

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Twenty-five years ago a new journal was born. This issue of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES commemorates the silver anniversary of that birth. Consequently, it is a special one because it marks a milestone—a quarter century of service to Tar Heel librarians, trustees, and friends of libraries.

In recognition of this signal occasion, this issue of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES contains articles describing the growth and development of public, academic, school, and special libraries in North Carolina during the past 25 years. A former N.C.L.A. president describes the evolution of our profession's state association during these 2½ decades, and an ex-dean of the UNC School of Library Science delineates the most significant issues in library education since 1942. A separate article describing the influence of our state's most eminent librarian—Dr. Louis Round Wilson—now in his tenth decade of life, on the development of libraries since the early years of this century, also appears in this issue. Other articles relate to modifications in bindery facilities and services since 1942, the growth of community college libraries in our state, and changes which have occurred in content and format of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES since its inception. The final article depicts action taken by the 1967 session of the North Carolina General Assembly with respect to libraries.

The official journal of N.C.L.A. has evolved from a six-page bi-monthly newsletter in 1942 to the 24-40 page quarterly which is lean on news but fat on substantive articles in 1967. Although an issue without a half-tone photograph would appear strange today, the first nine volumes of this periodical were entirely devoid of half-tones. The initial appearance of half-tone photographs came in the February, 1952 issue, which contained two such illustrations. Almost every issue since that date has contained one or more photographs.

The first index to our journal covered the first ten volumes (February, 1942-June, 1952); it was edited by Vivian Moose of the Woman's College Library in Greensboro. Another index, also compiled by Miss Moose, covered Volumes 11-13 (September, 1952-June, 1955). Since 1959, a biennial index has been compiled; it has appeared in the Summer issue of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES every other year. The most recent index appeared in the Summer, 1967 issue.

Editors of our journal have included librarians who have been active members of the North Carolina Library Association for many years. Among the editors have been the following, with period of editorship shown following each name: Charles M. Adams (1960-64); William S. Powell (1958-60), Elaine von Oesen (1953-57), Hallie S. Bacelli (1951-53), Charles R. Brockmann (1949-51) and Wendell W. Smiley (1947-49).

Writing in the first issue of NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES (February, 1942), N.C.L.A. president Guy R. Lyle (now director of libraries at Emory University), stated that two major functions of this journal should be "to serve as the official medium of communication between the Association and its membership" and "to provide an outlet for the publication of significant articles dealing with professional problems." Twenty-five years later, these are still the central purposes of this publication.

It is my hope that during the next quarter century NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES will serve the cause of books and libraries throughout our state as effectively and forcefully as it has served this cause during the past 25 years.