

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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North Carolina Library Association Twenty-Seventh Conference Greensboro, April 26-28

The Twenty-Seventh Biennial Conference of the North Carolina Library Association was held at the O. Henry Hotel in Greensboro on April 26, 27 and 28, 1951. More than three hundred and fifty members of the association and invited guests from the North Carolina Negro Library Association registered for the three day session.

The business of the conference was expedited by the thoughtful action of President Harlan C. Brown in distributing mimeographed copies of the following reports, conveniently packaged, to all who registered:

- Report of the President N. C. L. A., 1949-51.
- Condensation of Minutes of Executive Committee Meetings.
- Report of the Federal Relations Committee.
- Analysis of Library Service Bill.
- Report of the Nominating Committee.
- Report of the Editor of *North Carolina Libraries*.
- Report of the Treasurer.
- Report of the Scholarship Loan Committee.
- Report of the Committee for Recruiting Librarians.
- Report of the Membership Committee.
- Report of the Legislative Committee.

The Conference was officially opened by President Harlan C. Brown, Librarian, State College of University North Carolina, Raleigh, North Carolina, on Thursday evening in the auditorium of the Woman's College Library. Following greetings on behalf of the citizens of Greensboro by Mayor Benjamin Cone, Dr. Edward Kidder Graham, Chancellor of Woman's College, introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Keyes D. Met-

calf, Director, Harvard University Libraries, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dr. Metcalf held the close attention of a capacity audience with a clear and informative description of the general plan of operation of the various units composing Harvard's far flung and diversified library activities. He described what might be termed the philosophy responsible for the relationships between himself, as Director of Harvard Uni-

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versity Libraries and Librarian of Harvard College, and the various Assistant Librarians as a system of "co-ordinated decentralization." This idea he feels secures best administrative results and, at the same time, provides excellent opportunities for the professional growth of younger librarians coming under its influence.

At the same meeting Dr. Benjamin Powell, Librarian, Duke University, Durham, N. C., described the organization and purposes of the Southeastern Library Association, urging all members of N. C. L. A. to give their active and financial support to Southeastern.

A cordial telegram of greetings and good wishes was read from Miss Marjorie Beal, former Director, North Carolina Library Commission. Miss Gladys Johnson of the North Carolina Library Commission made a gratifying report on the Virginia Williamson Memorial Book Fund and after concluding this report acted on behalf of the Trustees of the Johnston County Library in presenting the copper plate from which the Memorial Book Plates were made to Mrs. T. J. Lassiter in recognition of her interest and services.

The first General Session concluded with the introduction of the following new officers of the Association to serve 1951-1953:

President and A. L. A. Council—Jane B. Wilson, Supervisor, Elementary School Libraries, Durham, N. C.

First Vice-President—Mildred C. Herring, Librarian, Senior High School, Greensboro, N. C.

Second Vice-President—Margaret Johnston, Librarian, Haywood County Public Library, Waynesville, N. C.

Secretary—George F. Bentley,

Circulation Librarian, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Treasurer—Marianna Long, Law Librarian, Duke University Library, Durham, N. C.

Member-at-large—Carlton P. West, Librarian, Wake Forest College Library, Wake Forest, N. C.

Reception

Following the first General Session, an enjoyable reception was given by the Greensboro Library Club and largely attended by members of the Association and invited guests from the North Carolina Negro Library Association. Afterwards, many took advantage of guided tours through this handsome and modernly planned building which was opened within the year.

Second General Session

The second General Session of the Conference was held on Friday evening in the Ball Room of the O. Henry Hotel. A full audience was delightfully entertained with three groups of songs by the Guilford College Choir, under the direction of Mr. Charles C. Underwood, Director. Following this concert, Dr. Susan Grey Akers, Dean of the School of Library Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, spoke on "Japanese Libraries and Their Needs." A condensed version of Dr. Akers' address appears in this issue of *North Carolina Libraries*.

Third General Session

On Saturday morning, April 28, a well attended special session of the Conference for members of the North Carolina Library Association

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only was held in the Ball Room of the O. Henry Hotel with President Harlan C. Brown, presiding.

The President opened the meeting by reading a letter from the North Carolina Negro Library Association which was received just after the Durham Conference in April, 1949. This letter requested that "serious consideration be given the possibility of merging the North Carolina Library Association and the North Carolina Negro Library Association." Mr. Brown then explained in detail all steps taken by himself and the Executive Committee of N. C. L. A. toward meeting this request.

Following a long, frank and friendly discussion of the whole subject of merging the two associations, a resolution was passed by a considerable majority, the substance of which was "That a mail vote of the membership of the North Carolina Library Association be taken during a period not earlier than six months from April 29, 1951, and not later than one year from April 29, 1951, on the question of inviting members of the North Carolina Negro Library Association to become members of the North Carolina Library Association."

This session included the transaction of several small items of routine business necessary to the proper conduct of the association's affairs. As his concluding duty Mr. Brown turned the gavel over to Miss Jane Wilson, the new President, who accepted graciously and declared the Conference officially adjourned.

Incidental Diversions

Invitations were extended and opportunities provided by the schedule

of activities for those attending the Conference to visit the new libraries of Guilford College and Greensboro College and to take guided tours through the well-known Ruzicka Bookbindery. All of these invitations were widely accepted and greatly enjoyed.

On Thursday afternoon Station WFMY-TV extended the courtesy of its facilities to the Conference by conducting an interesting fifteen-minute period of interviews with Dr. Keyes D. Metcalf, Director, Harvard University Libraries; Mr. Charles M. Adams, Librarian, Woman's College Library; Miss Elizabeth House, Director, North Carolina Library Commission; Miss Margaret Johnston, Librarian, Haywood County Public Library, Waynesville, North Carolina; and Mr. Neal Austin, Librarian, Monroe Public Library, Monroe, North Carolina.

A similar program conducted by the same station on Friday afternoon featured Mr. Harlan Brown, Librarian, State College; Mr. O. V. Cook, Assistant Librarian, University of North Carolina Library; Dr. Benjamin E. Powell, Librarian, Duke University; Mr. Hoyt R. Galvin, Director, Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County; and Mr. Paul Ballance, Librarian, Greensboro Public Library, and Chairman of the Local Committee on Arrangements for the Conference.

The local press in Greensboro gave the Conference generous space. The Greensboro Record carried a large picture of old officers on Thursday evening and the Greensboro News prominently displayed an excellent picture of new officers on Saturday morning.