

North Carolina Libraries

Volume 2, Number 5 — December 1943

Published bi-monthly except July and August by the North Carolina Library Association, School of Library Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

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North Carolina Library Association, 1904–1943

By Louis R. Wilson, Professor, School of Library Science, University of North Carolina

Address at the Biennial Meeting, Charlotte, October 29, 1943

The North Carolina Library Association today celebrates the 39th anniversary of its organization and first annual meeting in Charlotte, November 11 and 12, 1904. The movement to organize the Association was led by Mrs. Annie Smith Ross, the librarian of the Carnegie Library in Charlotte. She corresponded with other librarians in the State concerning the desirability of forming an association, was one of the six persons who met in Greensboro May 14, 1904 to organize the Association, and was elected its first president.

The other five members of the group which perfected the organization were Dr. Charles D. McIver, President, and Miss Annie F. Petty, Librarian, State Normal and Industrial College; J. P. Breedlove, Librarian of Trinity College; R. D. Douglas, Editor of the Greensboro News; and Louis R. Wilson, Librarian of the University of North Carolina. Dr. McIver and Mr. J. A. Bivins, then principal of the Charlotte High School, were elected vice-presidents, Mr. Wilson, secretary-treasurer, and Mr. Breedlove, Mr. Douglas, and Miss Petty members of the executive committee. Of the 52 charter members of the Association, 21 were from Charlotte.

The program of the first meeting in Charlotte gave clear indication of the spirit and intention of the Association. Miss Anne Wallace and Mr. A. H. Hopkins, librarians of the then newly organized Carnegie libraries of Atlanta and Louisville, described the procedures followed in establishing and organizing free library service in the two most progressive library centers in the South at that time. Dr. Eben Alexander, of the University of N.C., President McIver, President J. C. Kilgo, of Trinity College, and Mr. D. A. Tompkins, of the Charlotte Observer, discussed as educators and laymen the role of libraries in a democracy. The first resolution passed by the Association commended Superintendent of Public Instruction J. Y. Joyner for his aggressive program of school library development in North Carolina and urged the provisions of library service for all citizens of the State.

Expansion of Activities (1906–1920s)

In 1906 the Association enlarged the scope of its activities. It authorized Mrs. Ross, Mr. W. F. Randolph, Secretary of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Wilson as its representatives at the meeting of the American Library Association at Narragansett Pier, R.I., to invite that Association to hold its annual meeting in 1907 in Asheville, and appointed a committee to draft a bill providing for the establishment and support of the North Carolina Library Commission.

The invitation for the meeting at Asheville was gladly accepted and a bill for the establishment of the Commission was drafted and introduced in the legislature of 1907, but was not enacted until 1909. The meeting of the A.L.A. in Asheville brought 600 librarians from all parts of the nation to the State and was attended by a large delegation of librarians and laymen from North Carolina. The State press featured the meeting as of unusual educational significance to the Southeast and aided in acquainting North Carolina and the region with the necessity of providing library service for schools, colleges, and the public in general.

The passage of the bill assured the establishment of the North Carolina Library Commission which immediately began the publication of the *North Carolina Library Bulletin*, the operation of traveling libraries, the provision of materials for women's clubs and school debating societies, the assistance of existing libraries in the extension and improvement of their service, the promotion of library service for all the citizenry, and the training of librarians through summer schools and local institutes.

The program of the Commission grew and was matched with appropriations which increased from \$1,500 to \$27,600 in 1926. The Association also expanded its program. The North Carolina High School Debating Union and the Extension Division of the University were organized in 1912–13. Members of the Association attended the organization meeting of the Southeastern Library Association at Signal Mountain in 1920, and Asheville was host to the third meeting of that organization in 1924.

In 1922 the University of North Carolina *News Letter* ran a notable series of articles under the general title, "Does North Carolina Read?" In the same year the Extension Division issued a handbook, *The High School Library*, and the library of the North Carolina College for Women began the publication of *Library Notes*.

In 1926 members of the Association began agitation for the improvement of high school libraries which resulted in the adoption of standards for such libraries by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and helped in the organization of the Department of School Libraries of the North Carolina Educational Association. The Association also brought about in 1927 at Charlotte under the stimulation of Professor Frank P. Graham, of the University, the organization of the Citizens' Library Movement, the first citizens' group of this character to be established in the nation.

The Late 1920s and 1930s

In the later 1920s the Association witnessed several notable developments. The Department of Library Science of the North Carolina College for Women began the formal training of librarians in 1929–30. County library service to all the population was begun in

Davidson and Mecklenburg counties in 1929 in cooperation with the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Library buildings were completed at Duke University and at the University of North Carolina which through their size and the nature and the extent of their collections represented graphically the importance of libraries to a state in the attainment of its educational and industrial development.

The dedication of the new building of the University in October 1929 was accompanied by meetings of the Southeastern Library Association and the Southern Conference on Education, both of which featured library service in the Southeast. In 1931 the School of Library Science at the University was opened and since that date has graduated 406 librarians.

The early 1930s brought libraries reduced budgets and increased readers. They also brought into existence WPA public library service which, at its peak, employed hundreds of workers, spent \$1,008,776 in the peak year, cooperated with the Library Commission in providing library service for thousands of readers who had been without it, and gave impetus to the movement for state aid which resulted in an annual appropriation of \$100,000 authorized by the legislature in 1941 and increased to \$125,000 in 1943.

Members of the Association also participated in the advancement of school library development. They urged the appointment of a school library supervisor in the State Department of Education (the position was established through the assistance of the General Education Board in 1930) and advocated state support for school libraries. Such expenditures during 1941–42 amounted to \$820,286 of which \$277,726 was spent on elementary and secondary schools for whites, \$42,961 for Negroes. The total number of books in these libraries was 2,413,259 and the number of school librarians having had some formal library training was 690, whereas only two of the librarians who were charter members of the Association had had such training when the Association was organized in 1904.

The Record in 1943

Today we review a thirty-nine year period. In 1904 college libraries in the State contained 132,000 volumes; today they contain approximately 2,000,000 volumes. The staff of the Trinity College Library in 1904 numbered one full-time member; in 1942 the staff of Duke University Library numbered 67. In 1904 all the public libraries in the State contained approximately 60,000 volumes. In 1942–43, 80 county, 26 city or town, and 21 Negro public or branch libraries possessed 1,166,657 volumes, operated 40 bookmobiles in 48 counties, spent through local funds and state aid a total of \$611,666.06 for library service to 3,142,640 North Carolinians to whom they loaned 8,968,696 books.

In this record library service to Negroes has not been so general or so extensive as that to whites. It has been provided by city, branch, public and county libraries and through Negro colleges. The North Carolina Library Association for Negroes was organized in 1934 and the Library School of the North Carolina College for Negroes was opened in 1941–42.

This is the foundation which the Association has helped lay for the education and illumination of the people of North Carolina. Today the Association can review this record with pride and with the hope that the state, county, and city government may enable it to play an increasingly significant part in solving the problems with which the war and the coming peace confront those who serve the interests of democracy.

Editorial Note

As your new editors take over the task of bringing out *North Carolina Libraries*, they are fully conscious of the standards they are expected to meet, having earlier issues as proof of the useful work which has been done. The editors expect to continue the policy set forth when the bulletin began publication: "to report on conditions as they exist in the field of librarianship and related fields in North Carolina; to report on progress; to record recommendations;" et cetera, but they believe that there are further functions which, with your help, the bulletin can rightly perform.

One such function is that they will offer publication of articles devoted to creative thinking about libraries and their place in the life of all people of North Carolina. Such creative contributions may take the form of reports, of original investigations, of analyses of experience, or of suggestions on broad post-war statewide library planning. In any event, the editors wish you to know that any reports or ideas you have will be considered and receive publication if possible.

The strength of not only this bulletin but libraries depends upon your interested cooperation. They earnestly ask for both. They believe you are interested or you would not be librarians; the response, they await.

Specifically they expect to deal with such topics as public library publicity, bookmobile service, North Carolina Negro libraries, the high school library, college and university wartime student service, et cetera. They will call upon different individuals to supply such articles. This does not mean that material submitted by individuals is unwelcome; rather it is cordially invited.

— E.G.

Post-Library School Training

By Susan Grey Akers

A summary of a talk at the Junior Members Round Table breakfast.

Miss Pierce's *Graduate Study in Librarianship in the United States* states that thus far there has been a relatively small amount of post-professional study undertaken by librarians. She points out that post-professional education in any field is closely related to: (1) pre-entry education; (2) practice in the field; and (3) stage of professional evolution reached by the group. The need for post-professional education in the library field is, however, now being felt and the interest in it is increasing.

In 1937 Mr. Carnovsky discussed the question of advanced study in "Why Graduate Study in Librarianship?" in the *Library Quarterly*. And in 1942 Mr. Russell, Associate Dean of the Division of Social Sciences of The University of Chicago, in an article, "Professional Education for Librarianship," wrote of the librarian as citizen, scholar, administrator, personnel worker, and technician and the type of training needed in each of these five capacities.

There are other publications which will be found suggestive. A very recent one is Mr. Reece's *Programs for Library Schools*, a 1943 pamphlet, in which he specifies the librarian's field for study.

Detailed references to the articles mentioned above are given that any librarian in the state who is interested may be able to secure them. Books, pamphlets, and periodicals dealing with professional library subjects may be borrowed through Mrs. Macy Peacock Douglas, State School Library Adviser, Raleigh; Miss Marjorie Beal, North Carolina Library Commission; Mr. Guy R. Lyle, Librarian, The Woman's College of The University of North Carolina, Greensboro; The School of Library Science of The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Post-library school professional training today may be carried on by: (1) study towards an advanced degree in library science; (2) study towards an advanced degree in an academic field; (3) private or formal study to fill in gaps in the individual's preparation for his present position or for the type of position towards which he is working.

References

1. Pierce, B. F. *Graduate study in librarianship in the United States*. A.L.A., 1941. Mimeographed.

2. Carnovsky, Leon. "Why graduate study in librarianship?" *The Library Quarterly*, 7:246–261, April 1937.
 3. Russell, J. D. "Professional education for librarianship." *The Library Quarterly*, 12:776–798, October 1942.
 4. Reece, E. J. *Programs for library schools*. Columbia University, 1943. 64 p.
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The Improvement of College Instruction Through the Use of the Library

By Louis R. Wilson, Professor, School of Library Science, University of North Carolina

Address at the College and University Section Meeting, Biennial Meeting of the N.C.L.A., October 29, 1943. (Digest by N. F. Shepherd, Jr.)

This paper grew out of the situation reflected by 750,000 men of draft age, rejected on account of illiteracy, and by many college student failures due to limited vocabularies, low reading rate, and below-average reading comprehension. Attention was called to the fact that college students, served by the librarians present at the meeting, were less well equipped as readers than students in other regions. It is no matter of speculation that the South's students rank below the national average in reading rate and comprehension. Numerous tests show it plainly.

Attention was called to some of the measures which have been employed to improve instruction through library use. Those efforts have been made: (1) by agencies other than colleges and libraries, (2) by colleges, and (3) by libraries. The Carnegie Corporation and the General Education Board were cited as examples of agencies other than colleges and libraries whose efforts have been very constructive. Within the college, efforts have been primarily concerned with the curriculum according to the pattern followed. Honors programs, divisional arrangements, preceptorial programs, house plans, and other curriculum developments have necessarily been correlated with library use.

Of changes within the library which have promoted its use in instruction, the first in importance is the attempt members of many library staffs have made to understand the education program of the college as it relates to the library and to participate in carrying it into effect. Many advanced degrees in library science and other fields have been taken by librarians to increase their proficiency as librarians and as library counselors or advisers of students.

Another change which librarians have helped to effect has involved the physical reorganization of library materials for specific uses, and the changing of buildings to secure

conditions which are conducive to study. Theses and articles by librarians have constituted one of the principal sources of information available concerning various aspects of college-student reading. The findings should be placed in the hands of the college executives more often. In some instances the administration of the college library has been placed on a teaching rather than administrative or library-housekeeping level. The activities at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina Library were cited as notable examples of the "instructional phase."

Recommendations for Improvement

In suggesting methods by which college study can be further improved through library use, Dr. Wilson said that library participation in instruction activities was a partial achievement. Of other measures which should receive consideration he emphasized four:

1. The administration must be urged to provide funds for maintaining the library at a teaching rather than at a library-housekeeping level. The library must be considered as a teaching unit.
2. The library staff should become more expert in participating in the detection and removal of vocabulary and reading deficiencies of students and should work more with the faculty in removing such deficiencies.
3. The library should be more active in the guidance programs for the students especially through displays and readers' advisory services.
4. The library needs to feature in its display cases and on its open shelves the kinds of books which aid students in learning how to take notes, how to study, how to prepare bibliographies, and how to utilize library materials in mastering a subject and in acquiring ability to write about it clearly and interestingly.

"To aid the student in extending his vocabulary and reading rate, to assist him in taking the fuzziness out of his thinking, to stimulate him in reading those works which inspire men to high living and thinking—those are chief among the shining goals of college librarianship."

Staff Organization Round Table

By Eula Carpenter, Charlotte Public Library

In response to an article on "Staff Organizations" in the September issue of *North Carolina Libraries* and to the letters of invitation sent to many libraries throughout the state, a number of librarians attended the meeting of the Staff Organization Round Table during the meeting of the N.C.L.A. at Hotel Charlotte on October 20, 1943.

The program was planned and conducted by the recently organized Charlotte Staff Association. Mrs. Louella Posey, Head of the Catalog Department, presented a paper on "Why We Associate and What We Hope to Do" which reviewed briefly the history of staff organizations and summarized the purpose of such associations.

From these first organizations, which were generally of social origin, groups have come to have more particular and definite aims. Their aims may be:

1. An educational program for the members
2. Improved working conditions
3. Raising and adjusting salaries
4. Correction of injustices and grievances in individual cases
5. Publication of a news bulletin
6. Improvement of public relations
7. Charitable purposes
8. Establishment of loan funds for the staff
9. Participation in the function of library policy
10. Opportunity for recognition of the individual and his ideas
11. Carrying out different services to the community in cooperation with the Red Cross, Defense Councils, and other community projects

Some staff organizations include all members of the staff, including the chief librarian. Others feel that having the librarian as a member lessens free and open discussion of staff problems and prefer to exclude him from membership. Salaries, which are a main concern because of the fact that salaries of professional people tend to lag behind that of other economic groups, often assume an important place in the program of staff organizations.

Since the meeting was based on the acquiring of knowledge about group organizations, Miss Margery Alexander, a past president of the Charlotte Classroom Teachers Association and a member of the Southeastern States Board of Executives, was asked to report on the accomplishments and activities of that organization.

A Staff Organization Round Table was formed. This Round Table was recognized as an official group by the N.C.L.A. at its last general session.

Any news from existing staff organizations and news of the formation of new groups should be sent to the secretary, Eula Carpenter, Charlotte Public Library, Charlotte.

Association News

The Association Has a Gavel! The N.C.L.A. is now the proud owner of an inscribed gavel—"To N.C.L.A. from E.C.T.C. 1943." Wendell W. Smiley, Librarian, East Carolina Teachers College, presented Dr. Susan Grey Akers, incoming President, N.C.L.A., with a gavel which was made by an E.C.T.C. industrial arts student. The wood was taken from the esteemed remains of a campus holly tree.

All past and incoming masters of ceremony will, no doubt, add their thanks and blessings for this "expedient" gift.

Pay Dues Now

Adequate plans for libraries in the post-war world can be made and initiated only by an alert, aggressive Association. The North Carolina Library Association needs the membership, active cooperation, and loyal support of every librarian and interested citizen in the State.

Copies of the first number of volume three of *North Carolina Libraries* will be sent to those members whose 1944 dues have been received by the treasurer by January 31.

Send dues now to Miss Minnie Kallam, N.C.L.A. Treasurer, James A. Gray High School, Winston-Salem. Personal membership is \$1.50 annually, institutional \$3.00.

— Minnie Kallam, Chairman, Membership Committee

Note: On the recommendation of the executive committee, the motion was made and carried at the last general session of the biennial meeting that the constitution be amended to increase personal dues from \$1.00 to \$1.50 a year in order to finance *North Carolina Libraries*.

Tar Heel Library Notes

The nation-wide professional representation of the following North Carolina army and navy librarians may add to our continuously expanding library program. Their wealth of experience, which reaches beyond the scope of their active war duties, is needed for this

wider planning. As we announce your presence in our midst, may we express the "hope" that we may feel free to call upon you?

Army Librarians in North Carolina

- Mrs. Halli Sykes Bacelli, Library No. 1, Camp Mackall
- Mrs. Nellie Bloxton Burton, Library No. 1, Camp Sutton
- Katherine Gertrude Capel, Library No. 2, Basic Training Center No. 10, Greensboro
- Bessie Mae Cowan, Library No. 1, Fort Bragg
- Martha H. Davis, Library No. 3, Fort Bragg
- Loretta A. Foust, Library No. 5, Camp Butner
- Mrs. Hilda B. Hendricks, Library No. 3, Camp Butner
- Ethel Lillie Knott, Library No. 4, Camp Butner
- Grace E. Lawrence, Station Hospital, Camp Mackall
- Sarah Catherine Loftin, Library No. 2, Camp Davis
- Mrs. Hazel H. Lutz, Library No. 4, Fort Bragg
- Virginia MacDonald, Library No. 8 (Station Hospital No. 3), Fort Bragg
- Suzanne Sparks McLaurin, Library No. 2, Camp Sutton
- Kathryn Marie Penn, Library No. 3, Camp Sutton
- Helen Blake Rosser, Library No. 6 (Pope Field), Fort Bragg
- Sara Gardner Seagle, Library No. 2, Fort Bragg
- Florence Pearl Shelburne, Library No. 1, Basic Training Center No. 10, Greensboro
- Mozelle Spainhour, Library No. 1, Laurinburg-Maxton AAB, Maxton
- Mary Elizabeth Spence, Library No. 1, Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro
- Peggy Anne Strowd, Library No. 1, Camp Butner
- Helen Huntington Thompson, Library No. 2, Camp Mackall
- Mrs. Ellen B. Timmons, Library No. 1, Moore General Hospital, Swannanoa
- Elaine von Oesen, Library No. 1, Camp Davis

- Winona Walker, Library No. 7 (Station Hospital No. 2), Fort Bragg
- Mildred S. Young, Library No. 2, Camp Butner

Navy Librarians in North Carolina

Camp Lejeune:

- Charlesanna Fox, Camp Librarian
- Betty Bellinger, Librarian in charge of deposits
- B. Vernese Bennett, Tent Camp Librarian
- Mary Virginia Hodge, Assistant, Tent Camp
- Ethel M. Jackson, Montford Point Librarian (Negro)
- Ruth D. Prichard, Area 4 Librarian, Hadnot Point
- Margaret H. Rose, Area 1 Librarian, Hadnot Point
- Miriam Rothenberg, Area 5 Librarian, Hadnot Point
- Pauline Woodburn, Patients' Library, Naval Hospital
- Lora-Frances Davis, Assistant, Patients' Library
- W. Catherine Jones, Area 2 Librarian, Hadnot Point
- Dorothy E. Long, Assistant, Hadnot Point Libraries
- Mary Massie, Assistant, Hadnot Point Libraries
- Mary Katherine Gore, Assistant, Cataloging, et cetera

Cherry Point:

- Helen Hilton, Librarian

Public Library Section Resolution

The Public Library Section of N.C.L.A., at the biennial meeting, presented to the Association the following resolution:

"The Public Library Section recommends to the president of the North Carolina Library Association that a committee of fifteen citizens and from fifteen to thirty librarians be appointed as a legislative committee for the N.C.L.A. to plan and motivate a library legislative program to contact all candidates for the North Carolina Legislature and those

persons elected, to familiarize them with library plans and needs, and that funds be appropriated by the Association as a legislative fund for printing, travel, and miscellaneous expenses."

The resolution was passed on to the new president for future recommendation or adoption.

Publisher's Advertisement

We are shouting and ringing bells about Arthur Koestler's *Arrival and Departure* published in November. Don't miss it!

— Marcia Carroll and Norman Berg, The Macmillan Company, 289 Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta

North Carolina Libraries, Volume 2, Number 5, December 1943

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