tryon Street, where the meetings were held, and at the Charlotte Country Club. All of the local newspapers provided extensive coverage of each day's events. The most significant development from the first meeting was the proposal to form two committees. The first

committee would prepare a resolution commending the work of J. Y. Joyner, state Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the second committee would cooperate with the North Carolina Literary and Historical Society's Committee for Rural Libraries and Superintendent Joyner in devising a stronger plan for the administration of rural libraries in North Carolina.²⁸

NCLA did not meet in 1905 because of the South Regional Library Meeting, but in April 1906, twenty-five of the association's sixty-seven members gathered at the Olivia Rainey Library in Raleigh. It was during this meeting that NCLA laid the ground work for lobbying the North Carolina General Assembly for a state library commission and for a fireproof building to house the materials at the State Library. More important, the association decided to form a committee that would submit a bid to the American Library Association to select Asheville as the site of the national organization's 1907 annual meeting. The invitation committee consisted of Louis Round Wilson, Sol Weil, and C. Alphonso Smith. Working with the Asheville Chamber of Commerce and the Southern Railway, the committee immediately initiated a letter writing campaign to obtain endorsements for Asheville from local, leading educators, and government officials.²⁹

In June 1906, the American Library Association met in Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island. The North Carolina Library Association sent President Ross and Secretary-Treasurer Wilson as its representatives. They, along with W. F. Randolph, Secretary of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from the Southern Railway presented their offer before ALA's Executive Board. Prior to the meeting, the North Carolina delegates with the assistance of Anne Wallace of Georgia openly campaigned for Asheville by handing out pins with pictures of Mount Pisgah. According to the proceedings of ALA's Executive Board, Ross submitted the official invitation, which was accepted on condition that suitable travel arrangements could be made with Southern Railway. The members of the North Carolina Library Association were ecstatic. Ross received congratulatory telegrams from across the state. NCLA was only two years old, but well on its way to obtaining recognition from librarians from across the country.³⁰

Five hundred people came to Asheville for the twenty-ninth annual meeting of the American Library Association, which was held from May 23 to May 29, 1907. Ross addressed the group with an outline of "Library Progress in North Carolina since 1899." She described the continued growth of libraries in the state and the establish-

ment of the Brevard Street Library in Charlotte, the first public library established for blacks in the state. Ross also recognized the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs for their work in providing traveling libraries to rural areas of the state. Newspaper accounts of the conference describe it as a huge success. During the conference, Ross was appointed to serve on the advisory board of ALA's Children's Librarians Section. At the close of the meeting, she presented the association a new gavel made of rhododendron, with a brass plate where the names of future ALA presidents could be engraved.³¹

NCLA held its third annual meeting in conjunction with ALA's Asheville Conference. The association was now officially affiliated with the national organization. More important, NCLA obtained recognition throughout the state as being the official voice of North Carolina librarians. Unfortunately, the association's efforts to lobby for a state library commission and better facilities for the state library failed to result in any substantial changes and was postponed for further discussion. The members of NCLA voted to suspend the association's rules and re-elected Annie Smith Ross and Louis Round Wilson to their respective offices of president and secretary-treasurer.³²

Ross was unable to attend NCLA's fourth annual meeting, which was held in Greensboro on November 12-13, 1908. It was during this conference that the association established a strong lobbying group for the establishment of a state library commission. The members of NCLA instructed secretary-treasurer Wilson to inform Ross of the association's "high appreciation of her many services in its behalf from its organization and her unceasing endeavor to bring success to its undertakings."³³ The lobbying efforts of the 1908 committee would eventually be successful, and in 1909, Ross and Wilson were both appointed to the North Carolina State Library Commission.³⁴

Annie Smith Ross's library career came to a close on January 31, 1910, when she submitted her resignation along with her seventh annual report. She described the preparation of this report as being a "labor of love." Although she was professionally and personally disappointed over the inadequate financial support for the library since it opened in 1903, she remained optimistic about its future.³⁵ Her reason for leaving was also a matter of the heart. During the American Library Association meeting at Narragansett Pier, Annie had made the acquaintance of Edward C. Hovey (1854-1936), the association's first executive secretary from 1905 to 1908.³⁶

The couple married on February 5, 1910, in her father's house on Myers Street.³⁷

The Hoveys made their home in Spartanburg, South Carolina. It was from there that Annie Hovey submitted her resignation from the North Carolina Library Commission. The couple moved to Savage, Maryland in 1918 before finally establishing a home in Greenville, South Carolina. The level of her involvement in South Carolina libraries is unknown. She did, however, visit Wofford Library and described her findings of the work being performed there in a letter to Louis Round Wilson.³⁸ Annie Smith Ross Hovey remained a member of the North Carolina Library Association until 1923.³⁹ She died on April 20, 1924 after a long battle with cancer, and was buried in the family plot in Charlotte's Elmwood Cemetery.⁴⁰

Annie Smith Ross Hovey's life had come full circle. She had moved from the traditional domestic sphere for women into the role of a modern working woman of the early twentieth century, only to return to the more customary role of supporting wife. Fortunately for North Carolina, she was a woman who brought intelligence, enthusiasm and foresight to the profession of librarianship. Like most librarians of her day, Ross was a visionary, who worked hard under trying economic conditions in order to provide library services to a demanding and growing population in Charlotte. As president of the North Carolina Library Association, she supported the efforts that would ensure that residents throughout the state could enjoy the benefits derived from libraries. Ross believed wholeheartedly that libraries enrich people's lives by providing cultural and educational opportunities, as well as personal enjoyment. In a November 27, 1909 article in the *Charlotte Evening Chronicle*, she wrote, "It seems strange that standing as we do in the dawn of the Twentieth Century it should be necessary to defend or justify the library as an important practical part of our educational system. The public library is an adult school, it is a perpetual and lifelong continuation class, it is the greatest educational factor that we have." Although her professional career as a librarian was brief, Annie Smith Ross Hovey demonstrated her faith in libraries as vital educational and cultural institutions to the lasting benefit of her fellow Charlotteans and the people of North Carolina.

References

¹Louis Round Wilson, "The North Carolina Library Association, 1904-1909," *North Carolina Libraries*, 13 (November 1954): 2 (hereafter cited as Wilson's NCLA

History 1904-1909) and "North Carolina Library Association, 1904-1943," *North Carolina Libraries*, 2:5 (December 1943): 1. (hereafter cited as Wilson's NCLA History 1904-1943).

²Kathleen Weibel and Kathleen M. Heim, eds., *The Role of Women in Librarianship, 1876-1976: The Entry, Advancement, and Struggle for Equalization in One Profession* (Phoenix: Oryx Press, 1979), 13-55; and Dee Garrison, *Apostles of Culture: The Public Library and American Society, 1876-1920* (New York: Free Press, 1979), 226-241 (hereafter cited as Garrison's *Apostle of Culture*); and Mary Niles Maack, "Toward a History of Women in Librarianship: A Critical Analysis With Suggestions for Further Research," *Journal of Library History*, 17 (Spring 1982): 164-165.

³The 1870 and 1880 census for Mecklenburg County indicates Annie Smith Ross was born in Mississippi. This is possible since her father was originally from Mississippi. Census schedules after 1880 and newspaper accounts however, cite North Carolina as being her place of birth.

⁴Charles Emerson and Company, Charlotte, North Carolina Directory, 1879-1880 (Charlotte: Observer Steam Job Print, 1879), 90; Mecklenburg County Deeds, May 4, 1879 Deed Book 14, p. 37; J. C. Rietti, comp., *Military Annals of Mississippi: Military Organizations Which Entered the Service of the Confederate States of America From the State of Mississippi* (Spartanburg; Reprint Company, 1976), 121.

⁵Queens College Archives, *Charlotte Female Institute Catalog, 1882-1883*. Queens College Library, Charlotte, North Carolina.

⁶*Charlotte Democrat* Marriage Records Database, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, North Carolina; Mrs. Sam Presson, "Reminiscences of Charlotte: A Sweet Christian Character," *Charlotte Observer*, 10 August 1930 (hereafter cited as Presson, "Reminiscences of Charlotte."); and R.H. Weeks, *1899 Charlotte City Directory* (Charlotte: Southern Industrial Publishing Company, 1899), 127.

⁷Patricia Ryckman, *Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County: A Century of Service* (Charlotte: Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, 1989), 5-7.

⁸*Charlotte Daily News*, 7 December 1901; Presson, "Reminiscences of Charlotte;" and Elmwood Cemetery Records, City of Charlotte's Cemeteries Office, Charlotte, North Carolina.

⁹Garrison, *Apostles of Culture*, 226-227, and Nancy Woloch, *Women and the American Experience* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), 269.

¹⁰*First Annual Report of the Carnegie Library of Charlotte*, Robinson-Spangler

Carolina Room, Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, North Carolina (hereafter cited as *First Annual Report*).

¹¹Betty E. Callaham, "The Carnegie Library School of Atlanta (1905-1925)," *Library Quarterly* 37 (April 1967): 152-155, 179.

¹²Although a search of the early records of the apprenticeships fails to mention Ross by name, Louis Round Wilson was familiar with her training in Atlanta, and there are frequent references in the newspapers to Ross returning to Atlanta each year to visit friends and former teachers. See, Louis Round Wilson Miscellaneous Papers, Volume V:500, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, North Carolina (hereafter cited as LRW Papers); "Carnegie Library of Charlotte Scrapbook 1903-1906," Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg (hereafter cited as "Library Scrapbook, 1903-1906").

¹³*First Annual Report*, 18; and *Charlotte News* and *Charlotte Daily Observer*, 2 July 1901.

¹⁴*First Annual Report*, Minutes Board of Carnegie Library Trustees, 18 January 1908, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Public Library of Charlotte Mecklenburg County, 2.

¹⁵Carnegie Library of Charlotte, Annual Reports, 1905-1910, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Public Library of Charlotte, North Carolina (hereafter cited as Annual Reports).

¹⁶"Library Scrapbook 1903-1906;" Annual Reports; and Anne Rader Hoover, "History of the Carnegie Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, 1903 to 1920," (M.A. thesis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), 22 (hereafter cited as Hoover).

¹⁷Annual Reports, 1905 and 1906; Ryckman, 31; and Hoover, 20.

¹⁸*Charlotte Evening Chronicle*, 8 May 1904; "Library Scrapbook 1903-1906," *First Annual Report*, 10; and Maurice Tauber, "The Contributions of Louis Round Wilson to Librarianship," *Wilson Library Bulletin* 32 (December 1956): 316.

¹⁹*First Annual Report*, 9; and "Library Scrapbook 1903-1906."

²⁰"Library Scrapbook 1903-1906," 28 April 1904; and Annual Reports 1905-1920.

²¹Annual Reports, 1905-1910.

²²Annual Reports, 1905-1910.

²³"Library Scrapbook 1903-1906," 20 October 1905 and 30 April 1909; Carnegie Library of Charlotte, Seventh Annual Report, 31 January 1910, Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, North Carolina, 19 (hereafter cited as Seventh Annual Report).

²⁴American Library Association Ar-

chives Cumulative Attendance Registers (1876-1939), ALA RS 5/1/22, University Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

²⁵Wilson's NCLA History 1904-1909, 2; and *Charlotte Evening Chronicle*, 5 February 1910.

²⁶Wilson's NCLA History, 1904-1909; and Mary Edna Anders "State Library Associations in the Southeast," *The Southeastern Librarian* II (Spring 1952): 9; and North Carolina Library Association Records, Vol. 1, 1904-1921, 14 May 1904, North Carolina Division of State Library (hereafter cited as NCLA Records, Volume 1.).

²⁷NCLA Records, Vol. 1.

²⁸NCLA Records, Vol. 1, 14 May 1904, 5-13; and Library Scrapbook 1903-1906, 11 and 12 November 1904; and Wilson's NCLA History 1904-1909, 2-3.

²⁹Wilson's NCLA History 1904-1909, 4; and NCLA Records, Vol. 1, 27 April 1906, 14-18.

³⁰Library Scrapbook 1907; Wilson's NCLA History 1904-1909, 4; and American Library Association, Papers and Proceedings, Vol 27-28, 1905-1906, Narragansett Pier Conference Transactions of Council and Executive Board, American Library Association Archives, University Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 276.

³¹"Papers and Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the American Library Association Held at Asheville, North Carolina, May 23-29, 1907," *Bulletin of the American Library Association*, 28 (July 1907): 71, 118-119, 190, 293.

³²Wilson's NCLA History 1904-1909, 4-5; and NCLA Records, Vol. 1, 23 May 1907, 19-21.

³³NCLA Records, Vol. 1, 12 November 1908, 19-21.

³⁴For more information regarding the establishment of the North Carolina Library Commission, see, Wilson's NCLA History, 6-7; and Thornton Mitchell, *The State Library and Library Development in North Carolina* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of State Library, 1983), 14-16.

³⁵Seventh Annual Report, 32.

³⁶Presson, "Reminiscences of Charlotte;" and Dennis Thomison, *A History of the American Library Association 1876-1972* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1978), 57; and Wayne A. Wiegand, *The Politics of an Emerging Profession: The American Library Association, 1876-1917* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1986), 154.

³⁷*Charlotte Evening Chronicle*, 5 February 1910.

³⁸NCLA Records, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2,

1922-1929; and Annie Smith Ross Hovey to Louis Round Wilson, 8 March 1910, LRW Papers.

³⁹North Carolina Library Association Records, Vol. 2, 1922-1929.

⁴⁰Elmwood Cemetery Records, City of Charlotte's Cemeteries Office, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank Beverly Bishop of Emory University and Sara Alexander of Atlanta-Fulton Public Library, as well as ALA Archives Graduate Assistant, Kristin Woizeschke, for their assistance.

The More Things Change ...

We librarians might well pause to consider how others see us. We might ask, "Are we even seen at all?" What are we doing to make the people of North Carolina aware of libraries and library service?"

— North Carolina Libraries, April 1942, p. 6.

Bringing You the World of Small Press and Video

- 1500 Presses • 7000 Titles
- All in Stock • Adult Non-Fiction
- Annotations Services • Preview/Approval Plans
- Electronic Ordering

1-800-323-4241 • Toll Free • 312-295-1556 • FAX



QUALITY BOOKS INC.

 a dawson company

JOHN HIGGINS, SALES REPRESENTATIVE