

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

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Report On The Southeastern Library Association Meeting In Louisville, Kentucky

OCTOBER 20-23, 1948

Sarah Jones, Secretary-Treasurer

The Southeastern Library Association opened its 13th biennial session on October 20, 1948 in Louisville, Kentucky. The total registration was 497 with North Carolina being represented by 56 registrants. North Carolina was also well represented in section chairmanship: Ben Powell, College and University Librarians; J. Isaac Copeland, Reference Librarians; and Eloise Camp, School and Children's Library Section. Charles R. Brockmann was chairman of exhibits and Marjorie Beal, chairman of the Nominating Committee and a member of the Activities Committee.

At the first general session Louisville's library-minded Mayor Charles P. Farnsley welcomed the librarians and library trustees to the city. This enthusiastic greeting was a forerunner of the hospitality and many courtesies extended to the group by Louisville and the state of Kentucky. Dr. Errett McDiarmid, president of the American Library Association, brought greetings from A.L.A. and assured the Southeastern Library Association of the interest the national organization has in the program and activities of this regional association. North Carolina's Clyde Smith responded to these greetings in her own gracious and inimitable way.

It was with real regret that the members of the association learned of the illness of Dr. Louis R. Wilson who was to present the report of the Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey. His excellent paper was read by Helen Harris.

The guest speaker at this session was Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution. Mr. McGill impressed the entire audience with his sincerity and understanding of the problems, both social and economic, with which the South is faced. He warned that the South has its own Iron Curtain which is lack of information and education. He urged the librarians to look forward, not back; to be encouraged by what has been accomplished, not frustrated by the obstacles that have to be overcome.

At the close of this session the conference was entertained at a reception at which the Louisville Library Club, the Louisville Free Public Library Staff Association and the Kentucky Library Association were hosts.

The other general sessions were concerned with a discussion of the Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey and the report of the Activities Committee. The discussion of the survey pointed up the need for cooperative action and the assump-

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tion of leadership on the part of the Southeastern Library Association in helping solve regional and state problems. The Activities Committee proposed an organization and a program for making such leadership possible. It was emphasized that state associations should give individual consideration to the report of the Activities Committee and be prepared to direct its members to accept or reject these recommendations at the next Southeastern meeting. A copy of the report will be included in the Proceedings.

It was also decided to invite A.L.A. to hold a regional meeting in the South in 1949.

The following officers were elected: President, Clarence E. Graham, Librarian, Free Public Library, Louisville, Kentucky; Vice-President, Ellinor G. Preston, Director of School Libraries, Richmond, Virginia; and Secretary and Treasurer, W. P. Kellam, Assistant Librarian, University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

One of the high points of the meeting was the traditional Book Dinner. Virginia Kirkus talked about current books that are important and amazed all who had not previously heard her with her knowledge of the current offerings as well as with her ability as a book reviewer. A surprise feature of the dinner was the awarding of door prizes contributed by various Southern industries. Azile Wofford was the master of ceremonies and should have been awarded the title of "Master of Wit and Humor." North Carolina contributed:

Lamp table in antique walnut finish from Morgan Furniture Co., Asheville, North Carolina.

Leather portfolio with fillers and individual pads for each guest from

Champion Paper and Fiber Co., Canton, North Carolina.

Box of Ecusta Air Mail stationery from Ecusta Paper Corp., Pisgah Forest, North Carolina

Six pairs of Mojud hosiery from Mock, Judson, Voehringer Co., Greensboro, North Carolina.

Set of Stuart Nye handwrought jewelry from Stuart Nye Silver Shop, Asheville, North Carolina

Subscription to the Southern Packet from Stephens Press, Asheville, North Carolina

Complimentary Camels for each guest from R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The publishers also contributed books, candy and other items as prizes.

It would be impossible to mention all of the excellent section programs but the talk by Willie Snow Etheridge at the County and Regional Section meeting on "Russia's Pattern of Conquest" deserves special mention. Those who were fortunate enough to attend the luncheon of the School and Children's Library Section were charmed and highly entertained by Mrs. Mebane Holomon Burgwyn's talk on "Writing Books for Youth."

Another special feature of the conference was the after breakfast reviews of children's books. Louise Moore of Appalachian State Teachers College was the reviewer at one of the morning programs.

The entire association feels obligated to Southern Packet for making available the excellent summary of the survey and to the committee members and section officers from North Carolina who helped make the 13th annual convention of Southeastern such a memorable one.

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Wendell W. Smiley Editor

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Your executive committee held a called meeting at Louisville during the meeting of the Southeastern and a regular meeting at Durham on December 4. At these two meetings it was decided to hold the regular biennial meeting of the North Carolina Library Association in Durham on April 28 and 29, 1949. This was deemed desirable because of the plans of the American Library Association to hold its Southeastern regional meeting of 1949 during the latter part of October, just at the time the North Carolina Library Association normally would have held its biennial meeting. Headquarters for the meeting in April will be at the Washington Duke Hotel in Durham. Mrs. Alice L. Hicks of the Woman's College Library staff at Duke University will be chairman of the committee in charge of local arrangements. Miss Jane Wilson will be in charge of the Associational Dinner to be held on Friday evening as the highlight of the meeting. Dr. Akers will serve as chairman of the resolutions committee. Mr. Jack Dalton, Associate Librarian of the University of Virginia, has accepted an invitation to be special speaker and consultant at the convention. At one of the general meetings he will present "The Dalton Plan" for the reorganization of the Southeastern Library Association.

The management of the Washington-Duke Hotel has agreed to set aside from 125 to 150 rooms for special use of those attending the convention, and the Melbourne Hotel will reserve fifty rooms until April 15th. The Melbourne cannot hold rooms after April 15th without specific reserv-

ation, so if you plan to attend the meeting in Durham you should make your hotel reservation as early as possible. If the hotels are to be able to care for everyone it will be necessary to "double-up" whenever possible, and you should try to locate someone to share a room with you during the convention if you possibly can.

TARHEELIA AT SOUTHEASTERN

by Elizabeth S. Walker

If the carpets of the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky were not smeared with tar between October 18 and 23, it was not for lack of Tar Heels. Of those registered at the 1948 conference of the Southeastern Library Association, over fifty were North Carolinians; on the basis of equal representation of each state the Old North State had its quota—one-ninth. Some arrived as early as thirty-six hours before the first scheduled meeting (among these were Majorie Beal, Mrs. Edith F. Cannady, and Sophronia Cooper) and stayed till the afternoon of October 23. Though their geographic representation may not have been from Murphy to Manteo, it was certainly from Waynesville to Greenville. They went by train, plane, and car. Mildred Herring fears that she was born twenty years too soon as her sufferings from airsickness were intense; but so were those of other dauntless souls. Travel by land also had its hazards. According to Elizabeth House "one group of eastern librarians went cod-fiddlin' down si-godlin roads almost to their dismay when they struck a freshly tarred road bed. To the surprise of traffic jammed in both directions, these four foolish women, bent on reaching Louisville on time, took to

the shoulder, by-passed startled travelers with gaping mouths, and were on their way." She added that further description of this incident can be furnished by Gladys Johnson. In spite of such mishaps most of the Tar Heels reached their destination without serious injury.

North Carolina was represented among the officers of the Association and its various sections by Eloise Camp, member of the Executive Board and Chairman of School and Children's Library Section; J. I. Copeland, Chairman of Reference Librarians Section; B. E. Powell, Chairman of College and University Librarians Section, and Eunice Query, acting secretary of the Children and Young People's Division. Besides the various committees concerned with special arrangements for the convention, which were composed entirely of Louisville librarians, there were three other committees with nine members listed. Of those nine, four were from North Carolina: Eloise Camp and B. E. Powell on the Program Committee; C. R. Brockmann, Chairman of the Committee on Exhibits; and Majorie Beal, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Chairman Brockman again did an excellent job in his work with the exhibitors. Over-lapping conventions had brought the difficulty of getting the Ford Dealers out in time to put the library exhibits up; but after the Fords were finally induced to roll on, the exhibits were attractively arranged. The door to the exhibit room was considered the official exit from the convention hall. Librarians as usual collected such loot as note-books, plastic book-jacket-covers, and nursery plaques. A typical scene was people looking for their names print-given by one of the binderies; they

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seemed to love to see their names in print.

From the number of *Tor Heels* on the program one could assume that the two North State members of that committee lacked neither influence in program planning nor confidence in the talents of the librarians of their state. North Carolinians appeared on programs from the first meeting to those of the final afternoon. On October 20 Mary Anders spoke to the Reference Librarians on "Does Reference Training Meet Actual Needs?" At the same time in the meeting of County and Regional Librarians Margaret Johnston took part in a nine-member panel discussion of "How to Get People to Read on International Problems." Most librarians will appreciate the suggestion from Lucile Nix, whom unfortunately this State cannot claim, that one method of promoting that type of reading would be to give librarians time to read such books themselves.

That evening at the first general session Clyde Smith made a clever response to the welcome of Mayor C. P. Farnsley in which she stated that according to the **Municipal Yearbook** Louisville's mayor is enjoying a life term in office; the **Yearbook** gave the date of termination of tenure of all other mayors but not for him of our host city. This seems an excellent state of affairs for the Louisville Public Library for which Mayor Farnsley has succeeded in procuring generous financial support, especially for audio-visual aids. He is a good sport too; after Miss Smith's chiding him about the absence of any "blue" grass and the probability that, if there were grass of such color, purple cows would be grazing thereon, the Mayor autographed a certain copy of *Life* which she had "lugged" all the way to Louis-

ville and in which she continued to collect autographs of dignitaries throughout the conference. No doubt some day that particular copy of *Life* will be a collector's item.

Dr. L. R. Wilson, who was referred to as the Father of the Southeastern Library Association, was scheduled to speak that evening. He had started to Louisville, but illness forced him to turn back before he got off Tarheel soil. The Association was sorry of his and its misfortune. A young lady from another state was heard to say that he was one person that she had especially wanted to see and hear.

Though no one from the State was on the panel discussing "A Plan for Library Development in the South" at the second general session, North Carolinians rose to the occasion when discussing from the floor was in order.

One does not attend a school of library science to eat; but evidently eating is a habit that alumni of such schools enjoy, for each school represented at the convention by any significant number had its breakfast or luncheon. At the University of North Carolina Library School Luncheon on Thursday thirty-three alumni, either one-time residents or present-day citizens of Tarheelia, enjoyed a delicious meal, the company of each other, and all the news of teachers and classmates that could be shared in the allotted time. Some who had not seen each other since Library School days were especially happy at the chance to meet again. Noting the difficulty with which the thirty-third alumnus was crowded into the room, Dr. Akers and Mildred Herring were amused at their pre-convention fears that they might have to pay for a number of the twenty plates which they had reserved for the group.

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The University was again represented among the speakers at the meeting of the Southeastern Regional Group of Catalogers by Miss Frances Yocum, who took part in the symposium, and by Dr. Akers who reported on "Activities of the Council of Regional Groups and A. L. A. Division of Cataloguing and Classification."

Though the speakers to the College and University Librarians were not North Carolinians, Dr. Thomas D. Clark recalled his days at Duke with pleasure, at the same time complaining that Ben Powell and W. P. Kellam somewhat hindered him in his courting of a cataloger, one Beth Turner; but he outwitted them and won her for his wife. He also scolded another Tar Heel, calling Dr. Roulhac Hamilton "that old rascal" for hauling away from the attics of Kentucky priceless research materials; however he expressed thanks that they were saved from the "ravages of rats, silverfish, fire and decay" even though enriching another state.

On Friday morning Louise Moore introduced new books for children and young people with as much interest and enthusiasm that the titles became "musts" for the next order of each one in her audience.

At the business meeting that morning Miss Beal was a member of the panel, and others of her fellow citizens joined in the lively discussion from the floor. Among the new officers elected at this meeting was W. P. Kellam, secretary and treasurer. In a subsequent discussion of the new constitution there was some little amusement at his expense when he showed concern over plans to spend money from the as-yet non-existent treasury; nevertheless his fellow members congratulated themselves

upon having elected so well qualified a treasurer.

North Carolinians were proud of Mrs. Mebane H. Burgwyn, author of "River Treasure," who spoke at the School and Children's Library Section Luncheon. As one in her audience remarked, "She was most refreshing to look at and to hear."

In the exchange of experiences within and without the convention halls Nancy Gray recommended the Bluegrass room as a night spot for relief from the intensified culture of a library convention. Others sought similar relaxation Friday afternoon by a tour through the plant of the **Louisville Courier-Journal**, a tea given by the Filson Club which has a valuable library of Kentucky archives, or a visit to the Louisville Public Library. Surprising as it may seem, more North Carolina Librarians seem to have found their way to the audio-visual department of the Public Library than to the lounge where the gracious staff members were serving coffee. It was a new experience for two of the Library Commission staff members to have their conversation recorded on a tape and within seconds to hear it being played back to them. They were sure they could not **sound like that!** Somewhat further afield was the bus trip to Bardstown. Mr. George Linder of Newton, N. C. was mistaken by the hostess at "My Old Kentucky Home" for the bus driver. At any rate he made a good conductor, and it was by his efforts at herding thirty-four women - souvenir - hunters back into the bus that the group got back in time for the banquet.

After three days dominated by the rather weighty Southeastern Library Survey and by numerous panels, the banquet was indeed a gala affair at which Tar Heels continued to give

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and take of all the benefits. Newly-elected Secretary - Treasurer Kellam and Mr. Brockman, who distributed door-prizes for the exhibitors, represented the state at the speakers' table. Each state had also contributed to the door prizes, and North Carolina's list was the longest. From Tarheelia also came souvenirs for each guest: a miniature size package of Camels and memorandum pads. The host state gave each guest a jumbo post card which was a picture map of Kentucky, and Kentucky's Azile Wofford, who distributed the state prizes with her characteristic humor, was the life of the party. In speaking of obtaining products typical of the states for prizes, she said she had some trouble with her state. The instructions had specified that all prizes be wrapped in gift packages, and she could not wrap a spirited horse. She added that Kentucky did have "spirits" that could be packaged, but she doubted the advisability of offering such a prize. Many North Carolinians held lucky numbers; among the prize winners were Susan Akers, Majorie Beal, Mildred Herring, Elizabeth House, George Linder, and Louise Moore. The small garment

which constituted Mildred's prize was of the wrong size and sex for her, but she said she could find a wearer among her young nephews. There was doubt in the minds of some that any of the candy won by George Linder would ever reach his wife as his car was carrying four candy-hungry passengers.

Replete, almost to the point of indigestion, with food for both mind and body, the librarians and their friends declared the Thirteenth Biennial Conference a successful and enjoyable convention little affected by the ill-luck sometimes associated with its number.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your committee will welcome suggestions for persons to serve your association during the next two years. Your suggestions should be sent to some member of the committee who are: Miss Lucille Kelling, chairman, School of Library Science, University of North Carolina; Miss Gladys Johnson, Library Commission, Raleigh; and Miss Mildred Herring, Senior High School, Greensboro.

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP LOAN FUND APPLICATION

Name Date

Address

Date of birth Marital status

Education: High School (name, city and year of graduation)

.....
College (name, city and year of graduation, degree)

.....
Graduate work (name, city, date and degree)

.....
Have you a position now? Kind of work

Salary Name and address of employer

How much money do you wish to borrow?

What financial aid will you receive in the way of scholarships, etc.

Who is furnishing the balance needed to support you while you are in school?

Your family Your husband Yourself

Outline your employment record with dates

.....
What school are you planning to attend?

What session? Are you working for a degree?

Do you own any property or securities?

Will you begin to reduce loan as soon as employment is secured?

What obligations—domestic, social or business—do you have which will now
or in the future take precedence over this loan? Itemize.

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References: (Give three personal references, not relatives, who have known you for several years.)

1. _____ (Member of NCLA)
2. _____
3. _____

Date _____

Signature of Applicant

RULES GOVERNING LOANS FROM THIS FUND ARE AS FOLLOWS

1. The fund shall be in charge of a committee composed of the Executive Committee of the Association and the chairman of the committee on Scholarship Loan Fund. The last shall act as chairman.
2. Application for a loan shall be made to the Chairman of the committee, and if approved by him, it shall be submitted to and approved by at least three members of the executive committee and the State President.
3. Applicants must be at least sixteen years old.
4. Applicant must have been a resident of the state of North Carolina for at least two consecutive years before making application.
5. Applicant must be a high school graduate, and must have been accepted by a library training agency before loan can be made.
6. Applicant must be recommended by a member of the North Carolina Library Association.
7. The loan to any applicant shall not exceed \$300.00, or tuition for one year of library school.
8. Loans are to be made with interest, and applicant shall give a promissory note for the amount borrowed, with no interest while in school, and with four (4) per cent per year after leaving school until loan is paid.
9. Recipients shall begin repaying the loan as soon as employment is secured. A definite plan of payment should be worked out with the chairman of the Scholarship Loan Fund Committee and approved by the Treasurer of the North Carolina Library Association.
10. The loan shall become due and payable immediately when the holder leaves the profession.
11. The Loan must be secured by either collateral or Life Insurance.