

ROBERT WILSON CHRIST

1909-1951

The death of Robert W. Christ on Sunday, December 23rd after an illness of a few weeks, removed from our midst an unusually capable librarian especially sensitive and talented in his understanding of others. Since his appointment in 1948 as Assistant Librarian at Duke University, he had done much for the advancement of the profession on the local, state and national levels and when he came to North Carolina he brought with him a reputation for a well balanced understanding of the aims and needs of librarianship in its many phases. As Assistant Librarian at Duke University, his duties included administration of reader's services and the departmental libraries.

Bob Christ, as he was known to most of us, was a native of New Britain, Connecticut, and obtained his college education at Amherst receiving the B.A. degree *cum laude* in 1930. His M.S. was conferred by the School of Library Service, Columbia University, in 1948. His experience embraced positions with the Mount Holyoke College Library, The Grosvenor Library, Columbia University Library, and the Information Section, Reference Division of the Department of State.

Included among his publications were contributions to *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, *American Notes and Queries*, and the *New York Times Book Review*, and he collaborated in the compilation of *Fifty Years of Moliere Studies: a Bibliography, 1892-1941*. He was also editor of *Library Notes* a publication of the Friends of Duke University Library.

Christ was an active member of his professional library associations. He had served as president of the Western New York chapter of the Special Libraries Association; chairman of the Reference Section of the Association of College and Reference Libraries; national chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Special Libraries Association; on important committees of the North Carolina, Southeastern, Special, and American Library Associations; and at the time of his death was a member of the Council of the American Library Association. He taught in the library school of the Florida State University in the summer of 1949 and at Syracuse University last summer.

Colleagues and acquaintances among librarians in North Carolina were saddened by the news of Bob Christ's untimely death. The North Carolina Library Association will miss his generous acceptance of committee appointments, assignments and counsel.

—George F. Bentley, Assistant to the Librarian,
University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill.