

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY RULES: 1817

The General Assembly of North Carolina in 1817 appointed a "select joint committee to draw up rules and regulations to be observed in the Library of the State, and to lay out the annual fund set apart for the increase of said Library." *The Laws of the State of North-Carolina, Enacted in the Year, 1817* (Raleigh: Thomas Henderson, State Printer, 1818), on pages 75 and 76, printed a Resolution which resulted from the work of this committee.

Resolved, That the following rules and regulations be observed in the Library of the State.

1st. The Library shall be opened every day during the Session of the General Assembly from nine o'clock in the morning to three o'clock in the afternoon.

2nd. It shall be the duty of the Librarian to label and number the books, place them on the shelves, and preserve due lists and catalogues of the same. He shall also keep a due account and register of all issues and returns of books as the same shall be made, together with regular accounts of all expenses incident to the said Library for fuel.

3rd. Books to be issued by the Librarian pursuant to law shall be returned as follows:

A Folio within two weeks.

A Quarto within one week.

An Octavo, or Duodecimo, within four days.

And no person authorized to receive books shall receive more than one folio, one quarto, or two octavos or duodecimos within the terms aforesaid; unless so connected as to be otherwise useless. And every person detaining a book beyond the specified time shall forfeit and pay for such illegal detention as follows, to wit:

A Folio, one dollar per day.

A Quarto, fifty cents per day.

An Octavo, or Duodecimo, twenty five cents per day.

Which forfeiture or penalty may for good cause be remitted by the Speaker of the two houses for the time being, in whole or in part, as the case may require.

4th. Books returned shall be delivered to the Librarian, to be examined whether damaged or not.

5th. If the books returned be damaged, the person returning it shall not be entitled to receive another until the damage for the first be satisfied.

6th. No book shall be issued within three days of the close of any session of the Assembly, and all books shall be returned three days before the close of the session, whether the time allowed for the use thereof be expired or not.

7th. During the session of the General Assembly the clerks of the two Houses shall upon their respective responsibility be entitled to receive for the use of their respective houses, one copy of the Acts of the Assembly, and one copy of the Journals of the two Houses, which said acts and journals shall be duly returned to the Librarian by said clerks

within three days after the close of the session for which they shall be drawn.

8th. There shall be retained in the Library all Charts, Maps, Plates, and Engravings, and the Books accompanying the same. Of these none shall be taken from the Library by any person without special permission in writing from the Speakers of the two Houses, except in case where the presiding officer of either House may require any of them for the immediate use of the House.

9th. It shall be the duty of the Librarian four days before the termination of every session of the General Assembly to present to any member of the Assembly a list of the books which he has received from the Library and not returned.

10th. The Librarian shall three days before the termination of any session of the General Assembly, furnish the Speakers of the two houses with a list of the names of such Members of the Assembly as shall not have returned the books received from the Library, together with a description of the value of such books, and also of the value of the set to which they may belong; and of the amount of the fines with which they may stand charged. And it shall be the duty of the Speakers of the two houses in signing the accounts of the members of their respective houses, to retain a sum equal to double the value of the books retained.

11th. All monies arising from forfeitures shall constitute a part of the Library fund; and the Librarian shall annually present to the joint committee of the two Houses charged with the disposition of the Library fund an accurate statement of all monies received during the preceding year arising from forfeitures under the foregoing rules.

12th. Until otherwise ordered the said Library shall be kept exclusively for the use of the General Assembly, the Governor, Heads of departments, Judges and members of the Supreme court.

Resolved further, That the Commissioners appointed to contract for and superintend the erection of the fire proof house in the public square be and they are hereby directed to have one of the rooms in the said house fitted up for the Library of the State.

Resolved, That the Treasurer pay the amount directed to be applied annually towards the increase of the Library to the order of the chairman of the Joint Committee of the two Houses charged with the disposition of the Library fund.

Respectfully submitted,
A. D. Murphey, Chairman.