

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

"HANDBOOK OF NORTH CAROLINA WRITERS"

The compilation of a "Handbook of North Carolina Writers" is now underway. This unique project is sponsored jointly by the North Carolina Library Association and the North Carolina English Teachers Association. Upon publication the Handbook will contain brief biographical sketches of almost 200 writers, as well as lists of their books and sources of further information about them.

Chairman of the Handbook committee is Richard Walser of the Department of English at North Carolina State College. Other members are George F. Bentley, Assistant to the Librarian, University of North Carolina; Mrs. Mary Tom Sphangos, Department of English, Smithfield High School; Jane B. Wilson, Supervisor of Elementary School Libraries, Durham; Dr. Earl H. Hartsell, Department of English, University of North Carolina; and Mildred C. Herring, Librarian, Greensboro High School.

Already selected for inclusion are 56 writers of the past and 77 living writers. Still under consideration are 26 writers. Further nominations are being received. The Handbook will not contain all North Carolina writers but will be composed of a "select list who have been significant in the North Carolina literary scene, whether or not they were native born." Authors of technical and specialized books will be excluded.

While librarians and English teachers and professors will compile most of the material, authorities from all fields are being invited to participate. For instance, John Charles McNeill has been assigned to Jasper L. Memory of Wake Forest, nephew of the famous poet; Thomas Wolfe is being treated by James K. Hutsell, a Wolfe scholar now living in Florida; and O. Henry is the subject of Cathleen Pike of Charlotte, whose writings on O. Henry stretch back over the years. Contemporary writers are being asked to prepare their own autobiographical sketches. No publication date has been set.