

## DUKE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN RETIRES

In September 1946, Mr. Joseph Penn Breedlove retired from service as acting Librarian of the Duke University Library. He has been administrator of the Library of Trinity College and Duke University covering a span of more than fifty years, and has directed its growth from a single room with visible stacks and a staff of one member to the present departmentalized organization equipped to serve the needs of students from the undergraduate field through the advanced study of scholars in the various branches of science or the liberal arts. During these years, the multidinous problems of a growing organization came daily to Mr. Breedlove's desk, and were met with never failing skill and tenacity of purpose. His work was always performed with integrity and distinction.

Born in Granville County in 1874, Mr. Breedlove is descended from a long line of colonial and revolutionary ancestors, including among others John Penn, one of the three North Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was educated at Horner's Military School, Oxford, N. C., one of the outstanding preparatory schools of its day; he attended the University of North Carolina during his freshman year, 1894-95, transferring to Trinity College the following year and graduating from Trinity in 1898. At Trinity College, also, he took his degree of Master of Arts in 1902.

Upon completion of his college work, he became Librarian of Trinity College. At this time the Library consisted of the combined collections of the Hesperian and Columbian Literary societies, the Theological society and some miscellaneous reference books purchased by the College. The Library occupied one room of the old Washington Duke building and was used for shelving the collection as well as for a reading room.

In the summer of 1900, Mr. Breedlove studied library economy at Amherst College with William I. Fletcher, a pioneer in the library profession and one of the early advocates of formal library training. Under Dr. Fletcher, Mr. Breedlove was indoctrinated into the Dewey decimal system of classification and this he brought back to Durham with him for use in the Trinity College Library. In the summer of 1902 he did further work at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore.

Mr. Breedlove served not only as Librarian, but also as Cataloger and head of Circulation Desk until 1914, when Miss Eva Malone arrived to take charge of cataloging. The Library entered upon a period of extensive expansion in 1925, following the establishment of Duke University. The original library building was razed, and for a few years the present Woman's College Library housed the entire university collection. In 1930 the present general library building on

the West Campus was completed, and the Library has been expanded and divided until at present it consists of the University Library, the Libraries of the Schools of Law and Medicine, the Divinity School and the Woman's College, together with departmental Libraries for the Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics.

Mr. Breedlove continued in his administrative duties until 1939 when he was named Librarian Emeritus. He is the first person at Duke University to be so honored and is one of the few with that rank in the nation. During the war emergency, he was pressed into service as acting Librarian.

He has long been active in national and state library circles. He was one of the Founders of the North Carolina Library Association in 1904; served as treasurer of that organization in 1910-11, and as its president from 1911-13. He was elected to membership in the North Carolina Library Commission in 1921 and served for two years. He is an active contributor to many library and literary journals.

His large circle of admirers wish for Mr. Breedlove many years of continued activity and success.

Mr. Benjamin E. Powell has been appointed Duke Librarian to succeed Mr. Joseph P. Breedlove. He is a graduate of Duke University, being a member of the class of 1926. Following his graduation, he was a teacher and director of athletics at Bethel High School, N. C. In 1927 he returned to the Duke Library where he took a position in the Circulation Department. In 1929 he studied at the School of Library Science of Columbia University, where he received his B. S. degree in Library Science. He then returned to Duke as Chief of the Circulation and Reference Departments, and remained in that position until 1937. Mr. Powell was appointed Librarian of the University of Missouri in that year, a position he held until he came to Duke University as Librarian. Mr. Powell has completed his residence requirements in the Chicago Graduate Library School for his Ph. D degree and has submitted his thesis to the Chicago School faculty.

He was active in the Missouri Library Association, of which he was President in 1938-39; the Association of College and Reference Libraries, of which he was Secretary from 1941-44, and in the American Library Association.