

## Letters

To the Editor:

The article, "Three Early Academic Library Surveys," by Norman D. Stevens in the November issue provides an interesting and useful footnote to academic library history, and Mr. Stevens is to be congratulated for having dug out two unpublished surveys which antedate the seminal one of the University of Georgia Library in 1938. He can certainly be forgiven for having failed to locate still another earlier "survey of an American college library by an outside expert." (page 499) That is, the three of 1915, 1937, and 1938 of which he writes are not "the earliest independent approaches to the academic library survey." (page 505)

In 1934 or 1935, and not later than June of 1935, when I left Chicago, William M. Randall, under whom I was writing a doctoral dissertation at the Graduate Library School, invited me to serve with him on a survey of the library of Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland. Naturally, I accepted with alacrity, though I had no idea at the time that I was participating in a very early and then quite rare kind of professional activity.

Randall and I spent a couple of days in Chestertown where we were handsomely entertained by President Mead and his wife, and where Randall proved himself as excellent a seminar leader in the field as he was in the classroom. I learned a great

deal from him, and I owe him much. We examined the usual things, budget, personnel, book selection and collections, which were my particular responsibility, space and so on, and had discussions with, among others, members of the library committee and of the library staff.

In due course, we prepared our report of which one—or possibly two—copies went to President Mead, one Randall kept and one he gave to me. Although I consider myself a pack rat in the matter of preserving documents, I am chagrined to say that an exhaustive search of my files has failed to turn up a copy of the report on the Washington College Library. Possibly Randall, now president of the Wilmington, North Carolina College, may still have a copy. More likely, perhaps, is the existence of one in the files of the president's office at the College.

My purpose in reporting this small addendum to the article by Mr. Stevens is not so much to point out another earlier-than-1938 independent library survey, and my association with it, but rather to suggest that there may be still other very early surveys, and to express the hope that librarians who have participated in them, or know of them, will come forward.

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