

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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THE SMITHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Mrs. Thomas J. Lassiter

The Smithfield Public Library has been thirty years in the making. For fifteen years it was more or less static; but the depression of the 1930's gave birth to the Works Program Administration, and it was this agency that showed the public generally what a staff of workers can mean in making books easily accessible to those who want to read. Library-minded citizens in Smithfield grasped the opportunity which WPA offered and built a sentiment for a public library which the ending of government aid could not down, and which has steadily grown until regular annual appropriations from town tax funds together with gifts from Friends of the Library supply a budget this year of \$3,500.

The local library, like many others in North Carolina, is a child of the Smithfield Woman's Club. In January, 1915, four months after the Woman's Club was formed, the junior members of the club took as their project the starting of a public library. Cash donations, gifts of books, money earned through silver teas got together 500 volumes which were housed over a store on a main business street. It was kept open by volunteer librarians one afternoon each week. The town gave its first donation to the library in 1917 when its gift of \$50 provided new book shelves and a few new books as the library moved to a new location in the old Masonic Lodge on Second Street. But such a donation was not established as a regular thing until years afterward; and for a dozen years or more the little library remained a little library serving only a limited patronage.

In 1930, the Woman's Club built a lovely brick club house—which incidentally was the only building of any kind constructed in Smithfield during that depression year—and the library after having been closed for several years reopened in the new building. From that year on, the history of the library has been one of successive moves each time burgeoning forth into more commodious quarters and into extended areas of service.

After moving to the club house, the library through a book mending project lengthened the lives of its few volumes and added to the collection, from time to time, loans from the State Library Commission. It was in 1933 that the first State Library loan was secured. The library was kept open two afternoons a week instead of one.

Then in 1937 WPA paid for the services of a library clerk, and the library moved from the club house located on the edge of town to the more centrally located Legion Hut. That year the library was kept open four hours a day, and WPA book menders repaired 200 worn-out books. The circulation jumped from around 400 books per month to 1220. The town gave \$100; the

Woman's Club \$47; and fees from a rental shelf and fines added \$66 more. Friends of the Library, an organization of contributors which had been formed, gave another \$47. These donations totaled \$259, a previously unheard of cash budget for the library. In the eight years since that time the library has operated with a cash budget each year and, for the current year, the total budget is \$3,500. The town appropriates \$2,200; Friends of the Library are giving \$1,036; and rental fees and fines are providing \$264.

By September, 1939, the library had outgrown its small room in the Legion Hut, and new quarters were secured closer up town in a building erected as a Presbyterian Men's Sunday School classroom. More book shelves were gathered up, and to cover the discrepancies in the various shades of varnish and paint, a color scheme of black and red was adopted which has proved to be so satisfactory that it has continued to be the color motif of the enlarged library.

IMAGE: Children's Corner, Smithfield Public Library.



In 1940 the Woman's Club nominated the first board of library trustees, five men and five women, and such a board has guided the progress of the library since that time.

In February of that same year what at first appeared to be a calamity proved to be a blessing in disguise. A wind storm one Sunday afternoon unroofed the Sunday School class building and the rain flooded the library. Quick work on the part of a number of citizens saved the books from ruin, and a tarpaulin provided a temporary rain-proof roof. The Sunday School class was not

inclined to spend money on repairs, and the ultimate outcome of the disaster was the purchase of the building by the library trustees. The trustees raised \$500 and bought a lot a block away in the business district and moved the building to it. An additional \$500 was raised for renovation, and on Aug. 27, 1940, the library opened in its own home.

The annual report for the year which ended June 30, 1945, is indicative of the growth during the past five years. Although WPA aid was discontinued in 1943, two library clerks are employed and the library is open 48 hours each week. It is open every day except Sunday from 1 to 9 P.M. The book collection on June 30 totaled 4,805; the number of borrowers, 2,028; and the circulation, 21,518, for the year preceding.

The library has received one bequest--the private library of the late Mrs. Nellie Brentzer, a Smithfield native who died in Washington, D.C., in 1943. This bequest added 800 volumes to the book collection.

A memorial gift from relatives of the late Sheriff K. L. Rose is a \$300 charging desk.

The library has fostered the increasingly popular idea of sending memorial books to the library instead of sending floral offerings for deceased friends. Since January 1, 1945, one hundred and seven such books have been given to the library.

Out of the library sentiment generated in the Smithfield Library -- together with similar work in other Johnston County towns -- has come a county-wide library system. In 1944, a county appropriation supplemented by State Aid provided a trained librarian, a bookmobile, and the nucleus of a growing book collection which serves 104 book stations in rural Johnston County. The Smithfield Library operates as a branch of the county system.

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

By L. R. Wilson and M. F. Tauber

Reviewed by John Vanmale, Librarian, University of South Carolina

Following close on the heels of Guy R. Lyle's work on college library administration comes Louis R. Wilson and Maurice F. Tauber's *The University Library: Its Organization, Administration and Functions* (University of Chicago Press, \$6.00) by another North Carolina librarian, Dean Wilson, and his former student, Maurice F. Tauber. Both books grew out of library school courses, summarizing the authors' experience, the appropriate professional literature, and a considerable amount of personal investigation. Recording what is known about academic library administration up to now, they offer a point of departure for new developments.

The University Library is encyclopedic. A glance at the authors' names, the table of contents, the bibliographies and the index will make a university librarian exclaim, "This is it!" Starting from general principles of management and instruction, the book explores all university library activities. The opening and closing chapters contribute to the philosophy of librarianship. Other sections investigate the past and future of cooperation, library resources, mechanical appliances, and our stock-in-trade, the book or what it is about to become.

Librarians employed in universities will use Wilson and Tauber to obtain practical guidance, to justify budget requests, to recruit promising students by demonstrating the scope and variety of university library service, and to reinforce their faith in the meaning and value of their work.

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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Announcements

The North Carolina Library Association will meet in Raleigh April 25-27, 1946. Members will receive a detailed announcement of the program as soon as plans are complete. Make your plans now to come. With the ban on holding conventions lifted, the Executive Committee is enthusiastically planning a program for a 1946 spring meeting of the Association.

Committees of the Public Library Section are working on a classification and pay plan to be submitted to the librarians and trustees of the public libraries for comment and suggestions. After these are received and revised, the proposals will be presented to the Section.

The war is over, the time is now here to make and carry out plans for expanding and improving library service throughout the state. The power and the value of books has been realized during the war years; new types of library service have been developed; we need to meet together.

The North Carolina Library Association Nominating Committee desires suggestions of nominees for the positions to be filled at the State Conference April 25-27, 1946. These positions are: President, Secretary and Treasurer. Names should reach the Chairman of the Committee by February 1.

Miss Julius Amis, Chairman
Nominating Committee, N.C.L.A.
North Carolina Library Commission
Raleigh, North Carolina

N.C.L.A. COMMITTEES

Education for Librarianship. Mildred Herring, Greensboro, Chairman. Olivia Burwell, Concord; Lucile Kelling, Chapel Hill; Mrs. Emma H. Moore, Boone; Louise Moore, Boone.

Exhibits Committee. Charles R. Brockmann, Charlotte, Chairman. W. W. Smiley, Greenville.

Federal Relations Committee. Marjorie Beal, Raleigh, Chairman.

Legislative Committee. Mrs. Louise J. Hawkins, Raleigh, and Mr. J. W. Atkins, Gastonia, Co-

Chairmen. Representatives of all counties.

Membership Committee. Janie Allsbrook, Tarboro, Chairman. Mrs. Virginia Crumpler Adams, Laurinburg; Maud Ashworth, Hendersonville; Hazel Baity, Raleigh; Gertrude Coward, Wilmington; Barbara M. Eaker, Gastonia; Minnie Kallam, Greensboro.

Nominating Committee. Julius Amis, Raleigh, Chairman. Mrs. Margaret B. Farley, High Point; Marjorie Hood, Greensboro.

Public Library Certification Committee. Marjorie Beal, Raleigh, Chairman. Susan G. Akers, Chapel Hill; Charles E. Rush, Chapel Hill; Clyde Smith, Raleigh.

Publicity Committee. Hoyt R. Galvin, Charlotte, and W. W. Smiley, Greenville, Co-Chairmen. Julius Amis, Raleigh; Mrs. Mary P. Douglas, Raleigh; Charles E. Rush, Chapel Hill.

Resolutions Committee. Mary Thornton, Chapel Hill, Chairman. C. M. Adams, Greensboro; Nancy Gray, Wilson; Mrs. Mary D. Ring, Charlotte.

N.C.L.A. SECTION OFFICERS

Catalogers Section. Nannie Crowder, Henderson, Chairman. Elizabeth Walker, Greenville, Secretary.

College & University Section. G. F. Shepherd, Jr., Chapel Hill, Chairman. Louise Moore, Boone, Secretary.

Junior Members Round Table. Nancy Gray, Wilson, Acting Chairman. Gertrude Coward, Wilmington, Secretary-Treasurer.

Public Library Section. Irene Hester, Greenville, Chairman. Elizabeth House, Washington, Secretary.

School and Children's Librarians' Section. Mary McNeely, Charlotte, Chairman. Mildred Herring, Greensboro, Secretary.

Staff Organization Round Table. Mrs. Louella S. Posey, Charlotte, Chairman. Barbara Eaker, Gastonia, Secretary.

Trustees Section. Mrs. G. P. Dillard, Draper, Chairman. Mrs. Susan G. Finch, Thomasville, Secretary.

[NOTE: A companion file contains a description of the fold-out map "Membership of North

Carolina Library Association Members by Counties in North Carolina" which appeared as an insert in this issue.]

PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE

Reviewed by Lucile Kelling, School of Library Science, U.N.C.

"Eratosthenes" in *The Library World* recently excoriated his fellow-librarians for their assaults upon themselves. No other profession is so prone, he says, to lay bare its foibles and frailties to public view. Why, after all, must we be always wrong? Why not, for a change, extol our virtues?

Right "Eratosthenes" may be. Among ourselves this abasement may amount to disloyalty, particularly if publicity precedes intra-mural attempts at redress; but to expose our weaknesses in the public press to our patrons who need no advertisement of our sins, real or fancied, may be downright foolhardy. It is quite possible, on the other hand, that such self-flagellation has a salutary effect on the profession as a whole. Certainly few of us can have failed to enjoy, perhaps somewhat sadistically, the articles last spring in *Library Journal* about "what's wrong with libraries," and the *A.L.A. Bulletin*, November, 1945, repays close attention.

The first few pages are taken up with an article by Robert Mitchell Lightfoot, Jr., "A Librarian on Leave Looks at His Profession." In the succeeding pages several librarians in the armed services and in camp libraries answer Mr. Lightfoot and "discuss librarianship in the light of their service experiences." This discussion grew out of a questionnaire sent to A.L.A. members in service and service libraries which is next summarized and analyzed, question and answers, in the *Bulletin*.

It is distinctly humbling to read over and over again that libraries need humanizing and even more so to discover the simple solutions offered by these librarians who have seen service libraries humanized and vitalized.

Emphasis is placed on the application of sound business methods and on the extension of cooperation as in purchasing and cataloging. A union catalog "indexing the worthwhile material in surrounding libraries and schools is a necessity of the future, preventing duplication and aiding the serious student, no matter how small the local library."

That relegation of such details as must be retained after "stream-lining" and simplification of routines to a clerical staff and the minimizing of rules to effect better service need to be mentioned are painful admissions of guilt. Can it be possible that clinging to worn-out methods and routines and details and the fear of letting a time-worn record go by the board lest it "sometime" prove useful, though it never has in the past, be laid at the door of that "feminizing" influence so often referred to in this series of discussions and in many others?!

More than twenty years ago John Cotton Dana raised the question as to whether or not the tax-supported library should leave the field of light reading matter to rental libraries and to the purveyors of cheap editions of books. This point is discussed again by a librarian who feels that "our duty in this field has been performed; now everyone can afford to buy or rent evanescent

reading material. Furthermore, the use of light reading as 'bait' is hardly substantiated by the facts; as for its use to increase the circulation totals, well, we shall simply have to devise a new measurement for library activity."

Federal aid is so nearly unanimously favored by these librarians that it can hardly be said to be argued. The statistics in answer to this part of the questionnaire are rather surprising. One courageous young man puts his head fairly in the mouth of the lion of the opposition by going so far as to approve not only aid itself but a certain amount of federal control as well.

Since library buildings are considered even by many of our kindest critics to be something less than good, *Pointers for Public Library Building Planners* (Chicago, A.L.A., 1945) by Russell J. Schunk should be helpful. Mr. Schunk outlines the responsibilities of the three players on the "smoothly-functioning team" which will successfully achieve the planning objective: the library board, the librarian, and the architect. He mentions the necessity of determining the most valuable functions of the library in the particular situation at hand. His very practical little book gives aids to "selling the project," remodeling, and even to moving. Much useful detail is included in the section: "Structural Information"; and "Miscellaneous Information" deals with "the many things needed in addition to the professional equipment." The "Reference Data" in the appendix goes into specific detail on such matters as over-all building cost, book capacity, floor space, shelving, lighting, and heating and ventilating.

Books Published in the United States 1939-1943 (Chicago, A.L.A., 1945) was prepared by Charles F. McCombs, Chief Bibliographer of the New York Public Library with the aid of other librarians and institutions. The purpose of the list was "to inform reference libraries, governmental agencies, and individual scholars in war areas of important American books published since the beginning of the war, and to serve as a buying list for books to be purchased for libraries in war areas with funds provided by the Rockefeller Foundation." The books included are those "generally considered significant contributions to knowledge in their respective fields or books embodying the results of recent research." Included are 1406 books arranged by subject, and there is an index. Although the list was designed primarily for reference libraries in war areas, it is especially recommended to librarians who wish to check their purchases of recent years by a competent guide and to those who may be seeking advice in special fields.

THE BULL'S HEAD BOOKSHOP

By Jessica Valentine, University of North Carolina Library

Rental collections are not unusual in libraries, but book shops are. The Extension Division of the University of North Carolina Library has been operating the Bull's Head Bookshop for about ten years where the latest books are offered to the public both for sale and for rent. It is self-supporting. Its collection is carefully selected to serve the needs of the college community and to supplement the main library's resources, particularly in the fields of recent fiction, biography, drama and poetry.

The Bull's Head Bookshop is situated in one end of the Extension Library. It is bright with new

books in jackets, well lighted, comfortably furnished with easy chairs and simple display tables and shelves, and lined with full stacks conveniently arranged according to subject matter. A magazine table offers a stimulating selection of current non-technical periodicals, literary, artistic and timely. It is a cheerful little place and an inviting one. All the books are for sale, both new and used, and practically all are for rent, the only exceptions being gift editions and out-of-print titles. Even the children's books are for rent, although a much larger proportion of the juveniles is retained for sale purposes. Small chairs are provided for our young browsers. The inventory comprises about 3,000 books. About one-fifth of these are in our active rental file.

The clientele is drawn from the students, the faculty and the townspeople, and stock is selected with the hope of supplying a tactful blend of the intellectual and the frivolous. We have no room at present for sets or rare books or deluxe fine bindings. But all the current titles of fiction and non-fiction are available in almost adequate quantities. Text books are taboo; but many a student has been led into the bypaths of his subject by browsing about the Bull's Head. Some are no doubt temporarily led astray from pure research by an entertaining selection of canteen books and anthologies of wit and humor. Detective stories have their place in such a shop. In fact they have a section all to themselves. The turnover of this stock is particularly lively, only the latest titles being kept available.

Books are ordered through the facilities of the University Library Order Department. New titles are on display and ready for rental on publication day or very close to it. A jaded patron can usually find something fresh or unusual to carry away. The rental customer who moans, "Do you have a good book?" nearly always gets a good book and often a better book than he or she had dreamed of.

We try to respect the specialties of our patrons, providing the best available popular art and music books. Drama students and collectors find a good assortment of anthologies and latest published plays and reference works. Poetry lovers are not disappointed when they are looking for new poetry or reprints of the classics, and they can always borrow or buy a copy of *The Prophet* or a New Directions pamphlet.

Domestic interests are served with an ample stock of cook books, both standard and Epicurean, and with the best of the current books on house plans and interior decorating. Child guidance and psychology books are here too, as well as recent sociological literature. The staff is aided in selection of these specialties by members of the faculty, who are themselves customers and devotees of the shop. The Bull's Head Bookshop is literary headquarters for the Chapel Hill Garden Club whose members use our books extensively and meet here annually for a tea and a talk on the year's best horticultural books, most of which are on display.

The collection of books on current affairs is kept strictly alive, out-of-date titles being sold off as bargains. We try to supply Bibles, dictionaries and atlases within rather narrow limits. But of course the shop is glad to handle special orders and to search for hard-to-get and out-of-print titles.

A pleasant activity of the Bull's Head Bookshop is the series of monthly teas, to which everyone is invited to take a cup of tea and to listen to a talk by a local or visiting literary light. When

feasible, autographing is cheerfully carried on at these teas. Interested audiences attend enthusiastically and respond to the stimulus of good tea, good talk and good books.

Our efforts to serve the needs and pleasure of the University community, without departing from University library standards of literary excellence have resulted in steadily increasing sales and rental activity. The Bull's Head Bookshop is a modest but ambitious example of the unusual service offered by a bookshop in a library.

TAR HEEL LIBRARY NOTES

The first issue of an interesting periodical entitled *Leaves from the Sondley Library* has been published in October by the Sondley Reference Library, Asheville. Beautifully printed on paper of an antique design, it lists books in the library published before 1700 in an impressive number.

Julian P. Boyd, Librarian, Princeton University, addressed the Friends of the Duke University Library on November 19th.

The library staff of Duke University was host to the staff of the U.N.C. Library on December 3rd, when Harvie Branscomb, formerly Director of Duke University Libraries, gave a talk on his experience as a member of the A.L.A. commission on reorganization of the National Library of Brazil.

Greensboro and the Greensboro Library Club are fortunate to be recipients of the benefit of Straughan's Book Shop's plan that is growing into a tradition of Book Week. Each year an outstanding person in the field of children's literature appears under the Book Shop's auspices and is generously shared with the public and school libraries. This year the people of Greensboro were charmed by the personality of Elizabeth Janet Gray who was at the Book Shop one afternoon, talked at two schools, was honored by a tea at the public library, and was guest speaker at the Library Club dinner, where she told librarians and friends of libraries episodes from her experiences while doing research in libraries of this country, Scotland, and England.

Miss Bernadette S. Neves, Librarian, Escola Politecnica, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, who is spending a year in the United States on a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship, spent two weeks in North Carolina visiting libraries.

The Southeastern Library Association has announced a meeting for 1946. The place and dates will be determined later.