

KEEPING UP

GERTRUDE MERRITT: AN APPRECIATION

When Gertrude Merritt graduated from Duke University in 1931, having been president of the Women's Student Government Association and a member of the White Duchy, she began her full employment in the Duke Library. As a student she had worked nearly full time in the library. Her love and appreciation of books extends back to her childhood.

Hers has been a distinguished career. In 1931 the Duke Library had about 250,000 volumes. When Miss Merritt retired in 1979, the Duke Library had more than 2,500,000 volumes. Gertrude Merritt, who was in charge of Collection Development more than half of her career of forty-eight years, had a direct hand in most of that tenfold growth. As Head of Technical Services for more than twenty-five years, at the same time she was Head of Collection Development, Miss Merritt was in charge of more than half of the library staff. The difficult and distinguished contribution of Gertrude Merritt to the excellence of the Duke Library is probably unique, unmatched at any other institution.

However, this tough and gentle lady is not a statistic. Her personal qualities make her a richly rewarding person to know, but you have to work at it. Gertrude Merritt does not make speeches, she does not write for publication, she does not slap backs, and she is not an instant buddy to anybody. But she is always there, warm, direct, and sharing if and when you need her. Her way of directing people is to suggest, to talk over differences of viewpoint, and to try to get a willing consent to that which has to be done. I have never known her to raise her voice, to be unfair in her judgments, or to fail to keep all the cards on the table at all times. Nobody ever worked in the dark with Gertrude Merritt.

Speaking personally, I was associated closely with her from the beginning of my employment twenty-two years ago as Director of the Flowers Collection. For the past two years she was my immediate supervisor. She never changed. Always I felt that I was working with her, which was itself a pleasure, for we shared the same enthusiasms. She had in great abundance that joy in getting fine items for the Duke Library, without which any librarian is just another clodhopper.

In 1931 it was the custom to place a literary quotation beneath the picture of each member of the Senior Class in the *Chanticleer*. "Plain sense but seldom leads us far astray" was the apt, then and now, phrase given to Gertrude Merritt. Indeed, her common sense is the high water mark of her competence. Her concern for the Duke Library, its users, and its staff, shows her heart.

Knowing her as a friend and colleague has been the outstanding personal reward for me in my years at Duke University.

Winston Broadfoot
[from Duke University Library
Newsletter, n. 23, October, 1979. p.5
chosen from among several tributes]

BERTHA HOPKINS JONES

Bertha Hopkins Jones retired from the William R. Perkins Library staff on September 14, 1979. Her numerous friends and colleagues held a luncheon in her honor on September 13, 1979, to express their appreciation of her contributions to the library and to extend their good wishes for her retirement, a period which promises to be as active and enjoyable as her formal working days.

Born September 6, 1914, in Statesboro, Georgia, Bertha spent her childhood in Cuba where her father was a Methodist missionary. She received her B.S. degree from Georgia State College for Women and an A.B. in Library Science from Emory. After graduation from Georgia State Bertha returned to Cuba and taught at Miss Phillips' School for two years before enrolling at Emory to study librarianship. Before coming to Duke University in 1939 as a cataloger she worked briefly in the Gadsden, Alabama, Public Library and the New York Public Library. Together Bertha and Gertrude Merritt organized the Serials department and set up its records. In 1942 Bertha became Head of the Serials Department, a position she held until July 1946 when she resigned from the staff to become a housewife.

After an eight year period spent getting a son and daughter off to a good start, Bertha rejoined the Duke Library staff this time as the science cataloger in the Subject Cataloging Department. She also served as liaison between the science branch libraries and the Technical Services Division. In the years following she worked very closely with the Serials Department as well as the science departmental libraries.

These brief facts tell little of Bertha's enormous contributions to the library. She belonged to that extraordinary corps of dedicated, talented individuals whose loyalty to Duke and to consistently high standards will probably never be matched again. Her long years of expert, careful, and willing service helped to bring Perkins Library to its present notable status.

Bertha Livingstone
[From Duke University Library Newsletter, No. 23,
October 1979, p. 7, chosen from among
service tributes.]

SPECIAL SUMMER BLOCK 1980-1981

The School of Library Science UNC-CH announces a special offering of the required 12-semester hour core course (the Block) over a period of two consecutive summers, 1980-81. In each summer, one half of the Block (6 semester hours) will be offered in a six-week session. Students who wish to take advantage of this arrangement must be admitted to the M.S. in L.S. program prior to the summer of 1980. Applications will be accepted as long as there are spaces available. For further information and applications, write or call:

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Manning Hall 026-A
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NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The North Carolina Public Library Directors Association, Inc., held its first official meeting November 8 and 9 at the High Point Public Library. Officers of the new organization are as follows:

President: Arial Stephens, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

Vice-President: Neal Austin, High Point Public

Secretary: Jay Wozny, Pettigrew Regional

Treasurer: Amanda Bible, Columbus County Public

County Library Representative: Ken Brown, Packe Memorial Public

Municipal Library Representative: Mary Boone, Chapel Hill Public

Regional Library Representative: Anne Sanders, East Albemarle Regional

The NCPLDA's stated objectives are to promote public library service; provide a forum for public library directors; promote professional growth and professional unity; and improve the visibility and effectiveness of public libraries with the public and with elected and appointed officials. Membership in the association is limited to the certified director/head librarian of any regional, county or municipal public library system, and of the State Library.

Many of the organization's goals fall in the general area of communications — among public library directors; between librarians and legislators; and between librarians and library users and potential users. At the first meeting, communication among directors took the form of presentations by representatives of the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and Greensboro Public Library on automation in those two libraries and how their automation experiences relate to the networking plan for public libraries across the state.

The meeting also included communication between librarians and legislators. Seven legislators from districts contiguous to High Point attended a breakfast with the librarians, and Rep. Mary Seymour from Greensboro and Sen. Jack Childers from Lexington discussed legislative strategy with the librarians at a session following the breakfast.

This first meeting was so successful that the NCPLDA is planning meetings with a similar format in the eastern and western parts of the state before the next session of the General Assembly.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY LIBRARY CONTRACT

Dean Edward G. Holley has announced that the School of Library Science has completed negotiations for a new contract for library services with the Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC. The new contract for 1979-80 provides for the employment of 12 library science students from the master's and doctoral program for twenty hours per-week at a rate of \$5,600 for the twelve-month period. Students in the master's program must have completed the twelve-hour basic Block before they can be selected for the program. Included in the services provided for the EPA Library are acquisitions, circulation, serials handling, interlibrary loans, reference and referral assistance, and maintenance of the Air Information Center. Faculty supervision will be provided by Dean Holley and Dr. Karen Momenie, Assistant Professor of Library Science.

The new contract represents a continuation of a program begun on May 6, 1974, when the Environmental Protection Agency sought the assistance of the School in organizing the EPA Library. The EPA Library represented a merger of five other libraries from the Southeastern region. The EPA Library has five full-time employees under the direction of Ms Libby Smith, EPA Administrative Librarian.

LANIER NAMED PARLIAMENTARIAN

Dr. Gene D. Lanier, Chairman of the ECU Department of Library Science, was named Parliamentarian of the North Carolina Library Association.

Lanier served as president of NCLA during the 1973-75 biennium. Earlier he chaired the Education for Librarianship Committee and Grievance Committee, was director of the North Carolina Association of School Librarians' Section, and served as first vice-president. He also served on the Editorial Board for NCLA's journal, NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES. During the past biennium, Lanier chaired the Nomination Committee. He assumed the parliamentarian post at the biennial conference of the North Carolina Library Association.

THRASHER NAMED CUMBERLAND DIRECTOR

The Cumberland County Public Library system, headquartered in Fayetteville, NC, announces the appointment of Jerry A. Thrasher as Director. Thrasher will assume the post on January 2, 1980.

Thrasher has been Associate Director of the Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem since March of 1977. Prior to that, he was Director of the Haywood County Public Library in Waynesville, NC.

A native of Alabama, he holds a Master of Science degree in Library Science from Florida State University.

The Cumberland County Public Library has filled three other professional positions. Patrick Valentine is the new Coordinator of the statewide Foreign Language Project which is located at CCPL. Valentine holds a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of South Carolina and a Doctorate in European History from Tulane University.

James Lee has been appointed Head of the Technical Services Department at CCPL. He comes to Fayetteville from Asheville, NC where he was Public Services Librarian with the UNC-Asheville Library. Lee obtained his Master's in Library Science from UNC-Chapel Hill.

A new position has been created at CCPL with the creation of an Information and Referral Service. The service is scheduled to begin in January of 1980. Linda Levine has been appointed Information and Referral Librarian. She received her Master's in Library Science from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY.

NEH GRANT TO AFRO-AMERICAN FAMILY HISTORY PROJECTS

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Afro-American Family History Projects has received a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Committee, a program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to assist in conducting of a Project in "Grassroots" Genealogy, a series of workshops including lectures, discussions and practical activities related to tracing and documenting Afro-American Family History. The Workshops will include focus on African family traditions, Social forces and the African descendant in America, and the Role of family in the confirmation of the Sense of self-identity. The Workshops will be held in public libraries, and other community agencies and churches.

All workshops are open to the public and there are no charges. Certificates of Recognition will be awarded to participants completing the five Workshops sessions and efforts leading to establishing of a "Family Tree."

The Projects are under the direction of Dr. Tommie M. Young, Professor, N.C. A & T State University and Afro-American Genealogy Consultant. For further information write the Project's Director at Box B-20, NC A&T University, Greensboro, N.C. 27411.

DUKE DEDICATES 3,000,000th

Duke University's Perkins Library added books numbers 3 million and 3 million and one to its collections in special ceremonies November 15, 1979, in the library's Gothic Reading Room.

The three millionth volume is actually five volumes — a set, *Purchas His Pilgrimes* and *His Pilgrimage* by Samuel Purchas, published between 1625-26. The set has been designated the "Benjamin N. Duke Memorial Volume." The 3 millionth and 1st book is a first edition of Malthus' *Essay on Principles of Population*, published in 1798. The Friends of the University Library gave the Purchas volumes. The Malthus book is the gift of Dr. Joseph Spengler, James P. Duke professor emeritus in economics at Duke, who retired in 1972 after almost 50 years on the Duke faculty.

Both gifts were presented as part of year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Ben Duke. Duke, who died Jan. 8, 1929, at the age of 83, was a major benefactor of Duke University.

Connie Dunlap, university librarian, said Purchas was one of the first major writers of the early 17th century to chronicle the historical geography of the period. His work and that of English geographer Richard Hakluyt form the two most famous collections of circumnavigation and voyages from antiquity to the beginning of the 17th century.

The Purchas' volumes cover many American voyages, including a description of Virginia by Capt. John Smith. The volumes contain 88 engraved maps, including a rare double map of Virginia and an early map of Greenland, both attributed to Smith.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES ENDS WITH CALL FOR ACTION ...

(Washington, November 19, 1979) More than 900 delegates from all U.S. states and territories today concluded a five day White House Conference on Library and Information Services with a call for structural changes in the Department of Education, development of a national information policy, coordination of programs to encourage movement of library materials across national borders and for elimination of the barriers that now separate special groups of the population from library and information services.

Stuart Eizenstat, President Carter's Assistant for Domestic Affairs and Policy told the meeting today that he is establishing a task force in the Office of the President to give consideration to the full range of the conference's recommendations at the "highest" level.

The conference delegates voted for 29 resolutions dealing with the future of libraries and information services. The recommendations will be presented to the President and Congressional committees within 120 days and 90 days later Mr. Carter will make his recommendations to Congress.

"This is the first national forum to address libraries and the full spectrum of information services in such a broad manner in light of the technological revolution heralding the Information Age," said Charles Benton of Chicago, conference chairman.

In addition to the 911 delegates, more than 1000 other persons from across the nation participated in the meetings. Over the past two and a half years more than 100,000 people have been directly involved in 57 preliminary meetings held in each of the states and territories which led up to the White House Conference.

Five of the key resolutions passed by the delegates called for:

- An office of library and information services within the new Department of Education with an assistant secretary of education at its head.
- A national information policy to ensure that government agencies at all levels work together to make available all new and existing library and information services to the maximum extent possible.
- State, local and federal governments to work together to identify the functionally illiterate, coordinate programs to train them and that state and federal government should share the costs of these programs.
- Libraries to reach out to special groups of the population—children, youth, the aged, homebound, racial and ethnic minorities, physically handicapped and emotionally disturbed—and eliminate barriers that now separate them from library and information services.
- A new federal program be established to provide for international training and exchange of library and information personnel and the free flow of library materials of all kinds across national borders.

Members of the staff of the White House Domestic Council, the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Education will be on the task force to examine the conference report, according to Eizenstat.

"We have learned that there are no simple answers. It has taken more than 20 years and four presidential administrations to pull this White House Conference together," Benton told the delegates in his concluding address. He noted that the effort is not yet over and asked the conference participants to go back to their communities and work on a "grassroots" level in support of their recommendations.

"MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE LIBRARY'S PUBLICS ..."

"Meeting the Needs of the Library's Publics: Aspects of Reference and Public Services" will be the topic of the annual spring workshop in Chapel Hill sponsored by the Association of Librarians at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, March 3-4, 1980. The purpose of the workshop will be to offer librarians the opportunity to approach the concept of service to the user within the framework of both the philosophical and practical foundations of recent developments in the field. While service to library users is often thought to be primarily a function of reference librarians, technical procedures within the library affect librarians' relationship with the user population. The program will be aimed at all librarians. Four guest speakers will speak on various aspects of public service for librarians in the 1980's and effects of technical service innovations on public service. In addition, there will be a series of discussion groups/mini-presentations running concurrently on such topics as training the reference staff, measuring and monitoring reference service, role of the para-professional in reference service, new reference tools and ways of keeping current in the field, on-line data bases and their relation to traditional services, cooperation between technical and public service librarians, the reference interview, bibliographic instruction and social problems in reference service.

For registration information, contact Mr. David Taylor, Undergraduate Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

NCSU FRIENDS KICK OFF CAMPAIGN

Over 175 people attended a Fall Book Luncheon sponsored by the North Carolina State University Friends of the Library on November 16, 1979 at the NCSU Faculty Club in Raleigh. The luncheon was held to benefit NCSU's D. H. Hill Library in its campaign to reach one million volumes in 1980. Suzanne Britt Jordan, a Sunday columnist for the *Raleigh News and Observer* moderated a panel of speakers who discussed current North Carolina authors and letters. The speakers were Guy Owen, Richard Walser and Mary C. Williams, all faculty members of the English Department of North Carolina State University.

DIRECTORY OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN NORTH CAROLINA AVAILABLE

A 1979 directory of special libraries in North Carolina has been compiled by the state chapter of the Special Libraries Association. Copies of *Directory of Special Libraries in North Carolina*, M. Sangster Parrott, ed., may be ordered for only \$5.00 each. Make checks payable to North Carolina Chapter, Special Libraries Association, and send orders to:

Mr. Rolly Simpson
Burroughs Wellcome Co. Library
3030 Cornwallis Rd.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
(919) 541-9090 x4164

The directory represents the results of a two-year project to identify and describe the holdings and services of 121 special libraries, both public and private, in North Carolina.

The arrangement is by city, with institution-library and subject indexes. Entries include: organization name and address, librarian, telephone number, subjects and formats in collection, services offered, use restrictions, and network membership.

- Willia George, Librarian, Rogers-Here Junior High School, Durham, will head the School of Library Science, NCCU, Alumni, 1979-81. She will be assisted by Emmalene Reade, vice-president; Clarence Toomer, Treasurer; Vanessa Work Ramseur, secretary; and, Duane Bogenschneider, reporter.
- Rose Ann Simon has been named director of the library at Salem College.
- Beverly Richardson has been named director of the Montgomery County Library.
- The Spring Lake Branch, Cumberland County Library, was dedicated December 2.

All photos in this issue were taken by Samuel Boone,
official conference photographer, NCLA.