

JOSEPH VERNON RUZICKA

1901-1952

"By light from eye and from
That greater source—the Soul—
He led us forth to watch again
The Master Craftsman working through the Man."

Man progresses through the efforts and energies and ideals of the few who live with imagination, courage, and vision. Yet how much greater is the accomplishment of those who labor with affection since with it present, there appears a glow—a spirit—that enriches and magnifies the simple ends that one man is able to achieve in a lifetime.

Through such a spirit—this accompanying intangible—Joseph Vernon Ruzicka was enabled to encourage both individuals and organizations to attain great stature through service.

He was born in Baltimore, July 3rd, 1901, and represented the fifth generation of book lovers and fine craftsmen in book collection and book preservation. His talents were developed through study at the Baltimore Public Schools, the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, and Johns Hopkins University. In 1928, Mr. Ruzicka opened a branch office of the Joseph Ruzicka Company of Baltimore, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

During the following years of this career, Vernon was a member of the Board of Directors of the Library Binding Institute; a member of the Joint Committee of the Library Binding Institute and the American Library Association, and a member of the Southeastern branch of the Binding Institute. He was well-known through the southeast and middle west where he exerted great influence in both his professional and business connections.

He was Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Boy Scouts of America in the General Greene Council in North Carolina; he held offices in the Greensboro Rotary Club; was a member of the First Presbyterian Church; an active member of the Salvation Army, and past president of the Sedgefield Country Club.

Entertaining his friends at home—insisting that his beloved "Miss Lou" was as eager as he to share their happiness—was perhaps his greatest pleasure.

This constant and sincere friend to libraries throughout the United States and to the librarians was a source of help and strength. While he will be mourned at the time of his death, he will be remembered always since it was he who inspired others to work cheerfully and effectively; to work with artistry and affection.

—Jane B. Wilson,
President, NCLA.