OFFICERS FOR 1960

Left to right, seated: Miss Mary Grey Withers, Librarian, Wardlow Junior High School, Columbia, Vice-President and President-Elect; Mrs. Marguerite G. Thompson, Librarian, Colleton County Library, Walterboro, President; Mr. James M. Hillard, Librarian, The Citadel, Charleston, Secretary. Standing: Mr. George L. Olsen, Librarian, Newberry College, Newberry, Chairman, College Section; Mrs. John D. Smith, Spartanburg Public Library Board, Chairman, Trustee Section; Miss Carrie Gene Ashley, Librarian, Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library, Aiken, Chairman, Public Library Section. Absent when photo was made: Mrs. Ruth T. Turner, Librarian, Southside Elementary School, Spartanburg, Treasurer; Miss Margia Brissie, Librarian, Abbeville High School, Chairman, School Library Section.
EDITORIAL

This issue consists mainly of material concerning the thirty-eighth Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Library Association, held in the Clemson House, Clemson, S. C., October 29-31, 1959. We express our thanks to all who submitted material for publication.

Mr. J. W. Gordon Gourlay, SCLA President, 1959; Mr. John Goodman, Local Arrangements Chairman; other officers for 1959; and all who helped in any way to make the 1959 Annual Meeting the fine success that it was, deserve a nice hand of appreciation from all of us.

To Mrs. Marguerite G. Thompson, President, 1960, and the other officers, we extend our best wishes for a most successful year!

To all who submitted articles or information not used in this issue: Please be patient; we hope in time to use all the suitable articles sent in. The cost of the last issue was above that of the similar periodicals of the North Carolina and Virginia Library Associations, also published by RUZICKA’S, of Greensboro, N. C., and we tried to “cut down” somewhat on this issue.

Appreciation is again expressed to RUZICKA’S for bearing the expense of this publication, including mailing, and to WODELL’S for printing it!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last year was Constitution Year for our Association. After two years of work by a special Constitution Revision Committee, during which time proposed changes were discussed at General and Section meetings, we adopted a new Constitution and By-Laws in October to keep pace with the progress of our organization.

1960 is another Constitution Year, for the provisions of our new Constitution and By-Laws have to be put into effect so they can begin functioning.

Your 1960 Executive Committee at its first meeting concentrated its efforts on setting up the year’s work for the Association. Our new Constitution places on the Executive Committee the responsibility for determining the function and size of all SCLA Standing Committees. Since four of these Committees are new this year, much time and thought were given to interpretation of Committee work as well as to appointments. In making appointments, the Executive Committee made an effort to bring into the work of the Association people from all areas of the state and at the same time to maintain a balance among the various types of libraries. In order to meet the requirements of the new By-Laws that the terms of approximately one-third of Committee members expire each year, appointments were made for a period of one, two, and three years. After this year, appointments to these Standing Committees will be made for a period of three years, as set up in the By-Laws. It has been very gratifying to have practically one hundred per cent acceptance of Committee appointments. I think we can look forward to good reports in October from all Committees.

The Association has only one special Committee this year, the Trustee Award Committee. This Committee was set up as a result of recommendations by the Trustee and Public Library Sections at the 1959 Convention.

Your SCLA Treasurer has mailed out a new type of Membership Dues Notice for 1960. This Notice is so designed as to be very useful for keeping Association membership records for the next ten years. One of our goals for 1960 is a larger membership. Each of us should increase our efforts toward building up membership in the Association. Check to see that your dues are paid for the year. Then, urge other librarians, trustees, and interested citizens who are not members to join the Association. A word from you as a working member of our Association might have more influence than you think. The Treasurer will be glad to supply you with additional copies of the Dues Notice if you will request them from her.

Our 1960 Convention (Thirty-ninth) has been scheduled for Columbia on October 28 and 29, with headquarters at the COLUMBIA HOTEL. Circle these two days on your calendar and begin making your plans now to be present. We miss you when you don’t get to attend. Local Arrangements Chairman J. Mitchell Reames is busy setting up his Committees to take care of us in Columbia and to make

Vol. 4, No. 2
the Convention a successful one. The Program Committee, with Vice-President Withers as Chairman, is busy making plans for the several general meetings of the Convention. Their list of possible speakers and discussion topics is very impressive. Exhibits Chairman is Miss Margaret Givens.

In making the decision to meet in Columbia this year, your Executive Committee felt that this action would be approved by the greatest percentage of our members. Because it is centrally located, SCLA members from all parts of the state can arrive in time to attend our opening meeting on Friday, and can also return home on Saturday afternoon after the final meeting of the Convention. The large attendance we have had at Columbia Conventions in the past, I feel sure, is due to this fact as well as to the inspirational meetings of the conventions.

Since we do not have district meetings of the Association, our Annual Convention is really the only occasion during the year when we all get together for work and fellowship. Certainly, the annual conventions of our Association have contributed much to library progress in South Carolina.

The Committee gave serious thought to a recommendation that we meet with Southeastern Library Association at Asheville this year. The proposal was defeated for several reasons. Consideration was given to the fact that only a percentage of our members belong to SELA; that little time could be allotted for activities of our Association at Asheville; and that members would have to incur additional expenses in attending SELA.

Your President has been invited to be a platform guest at the Business meeting at SELA and give an oral report on the activities of our Association. We hope many of you will be able to attend this regional meeting as well as your own State Convention. The conventions will be two weeks apart this year.

Plans for National Library Week this year in South Carolina have gotten off to a good start under the direction of Miss Frances Reid as Executive Director and Mr. Charles W. Underwood as Chairman. They have set up achievable goals for the week. Their January 23rd Luncheon for the NLW State Committee was well-attended and was characterized by realistic presentations of facts about South Carolina Libraries. Many state organizations are represented on this Committee by their current presidents. I hope your local plans are under way for carrying out National Library Week on your campus, in your school, and in your town and county.

Many of our members have participated in compiling county and state reports preliminary to the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth, which meets in Washington March 27 to April 2. The South Carolina report summarizes the extent of library services to children and youth of our state, and sets up goals for the next ten-year period, until 1970, when the next such conference is scheduled.

The SCLA Loan Fund Committee has recently made a thorough study of the SCLA Loan Plan at the request of the Executive Committee. As a portion of the report, they reminded us that the limited funds available restricted any recruiting activity on the part of the Committee. They requested that we explore means of adding to the fund. If you have suggestions for increasing this SCLA Loan Fund, please let us have them.

Your Executive Committee is always interested in the Association becoming a more vital agency for the promotion of libraries and library service in South Carolina. If you have suggestions for strengthening the organization, please pass them on to a member of the Executive Committee. The success of the South Carolina Library Association depends upon the concerted efforts of all its individual members.

Marguerite G. Thompson
President, SCLA

STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 1960

Constitution and By-Laws:
Miss Josephine Crouch, Chmn. (1960); Mr. Arthur Coronizes (1961); Miss Jessie G. Ham (1962).

Membership Committee:
Miss Rachel S. Martin, Chmn. (1961); Mrs. Elizabeth G. Hinton (1962); Miss Irene Marshall (1961); Miss Elizabeth Porcher (1960).

Recruiting Committee:
Mrs. Elizabeth G. Greene, Chmn. (1962); Miss Roberta McKinnon (1961); Miss Denyse Mosimann (1961).

Editorial Committee:
Mr. Herbert Hucks, Chmn. (1962); Mr. J. W. Gordon Gourlay (1962); Mr. George R. Linder (1960); Mrs. Elizabeth G. Stephens (1961).

Legislative Committee:
Miss Estellene P. Walker, Chmn. (1961); Mrs. William A. Foran (1960); Mrs. Helen R. Miller (1962).

Planning Committee: (Chmn. to be elected)
Miss Alice Adams (1960); Miss Lois Barbare (1962); Miss Nancy Jane Day (1961); Miss Naomi Derrick (1960); Mr. John Goodman (1961); Mrs. Lucy McM. Joyner (1960); Miss Elizabeth Richardson (1962); Mr. Alfred Rawlinson (1962); Mr. Charles E. Stow (1961).

Revolving Loan Fund Committee:
Miss Dorothy Smith, Chmn. (1960); Miss Nancy Burge (1962); Miss Desmond Koster (1961).

SPECIAL COMMITTEE:
Trustee Award Committee for 1960: Miss Emily Sanders, Chmn.; Mrs. Louise Brunson; Mr. W. B. S. Winans.

ALA COORDINATOR:
Miss Nancy Blair.

ALA MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:
Miss Madeleine Mosimann.

SCLA REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR THE COMMON GOOD:
Member-at-Large: Mrs. Lucy H. Bostick; Legislative Chairman: Miss Estellene P. Walker.
NEW HORIZONS
By Dr. B. E. Powell,
President, American Library Association,
and Librarian, Duke University,
Banquet Session,
South Carolina Library Association
October 30, 1959

It is an honor and a privilege to bring you greetings from the American Library Association.

I could not have come in any other capacity than as president of a national association. I am self conscious as it is, remembering how we in North Carolina never quite measured up as a part of the romantic South. But I forced myself to come and I am determined also to go to Virginia; where the Lees were always several cuts above the best we had in Randolphs, the Byrds, the Fitzhughs, the Carters and the Lecs were always several cuts above the best we had in the "Valley of Humiliation."

The meanest things said about North Carolinians, however, were said by Virginians, and they are hard to forget. Listen to William Byrd in the *Dividing Line*:

"The Men, for their Parts, just like the Indians, impose all the Work upon the poor Women. They make their Wives rise out of their Beds early in the Morning, at the same time that they lye and Snore, till the Sun has run one third of its course... Then, after Stretching out of the Bed, and Yawning for half an hour, they light their Pipes, and, under the Protection of a cloud of Smoak, venture out into the open Air... When the weather is mild, they stand leaning with both arms upon the cornfield fence, and gravely consider whether they had best go and take a Small Heat at the Hough; but generally find reasons to put it off till another time.

"To speak the Truth, 'tis a thorough Aversion to Labor that makes People file off to N. Carolina, where Plenty and a Warm Sun confirm them in their Disposition to Laziness for their whole lives.

"What little Devotion there may happen to be is much more private than their vices. The People seem easy without a Minister... not a Soul has the least taint of Hypocrisy or superstition—acting very frankly and above-board in their Excesses."

Such talk is especially discomforting to me because the Dividing Line came out of the west side of the great Dismal Swamp within a rifle shot of the farm of the maternal side of my family. Maybe Byrd was talking about the neighbors of my ancestors, and we take a modicum of hope that this was the case in the fact that no man in that side of my family smoked in those days! But he meant his description, of course, to cover North Carolinians generally, and we have not forgiven him.

The four pillars of the social order down here in South Carolina, as reported to us, were ancestors, possessions, occupation and education—none of which we possessed in satisfactory quantity and quality in North Carolina. We had no celebrated literary figures, no great publishing centers, few prominent families, and no St. Cecilia Societies. In other words, we were short on culture.

Southern planters, by and large, were not bookish men, though here and there magnificent collections were to be found, generally in the home of men better known for their literary accomplishments than for the acres they cultivated—men like William Gilmore Sims, Paul Hamilton Hayne, Dr. Gibbs, General Jamison and others. The small landowner had little time for books. But those who bought and read books were sufficient in number to support good bookstores.

I like the picture of John Russell's bookstore on King Street in Charleston, with its coterie of friends, which is described in some detail by Paul Hamilton Hayne in the *Southern Bivouac*. Here a group of Charleston literati would meet regularly to talk about books. The proprietor was editor of the short-lived *Russell's Magazine*. Among those likely to be found around the stove in the rear of the store were Judge Mitchell King, James L. Petigru, Alfred Huger, William J. Grayson, Rev. Samuel Gilman, David Ramsay, Basil Gildersleeve, the classical scholar, James M. Legare, Paul Hamilton Hayne, Henry Timrod, and William Gilmore Sims—all men of achievement in the South's literary, political and educational history.

The South of the decade of the 1850's was beginning to move ahead on several fronts, especially in education. State universities had been founded; public school systems were being organized, and all of the states were beginning to recognize their responsibility for providing public education. But the war losses: manpower and leadership; the labor of the slaves and the capital invested in them; land values and agricultural products; coupled with the debts of the war and higher federal taxes, undermined the economy of the region. In some states the value of farm property, excluding slaves, was less in 1900 than in 1860. South Carolina, I suspect, suffered most, losing 12,000 of its best men, and ending Reconstruction two and a half million dollars in debt.

It is difficult to estimate where Southern institutions might be today had they not suffered the ravages of the war and its aftermath. In 1860 you in South Carolina had a going state—supported college whose library was the best of any institution in the South—more distinguished than the collection at the University of Virginia, the nucleus of which was selected by Jefferson. South Carolina, as a matter of fact, was the only state in the South to appropriate, from its own funds, money for books for its university before the institution opened. It was the first state in the Union to build a separate university library building. It was the literary capitol of the South; and many of your leaders owned books and read them.

Our southern state universities had a start on those of the Midwest, and in 1860 our libraries were twice the size of those of the several universities of the Midwest that had been started between 1825 and 1860. In 1880 we were trailing them by about one thousand volumes per institution; in 1900, they were three times the size of our libraries; and in 1920, when we began to move ahead again,
six times as large as ours. Yet during all of the time after the turn of this century, southern universities were spending a larger percentage of their total funds on their libraries than the western schools.

One of our problems has been, of course, the dichotomy which separates the sexes, the denominations, the races, and also provides separate institutions, like Clemson, for agriculture and engineering. Contrast that picture, if you will, with that of the University of Illinois, Wisconsin, or Ohio State, where most of the funds available for higher education have been channelled into one institution. Of course, sheer size now has forced them to spread out, but for many years the compactness of their systems or higher education was to their advantage.

In the last generation or two, particularly since World War II, the South has been picking up momentum. Great advances may be noted in industrial development, research, in the growth of research libraries, and in the number of students in the colleges and universities. In twenty years the value of goods manufactured in the South has increased from nine billion to seventy billion dollars. During these two decades, twenty-four thousand new industries have been constructed. Again “firsts”—the 1840 library building, the first separate university library building in America—and the new Undergraduate Library, the first in the South.

This is a new day. Communications, the mobility of population, industrial development and the like have contributed to changes that have made the characteristics of the several regions of the country, especially the South, less distinctive than they were in former years. These changes have brought new money, new people and new demands to the South, as to other areas, and in responding to them you have strengthened your resources all along the line.

Your theme this year is “Forward with Libraries.” It could have been stated as appropriately another way: “Only with Libraries Can We Move Forward.” Libraries and books, and the services libraries render, are now an integral and indispensable part of our over-all structure, and progress in any area—the professions, research, diplomacy, business, agriculture—implies adequate library support. If this country is to move forward, then, libraries must support the progress and grow with it. This involves continually raising our sights, constantly striving to solve new problems, and moving to new plateaus of operations. This activity requires more of librarianship than the part-time custodian-ship that suffered until a few decades ago. The demands of the profession today call for ability and leadership. They grow out of a fast-moving world. We cannot ignore them, or put off the day when we will try to meet them. Too much delay would mean inundation.

I want to talk now about a few of the problems with which librarianship must grapple—and successfully—in the years immediately ahead of us. The title of these remarks assumes that we will deal effectively with them. The first concerns the increasing volume of literature. The number of books already published has been estimated at from sixty to seventy-five million—suppose we say seventy million. About 150,000 are added each year, and 100,000 periodicals are being issued annually. Each public library must select from this mass the volumes and periodicals most appropriate to its needs within the budget at its disposal. The research library’s problem is more complex. It must make available to scholars as much of the published material pertinent to its program as can be acquired. No library can acquire all of the retrospective material or all of the annual output. Some form of cooperation provides the only solution. It can take several forms. Ideally, institutions should divide the subject fields in which they conduct research. But little progress has been made at this level. The best alternative, then, if presidents and graduate deans and trustees cannot agree to specialize, is for the librarians in a region to agree not to duplicate expensive and little-used materials in certain fields, and to lend materials freely between their libraries. This is library cooperation in its simplest and most effective form, and yet the statesmanship, the salesmanship necessary to its achievement on a broad scale has been lacking. Let me quickly defend those of us here: 1) without decisions at the top, the faculty must be sold on such a program, and this is not always easy; they will insist that the library acquire some scarce and expensive items in their fields, some only for prestige, but often because they used them as graduate students or as faculty members at other institutions; 2) few of us associated with research libraries have been able to assemble on our campuses enough of materials that are basic to the teaching and research of the university. We must have a working collection before we can engage seriously in cooperation. However you approach it, selection of books for any library, from the vast number avail-
able, remains a problem of the first magnitude.

Associated closely with this problem is a second—bibliographical control. Librarians, teachers and research scholars must join forces, with such assistance as can be mustered among the publishers, documentalists and technicians to bring the published material within reach of the scholarly need. The problems here are compounded because: 1) we are seeking materials now from countries which until recently were of little interest to us; 2) those countries issue no lists of books or journals; 3) their languages are little known; and 4) the tremendous volume of periodical literature lacks the abstracts necessary to guide the scholar to the material he should examine. Within this area of bibliographical control belongs the whole field of preparing material for use, especially, cooperative cataloging, the surface of which we have not scratched; the adaptation of machinery to the storage and retrieval of information; and use of tele- transmission in making materials more widely useful. This problem is global and the solution must be global in concept. We must lead the way.

A third area out of which rises additional problems for libraries is the increase in population. In the secondary schools in this country at the moment are about thirty-six million students; in the colleges and universities, three million and two hundred and fifty thousand. In 1900 four per cent of the 18-21 age group was in college; in 1954 thirty per cent; in 1970 thirty-four per cent will be in college. Teaching those students now in college are 250,000 professors. Actively engaged in research are 900,000 scientists. How many readers are using our 7,500 public libraries is difficult to estimate, but incomplete figures would place the number of volumes borrowed annually from public libraries at considerably in excess of five hundred million volumes. As the U. S. population increases from 175 to 225 million by 1970, and as the South receives its percentage (above the national average) all libraries will feel the impact. We must somehow control more successfully the flow of print from the presses and make it more easily accessible to those needing it.

A third area out of which rise additional problems tension of library service to all the areas not now within reach of libraries. This country needs an intelligent and informed citizenry as never before.

We have become complacent and too little interested in knowing and understanding peoples and problems of other countries. Our attitude with respect to languages has been "let them learn ours if they wish to communicate with us." More of our young people ought to regard education as a privilege and an opportunity rather than another hurdle one must clear. Much of our education, after secondary schools and the university, will be gained through the public library. Access to a public library does not always insure an informed group of card holders, but lack of access becomes an obstacle to the free flow of information.

I thought Mr. Ranganathan, India's leading librarian, drew an interesting analogy in a recent number of Libri when he wrote: "The library is like a river, the water in the sea gets distilled and transferred to land; the river collects it and feeds most of it back to the sea. So it is with the library. The thought in the mind of man gets expressed and recorded; the library collects it and feeds most of it back into the mind of man. This is an everlasting cycle. New uses are found for the river—irrigation, navigation, hydraulic power, hydro-electric power, etc.; even so, an ever-increasing use is found for the library. New canals are led out of the rivers, and a river-system is formed; even so, the library is diversified and a library system is formed to serve an ever-increasing purpose." A good library is potentially useful to the rank and file of professional men, to men in business, labor, and to those in the leisure class. Its contributions are no longer restricted to so-called "cultural" areas, but is limited only by the span of man's ingenuity and curiosity. Its responsibility is that of an educational agent, and its facilities are available to the entire community.

A fifth and final area requiring attention—that of personnel and recruiting—is closely related to the foregoing problems and to their implications for librarianship.

We are members of a profession that grows in importance as the population increases, as knowledge increases, and as demand for it increases. The keys to much of the knowledge that the scientists, the professors and the students seek are held by librarians. We stand in a strategic position. We cannot fail to provide the services that will be expected of libraries. The jobs to which I have alluded are for many-sided librarians: librarians with brains, but also with personality and with stamina, librarians with imagination and with drive, with subject training and with technical training. A one-sided, bookish librarian is no more the answer to our needs than the professor who turns to librarianship from a dead-end teaching position, or the administrator whose principal interest is in organizational charts, lines of authority and work loads. We need these qualities, but give us enough intelligent and personable young people with broad interests and insatiable curiosity, and no problems will be beyond our reach. If we are to attract the people needed, they must know and value the library for what it does. They must know and respect the librarians as men and women, and as able linguists, as subject specialists and administrators.

To be able to restore the ill to health, or to rescue a man from the gallows make the professions of medicine and law attractive and glamorous to our youth. To design a great building, to manage a big business or fly a jet faster than sound, are thrilling accomplishments. But need either be more satisfying than holding and controlling at one's fingertips a vast segment of the accumulated knowledge of the world? Have you ever watched a scholarly reference librarian direct researchers in a great research library? Familiar with his collection and with the channels to all areas of knowledge, he moves surely and swiftly and permits no language to be an obstacle. I contend that librarianship need not take a back seat to any profession in interest and in the satisfaction it gives its members. In librarianship we have the foundations for a profession and a service that is second to none in importance, but the role of the library and of the librarian in tomorrow's world depends greatly upon the effect the librarian creates in his
daily contacts with the public. The prestige of the profession in your town and mine and the success of the librarian in gaining adequate support for his library, is in direct proportion to the excellence of service the library renders and the extent to which members of the staff make themselves useful in the library and in the community. When the average citizen become fully aware of the library and of its potential contribution to the community, through its staff members and collections, we should have no further worries about support. The profession of librarianship has prestige and will grow in stature and in significance with the research and scientific development that is ahead of us.

If we can bring the right calibre of men and women into librarianship, we can deal effectively with the heavy volume of publication, with bibliographical control and with the gap in public library service that must be bridged before everyone is within reach of a library. The important element in bridging that gap is personnel—personnel that can make the community aware of the library and the useful service it is prepared to render. I hope among these new people—we are said to need 10,000—will be those who can correctly appraise the effectiveness of storing and retrieving literature via the machines that now exist or who can develop the machine that may be adapted to library needs. (Have you examined the 972 page volume by Perry and Kent on *Tools or Machine Literature Searching*? Have you seen a literature searching machine in operation? One cannot fail to be greatly impressed with the possibilities, but one must observe that to call upon such equipment now to serve the needs of the average college and university library would be as wasteful as utilizing a bulldozer to retrieve a dropped pencil.) I am hopeful that when we make more young people aware of the variety of opportunities in librarianship, and of its many unsolved problems, and when our salaries are competitive, our recruitment program will be more successful.

Those of you who attended the Washington Conference of A.L.A. last summer and heard Secretary Fleming and others speak of the American Library Association and of the useful contribution it has made to legislative programs of broad interest, must have shared the pride of those closer to that phase of A.L.A.'s work than most of us. Our profession already has strength and influence. It should have more. That leads me to mention a special kind of recruitment the American Library Association is engaged in at the moment. Of the 70,000 librarians in the United States, only about 23,000 belong to the American Library Association. I believe that both the non-member librarian and the Association lose when a librarian fails to become affiliated with his national association. The profession is no stronger than its members, and librarians are strengthened by membership in their association. A special Advisory Committee to the Membership Committee has been appointed, and will be making an effort this year to reach many of those librarians not now members of A.L.A. I hope that any of you who may not be members will be in a receptive mood when representatives of the Advisory Committee invite you to join.

I hope also that each of you will be responsible for encouraging at least one bright young person to become a professional librarian, and that among them will be the leaders who will help us deal successfully with the vexing problems immediately upon us and with others that most certainly are just over the horizon.

**SCHOOL LIBRARY SECTION MEETING**

*By Miss Elizabeth Richardson*

Hanna High School, Anderson, S. C.

The School Library Section of SCLA met in the Gold Room of the Clemson House, Clemson, S. C., at 2:30 p.m., October 30, 1959. About thirty librarians were present.

Miss Evalene P. Jackson, Director of the Division of Librarianship, Emory University, was the speaker. Using as her topic "The Cow of Plenty," Miss Jackson discussed the psychological aspects of children's reading.

The school library quarters and equipment standards have not been revised since 1951. During this year an advisory committee has studied the standards and has made some recommendations which will be submitted to Mr. W. B. Southerlin, Supervisor of Schoolhouse Planning, State Education Finance Commission, for consideration. It is gratifying to know that the standards have stood up so well that few changes were recommended.

Miss Nancy Jane Day reported that a committee has been working on elementary school standards. The library standards which are included will give impetus to the elementary school library program.

The National Defense Education Act as it affects school libraries was discussed briefly by Miss Day.

During January 1960 statewide conferences for school librarians will be arranged at five points in the state.

Miss Virginia McJenkins, Director of Fulton County School Libraries, Atlanta, will discuss the new AASL (American Association of School Librarians, division of A.L.A.) standards and their implementation at the annual section luncheon meeting during the SCEA convention March 25, 1960. She is a member of the Standards Committee, and Regional Director for implementation of the Standards.

Officers elected at the section meeting during SCEA convention, March 13, 1959, are: President, Miss Margia Brissie, Abbeville High School, Abbeville, S. C.; Vice-President, Mrs. Margaret Cromer, Carolina High School, Green ville, S. C.; Secretary, Mrs. Elsie B. Hiers, Hampton Elementary School, Hampton, S. C.

In the "History of the Spartanburg High School Library" article in the October, 1959 issue, a line of type was left out; it would have shown that Mrs. Elizabeth G. Stephens has been the Librarian "from 1947 to the present time." (Sorry, Mrs. Stephens — but it usually happens every time!)
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK:
APRIL 3-9, 1960

Mr. Charles W. Underwood of Columbia has been named State Chairman for National Library Week in South Carolina. The appointment was announced by Mrs. Marguerite G. Thompson, President of the South Carolina Library Association.

Mr. Underwood is state Public Relations Manager for Southern Bell Telephone Company and is well known in Upper South Carolina. He has been located in Aiken, Anderson, Clinton, and Greenville and in each city became actively engaged in the civic affairs of the community. Mr. Underwood served as president of the Aiken Chamber of Commerce, publicity director for Anderson's United Fund and as director of American Red Cross Chapters in Aiken, Anderson, and Laurens County.

Mrs. Thompson also announced the appointment of Miss Frances B. Reid, Field Service Librarian, South Carolina State Library Board, as Executive Director for National Library Week in South Carolina.

Serving on the State Committee with eighteen citizens are the following librarians: Miss Margie Brissie, Miss Nancy Jane Day, Miss Susie McKeown and Miss Estellene P. Walker.

Major goal of NLW is to secure full use of existing library facilities, to foster the realization of the inadequacy of present library service, and to encourage the development of libraries to meet fully the needs of present day South Carolina.

1. To achieve minimum standards of library service in school, college and public libraries.
2. To bring library service within easy reach of every citizen regardless of where he lives.
3. To provide resources for reference and research to special groups.

LIBRARY-WISE AND LIBRARY-WAYS:

The ALLENDALE LIBRARY and the ALLENDALE-HAMPTON-JASPER REGIONAL LIBRARY headquarters in Allendale have been completely renovated.

The CHARLESTON COUNTY LIBRARY'S new Gerstenslager bookmobile arrived in January, 1960, bringing joy to all concerned!—with power steering, automatic transmission, musical horn, exhaust fans in roof, book-carrier compartment on the exterior, and three bulletin boards!

The GREAT FALLS LIBRARY, a branch of the CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY, receives fresh flower arrangements every week from the Great Falls Garden Club.

GREENVILLE COUNTY is progressing in the formation of a new public library system.

The Horry County Memorial Library recently held a "Forgiveness Week."

LAKE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY grounds are being landscaped by local garden clubs.

LANCASTER COUNTY LIBRARY held "Open House" October 2, 1959, in honor of Mrs. E. A. Kelly, of Kershaw, whose paintings were on display in the library.

The LAURENS COUNTY LIBRARY is the proud owner of a new Gerstenslager bookmobile.

Open House held at the LEXINGTON COUNTY CIRCULATING LIBRARY in Batesburg October 12 following the quarterly Board meeting was well attended by business men and women and others interested in library service from all parts of the county. The Library Board met at 2:00 o'clock with one hundred per cent attendance as follows: Miss Kate Cullum, Batesburg chairman; Mrs. Cyril B. Busbee, Cayce, secretary; Miss Margaret McFadden, Lexington; Charles V. Harmon, Lexington; Woodrow Taylor, Batesburg; Miss Ethel Shealy, Lexington; Miss Myrtle Martin, Swansea. Special guests at the Board meeting and the Open House which followed were Miss Estellene Walker, director of the S. C. State Library Board; R. Bryan Roberts, reference consultant State Library Board; and Mademoiselle Marie Louise Britsch, Benjamin Franklin Library, Paris. The theme for the Open House was INDUSTRY IN LEXINGTON COUNTY. Letters were sent to more than fifty industries in the county requesting samples of their products for display. About forty responded with products ranging from food and clothes to furniture. The Batesburg-Leesville Business and Professional Women's Club, using industrial directories and lists given them by various Chambers of Commerce in the county, prepared the mailing list, sent out the letters and helped collect material for display.

Of interest especially to business men and women was the collection of business reference tools from the State Library Board, all of which are available to county libraries on loan. Open House following a County Library Board meeting has been an annual affair for several years so that people of the county may have the opportunity to get together, to learn more about the services the library offers and to meet members of the Lexington County Library Board.

The MARION PUBLIC LIBRARY is the recipient of a handsome, framed photograph of the late Judge Charles A. Woods, presented by Mrs. Malcolm C. Woods Jr., for Mrs. Catsie S. Woods, of Darlington, in memory of her late husband.

The idea of the Marion Public library was brought into being by Judge Woods, who was its financial underwriter as well as its inspiration. The photograph pictures Judge Woods opening the door into his own library which he shared with those around him even before some of his valuable books were placed in the collection of the Marion
Public Library. It is a particularly fitting photograph to hang in The Marion Public Library.—The Marion Star, January 7, 1960.

RICHLAND COUNTY LIBRARY, Columbia, held the C & S National Bank’s first Women’s Finance Forum recently.

The S. C. STATE LIBRARY BOARD has decided to expand the Junior Internship program to ten during the summer of 1960. The BOARD will also help thirty-two libraries in the Carolina Trails Reading Clubs during the summer.

SPARTANBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY has let bids and will begin construction immediately of its new library. Spartanburg County Foundation has offered $25,000 for a proposed museum wing, and an anonymous and will begin construction immediately of its new library. Spartanburg County Foundation has offered $5,000 to help equip the museum, provided Spartans raise a like amount. The Spartanburg County Historical Association is helping in the drive to raise the $5,000. On March 15 the Junior League of Spartanburg will conclude its efforts to organize a Friends of the Library group in Spartanburg; 220 members have been secured to date. Mr. McKibben Lane, of Greensboro, N. C., prominent in such work, will be the speaker at the organizational meeting when officers will be elected.

The VARNVILLE Branch of the Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library is to receive new furniture, a result of a Hampton County appropriation.

BOOK REVIEWS

Ramsay’s History of South Carolina
Volume I, Republished by the Reprint Company
154 W. Cleveland Pk. Dr., Station B Spartanburg, S. C., 274 Pages, $8

(Library Price, $5.00)

By T. A. SMITH, Editor, Spartanburg Journal

With the reprinting of Ramsay’s “History of South Carolina,” The Reprint Company of Spartanburg announces a “South Carolina Heritage Series” of reprints of old books which have long been out of print, are in short supply and very costly when they can be purchased.

Of the work, the Charleston News & Courier says in a review:

“Written in 1808, Ramsay’s “History of South Carolina” has long been out of print. It is welcome news indeed that Volume I of this important work, much relied upon by present-day historians and novelists, is now available again.”

Volume I covers the period from the first settlement in 1670 to the year 1808.

Volume II, which is already being printed and will be available in the late February or early March, also is priced at $8.00 for general sale and $5.50 to libraries. It includes chapters devoted to church, medical, legal, fiscal, agricultural, commercial, natural, literary, civil and miscellaneous histories; biographical sketches of literary and other distinguished men, and a statistical appendix of the Edisto, St. Stephen, Pendleton, Orangeburg, Beaufort, Georgetown, Claremont and Camden districts.

Landrum’s Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina now takes its place as No. 1 in the South Carolina Heritage Series. No. 2 is reserved for a later proposed reprint of Landrum’s History of Spartanburg County. The Ramsay Volumes I and II are listed as Series Nos. 3 and 4. Work has already started on Logan’s History of the Upper Country, a natural history of the state, which will be Series No. 5. An effort will be made to republish Logan’s Notes, which were to have been the author’s Volume II, and if this is possible Logan’s Notes will become Series No. 6.

The Battle of Cowpens
Kenneth Roberts—104 Pages
Doubleday & Company, Inc. 1958

By SAM P. MANNING,
Attorney, Spartanburg, S. C.

In the Battle of Cowpens the late Kenneth Roberts has written in simple language an epic story. It is a story of how nine hundred and seventy Americans, Continentals and militia, destroyed one thousand and fifty chosen soldiers of the King in sixty minutes. It is one of the little known but great stories of American history.

Mr. Roberts had originally intended the work primarily as a basic study for one of his major novels. For the many admirers of his earlier works such as Northwest Passage and Boon Island as well as all students of American history that he was unable to achieve his goal is a source of keen regret. The Battle of Cowpens as published, however, constitutes a notable contribution to the American heritage and does justly focus attention on one of the battles of the Revolution which has been too often neglected.

The opening pages of the book picture the conditions on the Carolina frontier in the early years of the Revolution, the desolation, the courage, the battles of neighbor against neighbor, the house burnings in the night. Against this background is portrayed Banastre Tarleton, Lieut. Col. of the Green Dragoons, “The Bloody Tarleton,” scourge of the Carolina country side, the right hand of Cornwallis, moving across the Tyger and the Pacolet rivers with a thousand men, seeking to make contact with General Daniel Morgan and to make his kill.

On January 17, 1781, Tarleton was to make contact with the foe, the wily Morgan who still bore the scars of British tyranny upon his back. The time, eight o’clock in the
morning. The place, a deserted cow pasture five miles from the Broad River near the South Carolina-North Carolina line. Morgan had carefully prepared the plan of battle. His leaders were men of proven competence: Otis Williams and John Eager Howard of the Maryland Continentals; William Washington, one of the top cavalry leaders of the War; and Andrew Pickens of South Carolina, who had arrived the night before with two hundred and seventy riflemen from South Carolina and Georgia.

Confident of victory Tarleton arrogantly moved forward for victory and the kill. Sixty minutes later his forces in disarray, totally destroyed; of his entire force one hundred ten were killed, two hundred wounded and over five hundred captured. American casualties were twelve men dead and sixty wounded. Only by flight was Tarleton able to escape. His defeat was to haunt him to the grave. The victory was one of the great psychological turning points of the Revolution.

Mr. Roberts has served his country well in bringing to life many vital aspects of its past. His Battle of Cowpens is a contribution to a great tradition. One may well imagine that Mr. Roberts would receive pleasure in the thought that this work may assist in the re-dedication and appreciation of the battlefield of Cowpens. Today the Battle of Cowpens is commemorated by a National Battlefield site consisting of a single acre.

Seeds of Time:
The Background of Southern Thinking
Henry Savage; Henry Holt, New York, 1959

By Boylston Green

Associate Professor of English, Wofford College

Perhaps it is not too extravagant to say that with the exception of the Holy Land itself the South has been the most discussed and the least understood land in the world. The mere word "South" seems to call forth from all within range of the sound, natives and aliens alike, irresponsible articulation rather than reasoned conclusions. In Henry Savage's SEEDS OF TIME it is gratifying to find a discussion of the subject that is comprehensive as well as penetrating, historical in perspective and at the same time immediate in its pertinence to the problems that Southerners face today.

Mr. Savage adopts the formula he used with great success in his RIVER OF THE CAROLINAS: THE SANTEE, but he applies the pattern to the entire region that extends from the Potomac to the Rio Grande. Beginning with time itself, he traces the factors, geologic, physical, ethnic, economic, political and spiritual that brought into being a society unique in human history. Much of his substance—the origins of our present states, the ineffective attempts to slough off slavery, the tragic effects of the reign of King Cotton, and the persistence of frontier conditions even until today—is familiar to readers of classics such as W. J. Cash's THE MIND OF THE SOUTH. But Mr. Savage contributes much to the understanding of the layman in his clear analysis of the conditions and decisions that inexorably brought about the tragedy of the Civil War, the almost unbearable tensions of the 40's and the 50's. But most disturbing and informative to the non-professional historian is the account of the legal frauds and felonies that brought about the Second American Revolution, which took place after the death of Lincoln; that Revolution not only changed the Constitution of our nation, but it also permanently set the pattern of economic colonialism that is the South's present as well as her immediate future.

Few Southerners will find the book a source of comfort. In the story there is ample evidence of error and avarice, of pride and vindictiveness on both sides. Yet Mr. Savage treats all with admirable objectivity. Thinking Southerners will find in it some reasons for hope. The ways out of the wilderness of poverty and provincialism are difficult, but not impossible. Change is already upon us. What we need is patriotism untainted by passion, and a realization that the South is truly a member of a national society. Mr. Savage's suggestions will offend many, and be of discomfort to all; they call for restraint and reason, for discipline and decency, and above all for a realistic vision of the future that can be brighter than that past that never was.

We Southerners should be grateful that a man such as Mr. Savage has the courage that matches his intelligence, scholarship, and his devotion to his native South. Every thinking Southerner should read the book.

PERSONALS

Mrs. GEORGIE I. ADAMS resigned as Librarian of the Berkeley County Library, Moncks Corner, effective December 31, 1959.

Miss GABRIELLA AUSTIN is head of the catalog department, Greenville Public Library.

Our sympathy to Miss LOIS BARBARE, State Library Board, on the death of her sister, Mrs. Earl Taylor, Taylors, S. C., November 2, 1959.

Miss MARY BERRY, Assistant Librarian, Spartanburg Public Library, has resigned and has entered Indiana's School of Education to resume work on her Master's degree in Education, specializing in Library Adult Education.

Miss NANCY JANE DAY, Supervisor of Library Services, State Department of Education, has been invited to the White House Conference on Children and Youth in Washington, D. C. March 27-April 2. In December Miss DAY participated in the meeting of the Chief State School Officers' Study Commission working with the Committee studying State Departments of Education's Responsibility for School Library Service.

Mrs. CHARLES B. GASQUE succeeds Mrs. MARY MERRITT YARBORO as Librarian of the Mullins Public Library.

Miss VIRGINIA McCrackin, Librarian, Bamberg School, is President of the Bamberg Education Association.
Mr. GEORGE R. LINDER, Librarian, Spartanburg Public Library, has written to Senator Strom Thurmond, with reference to Bill S. 155, which would permit the donation of surplus property to tax supported libraries, asking that "after investigating the above legislation you will give your time and effort in its behalf."

Mr. RALEIGH BRYAN ROBERTS, Jr., native of Winnsboro, S. C., B. S., The Citadel, and M. L. S., Louisiana State University, is Reference Consultant with the S. C. State Library Board.

Dr. ROBERT C. TUCKER, Librarian, Furman University, is the ALA Councilor-Elect, succeeding Miss EMILY SANDERS, Librarian, Charleston County Library, at the conclusion of the June, 1960 meeting of ALA.

Mrs. MARY MERRITT YARBORO, Librarian of the Mullins City Library, resigned last fall, but is continuing in an advisory capacity and as Book-keeper. She will be the subject of "An Appreciation" editorial in The Enterprise, Mullins, S. C., November 19, 1959. Excerpts include: . . . "giving wholeheartedly of her time, her influence, her infinite patience and understanding for more than thirty years as librarian . . . She created and developed an appreciation of books and has consistently taught boys and girls to handle books with care and consideration, dealing gently, tactfully but firmly . . . has had, and will continue to have, the complete respect, admiration and affection of the Library Board and all citizens of Mullins and surrounding areas . . . ."

(Editors' note: We were one of her boys—and certainly something rubbed off—in Mullins, in the 1920's!)

---

**SOUTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Revolving Loan Fund

Regulations, As Amended October 24, 1955

1. Loans will be made to legal residents of South Carolina who are members of the South Carolina Library Association at the time of the application or become members prior to the granting of the loan. Borrowers are expected to maintain membership in the Association during the life of the loan.

2. Loans will be made in the form of direct payment by the Treasurer of the Association to the American Library Association approved library schools to be applied on annual or summer school tuition; provided, the maximum loan to any one individual shall not exceed $500.00, and a loan for summer school tuition shall not exceed $250.00.

3. The borrower will execute a negotiable promissory note for the amount of the loan and deliver it to the Treasurer of the Association who will then make the proper payment to the designated library school. Loans may be repaid in full without interest to the Treasurer of the Association as follows: (1) Annual tuition loans—within 36 months after receipt of loan; (2) Summer school tuition loans—within 12 months after receipt of loan. If the loan is not repaid within the time specified above, 7% interest on the unpaid balance will be charged.

4. Applications must be received by the Chairman of the Committee, on forms provided, at least sixty days prior to the date the money is wanted and must be approved by a majority of the Committee and the President of the Association. The candidate must have a personal interview with some member of the Committee or of the Executive Committee of the South Carolina Library Association. The judgment of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee shall be final.

5. If the amount of the loan is $100.00 or over, a life insurance policy payable to the Association must be in force during the life of the loan.

6. It is hoped that the recipient of the loan will return to work in a library in South Carolina.

---

**Constitution of the South Carolina Library Association**

As Revised, February 23, 1959

(Unanimously approved October 31, 1959)

**ARTICLE I NAME**

This organization shall be called the South Carolina Library Association.

**ARTICLE II OBJECTIVE**

Its objective shall be to promote libraries and library service in South Carolina.

**ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Any individual interested in the objectives of the Association may become a member with a right to vote, upon payment of annual dues.

Sec. 2. Any library, club, or other educational association in South Carolina interested in the objectives of the Association may become an institutional member by payment of dues and may be entitled to send a delegate with the right to vote.

Section 3. Any person who has maintained an active, paid membership in the Association for a period of ten (10) consecutive years prior to retirement shall, upon retirement, be entitled to Honorary Membership in the Association, upon approval of the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice-President, who shall be President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as provided for in the By-Laws.

**ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers, the Past-President, the American Library Association Councilor, the South Carolina representative on the Southeastern Library Association Executive Board, and the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of each Section named in the By-Laws.
ARTICLE VI MEETINGS
There shall be an annual meeting of the Association and special meetings as authorized in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII AFFILIATIONS
Section 1. The South Carolina Library Association shall be a contributing member of the American Library Association. The Association shall be affiliated with the American Library Association as a Chapter, and shall elect one of its members to serve as American Library Association Councilor for a term in accordance with the requirements of the American Library Association.

Section 2. The South Carolina Library Association shall be a contributing member of the Southeastern Library Association.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS
This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided notice of the proposed change has been given in the call to the meeting.

BY-LAWS
As Revised, February 23, 1959

ARTICLE I NOMINATION, TERM AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Section 1. The President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Committee on Nominations to present the names of one member for each elective office. This Committee shall consist of at least three members.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected by majority vote at the annual meeting and shall serve for one year beginning January 1, or until their successors are installed.

ARTICLE II DUTIES OF OFFICERS
Section 1. The duties of the officers shall be such as are implied by their titles except as are modified by the By-Laws.

Section 2. The Secretary shall prepare a report of the annual meeting or any special meeting of the Association; he shall send one copy to the Library Journal, one copy to the American Library Association Bulletin, one copy to the Southeastern Librarian, one copy to the South Carolina Librarian, and one copy to the President, who will keep it on file.

Section 3. The position of Treasurer shall be covered by a fidelity bond for an amount equal to the financial resources of the Association. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Section 1. Membership.
The membership shall be as stated in the Constitution with the following exceptions:

a. In the event a Section Chairman is serving as a member of the Executive Committee in another capacity, Section Chairman shall appoint a representative from his Section.

b. In the event another member is serving in a dual capacity on the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall appoint a member-at-large in order to keep a consistent number.

Section 2. Powers and Duties.
The Executive Committee shall have power:

a. To act for the Association in intervals between meetings and make arrangements for the annual meeting.

b. To consider and develop plans for the general work of the Association.

c. To appoint, in case of a vacancy in any office caused by resignation or otherwise, a member of the Association to fill the unexpired term.

d. To receive and disburse money for the Association.

e. To approve all encumbrances and expenditures of Association funds, except those stated in the Constitution and By-Laws or previously authorized by a vote of the membership, which may be approved for payment by the President.

f. To provide for the publications of the Association and to contract for such publications as may be desirable for furthering the interest of the Association.

Section 3. Meetings and Quorum.
The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President, or upon the request of three members of the Committee. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IV COMMITTEES
Section 1. The President, with the advice of the Executive Committee, shall appoint such committees as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Association, and define their duties. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees except the Committee on Nominations.

a. Standing Committees.
1. Appointment to a standing committee shall be for a period of three (3) years, the terms of approximately one-third of the membership expiring each year.

2. The Standing Committee shall include the following, with function and size to be determined by the Executive Committee: Constitution and By-Laws, Editorial, Legislative, Membership, Planning, Recruiting, Revolving Loan Fund.

b. Special Committees.
There shall be such special committees as deemed advisable by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V SECTIONS
Section 1. The Sections of the South Carolina Library Association shall be as follows: College, Public, School, and Trustee. The College, Public, and Trustee Sections shall elect their respective officers at the annual meeting. The officers of the School Library Section shall be the officers of the School Library Section of the South Carolina Education Association. Section officers shall be elected for one term and may be eligible for re-election for one term.

Section 2. Sections and Round Tables of the Association may be organized upon application to and approval of the Executive Committee. After approval, the name of a
new section shall be listed in Article III, Section 1, of the By-Laws.

Section 3. Sections may adopt By-Laws provided they do not conflict with the By-Laws of the South Carolina Library Association.

ARTICLE VI DUES

Section 1. Annual dues of individual members shall be two dollars ($2.00) and shall be due on January 1 of each year.

Section 2. Institutional or member clubs shall pay according to their incomes on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Dues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to $2,999</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000 - 4,999</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$5,000 - 9,999</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 - 24,999</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 and above</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 3. Dues of sustaining members shall be $10.00 per calendar year.

Section 4. Any person, upon payment of $50.00, shall be entitled to life membership in the Association.

Section 5. Delinquent members shall be notified of their delinquency. Members in arrears for a year shall be dropped from the membership roll.

Section 6. There shall be a registration fee, set by the Executive Committee, for each member attending the annual meeting. Only visitors may register without payment of dues.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS AND QUORUM

Section 1. Regular. The annual meeting shall be at such time and place as shall have been decided upon by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Special. Special meetings of the Association may be called by the President; by a quorum of the Executive Committee; or on request of fifty (50) members of the Association. Only business mentioned in the call shall be transacted.

Section 3. Quorum. Twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4. Notice. At least thirty (30) days notice of any meeting shall be given in writing to members.

Section 5. Votes by Mail. Votes by mail, both of the Association and of the Executive Committee, may be authorized by the Executive Committee between meetings. Such mail votes shall be conducted under the same requirements as votes at meetings.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the By-Laws shall receive a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE IX PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Roberts' Rules of Order, latest revision, shall be the governing authority in matters not specifically covered by this Constitution and By-Laws.

SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

REVIEWING BOOK REVIEWERS

By Dr. Jack Kenny Williams
Dean of the Graduate School, Clemson College
(First General Session, October 30, 1959)

In a cold but stuffy sitting room littered with cigarette ends and half empty cups of coffee, a man sits at a desk trying to find room for his typewriter among the piles of paper that surround it.

He is a man of 35 but looks 50. If things are normal with him he will be suffering from malnutrition, but if he has recently had a lucky streak he will be suffering from a hangover. At present it is half past eleven in the morning and he should have started work two hours ago. But even if he had made any serious effort to start he would have been frustrated by the ringing of the telephone, the rattle of an electric drill out in the street, and the heavy boots of his creditors clumping up and down the hallway.

Needless to say, this person is a book reviewer. Half hidden among the piles of papers is a bulky parcel containing four volumes which his editor sent him four days ago with a note suggesting that they ought to go well together. They are Palestine at the Cross Roads, Scientific Dairy Farming, A Short History of European Democracy, and Tribal Customs In Portuguese East Africa. The reviews are due by noon tomorrow.

Curiously enough, his copy will get to the office on time. At about 9 p.m. his mind will grow relatively clear and until the small hours he will skip expeditiously through one book after another. In the morning, bleary-eyed, surly, unshaven, he will gaze for an hour or two at a blank sheet of paper. Suddenly he will snap into action—and all the stale old phrases (“a book that no one should miss”; “something memorable on every page”; “of special value are the chapters dealing with”) etc.) will jump into place like iron filings obeying the magnet.

This is author George Orwell's view of a typical professional book reviewer. It probably is not your view. It is a bit too depressing and overdrawn to be mine. Nonetheless Mr. Orwell does bring into focus one point which I want to emphasize: that being the use by the reviewer of the "stale old phrases," all of them kind, and all of them meaningless banalities.

George Orwell is not alone in viewing this matter with studied dismay. Elizabeth Hardwick (wife of poet Robert Lowell) touched the theme in this month's Harper's Magazine with her article, "The Decline of Book Reviewing." Critic Louis Kronenberger suggested it with a vengeance a decade ago in a Saturday Review essay, "Are Reviewers Too Polite?" Francis Hackett has given it skillful coverage in his rambling text, Judging Books.

Whether in your library you buy the books, catalog them, or sign them out at the circulation desk, I suspect that each of you has more than a passing interest in this sometimes exciting, often depressing business of library book selection. About nine thousand new authors broke into hard-back print last year; and certainly an equal number of experienced writers brought forth second, third, or fourth books. Your profession demands that you know
more than something about this literary output—and since you can not read all the books you probably do read the reviews, or many of them. Do you agree, then, with George Orwell, Henry Canby, John Drewry, Otis Ferguson, Louis Gottschalk, Carl Becker, and a host of dimmer lights that “Book reviewing is in decline?”

The basic problem with modern book reviewing, I believe, is as Mr. Kronenberger puts it: “Book reviewers are too polite.” Our critics have lulled us into a sort of be-kind-to-dumb-writers scheme of things.

More and more I am convinced that the task of international relations should be turned over to our book reviewers. They would be so busy praising each other that hydrogen bombs, nerve gases, and intercontinental ballistic missiles would be relegated to the pits of faintest memory, replaced by the molasses barrel, the gingerbread man, and the saccharine pill.

Elizabeth Hardwick discusses the matter in this hard fashion: “A genius may indeed go to his grave unread, but ... hardly ... unpraised. Sweet, bland commendations fall everywhere on the scene; a universal, if somewhat lobotomized accommodation reigns ... the brine of hostile criticism is only a memory. Everyone is found to have ‘filled a need,’ and ‘is to be thanked’ for something and to be ‘excused for minor faults in an otherwise excellent work.’ ‘A thoroughly mature artist’ appears many times a week and often daily; (and) many are the bringers of those ‘messages the Free World will ignore at its peril.’”

Frances Hackett, deploring the literary problem of praiseless praise, holds that book reviewing has become a racket, impure and not so simple. Clifton Fadiman dismisses it as only “a device for earning a living.” These are overstated opinions. Most book reviewing is not a device to earn a living, nor is it a racket in the criminal sense of the word, but it is oriented more to bookselling than to book criticism. It is allied more with the blurbs on the dust jackets than with honest, fearless observation. Hence it has parted company with intellectual honesty and has become an adjunct of sales promotion.

This “if-it's-in-print-it-has-to-be-good” idea has led to some remarkable conclusions—such as that of the reviewer who insisted that Philip Guedalla was “one of the greatest living historians;” or that of the lady critic who wrote that Hector Bolitho, collector of official nonsense about the private lives of the English Royal Family, was “one of the outstanding biographers of our day.”

What has happened, in fine, is that reviewers have joined hands in the collection and use of a host of neutral, halfway commendatory adjectives to cover all known sins of composition and plot. Louis Kronenberger catalogues a few of these. A boring novel is a leisurely one. A book which make no sense is called whimsical. A glib book is called fluent. A stuffed-shirt author is referred to as a thinker or a philosopher. A prig is characterized as a moralist. Slush is optimism; ranting is eloquence; and fancy or archaic expressions make up a Biblical style. A clodhopper is a man of the earth, of course; and any writer who mentions Dorothy Parker, Frank Lloyd Wright, Alex-ander Woolcott or Gertrude Stein is obviously a modern sophisticate.

Overpraise has not always been the case in book reviewing. Kronenberger tells us that book reviewing two hundred years ago was a form of open warfare. An author could expect a reviewer to discuss anything about him except perhaps the merits of his book. His religion and politics would be worth a few acid paragraphs. His private life would be investigated. “If it was virtuous, you would be invited to laugh at it; if it was immoral you would be invited to shudder.” His genealogical background would be presented, with a view to pointing up the jailbirds, debtors, and king’s hirelings. If the author had a squint or a lisp or a clubfoot, the reviewer worked in some tactless reference to it.

Should the reviewer finally get to the book, blasts such as these could be expected:

“The book seems to be in English, but by God I don’t understand a word of it.”

“In this book of 300 pages, only 50 make sense. People who like to be talked to unintelligently will appreciate the book. They will take it as a tribute to their understanding.”

“One who make it to the end of this book is apt to say that here is a great book. He really means that he is a great reader.”

Kronenberger does not plead the case for these outdated ruffians, nor do I. But he deplores, and I deplore the near-complete swing of the critic’s frame of reference. Surely there must be a middle ground, fairly, objectively, and seriously arrived at.

You know, of course, as I do, that not all reviewers are guilty of persistant overpraise. University Literary Quarters (The South Atlantic, The Emory Quarterly, the Georgia Review, for examples); professional journals (The American Historical Review, the Annals of the Political Science Academy, for examples); and a few newsstand magazines (Time, for instance) are willing still to say openly that a book is dull, or gloomy, or poorly written, or even decadent.

So doing they break with the mass. A survey of the Book Review Digest for 1956 shows that 51 per cent of all reviews are highly favorable. 44.3 per cent are totally noncommittal. Only 4.7 per cent are in the least unfavorable.

Sad to relate, few of the unfavorable 4.7 per cent are to be found in such popular and doubtless influential sources as the New York Times, the Herald Tribune, or the Saturday Review.

Any listing of causes for the decline of book reviewing would be lengthy, I suppose. Causation is always a blending of fact, theory, and blind guesswork. Nonetheless, a substantial number of authorities agree on three problems of the reviewer’s trade. In no particular order, these are (1) too many books are published, and once published, reviewed; (2) too few reviewers are reviewing too many books; and (3) too many reviewers, fearing author, publisher, and reader, are timid and opinionless.

Some elaboration here is in order.

Point one: too many books are published. I need not
labor to prove this assertion for library people. Mass production has hit the publishing business with a sort of $E=mc^2$ effect. The critic who suggested in a professional journal that Carl Van Doren's biography of Thomas Jefferson was not much better and probably not much worse than 75 other books on the life of the same Virginia Democratic-aristocrat was not necessarily being factitious. The several hundred twentieth century biographic studies of Abraham Lincoln have long ago ceased to add anything to the railsplitter's stature, historically, poetically, politically, or otherwise. The Civil War has been fought and refought through a few dozen thousand gory monographs, diaries, and reminiscences. The saga of Forever Amber has inspired in the neighborhood of ten thousand additional rags-to-riches narratives featuring the trials and tribulations of the practitioners of the world's oldest profession.

My own cure for this superabundance of historical fact and fiction is summed up by the remarkable historian, Louis Gottschalk, who had this to say: "It is high time, I think, for some philanthropist to come forward with a donation for a committee to suppress books—particularly books of history. This committee would operate somewhat after the fashion of the . . . (Department of Agriculture's) Land Bank—paying author and publisher for not producing books that they might otherwise produce. That would create problems, I realize, for the author, the publisher . . . and the college president, who would no longer be able to depend on the counting of pages produced during the academic year to determine relative merit among his faculty. But it would save history from sinking into social uselessness and the reader of history from a horrible death by boredom. The committee could have a few simple rules to go by:

1. No book should be published which did not have a philosophical approach of more than transient significance.
2. No book should be published which was badly written.
3. No book should be published which presented no new data or new interpretation of old data."

Point two: too few reviewers review too many books. Here, obviously, we deal with the professional reviewer and return to the opening paragraphs of this paper. While it is probably true that 75 per cent of book reviewers do their reviewing as a sideline and that these are generally specialists in a particular field of knowledge, the fact stands that the remaining 25 per cent evaluate the bulk of our fiction and no small amount of our non-fiction; and that their evaluations fill the pages of popular digests and newspaper sources.

These are the geniuses who review a book or two per day, regardless of subject; and who follow, apparently, a simple rule for success: say nothing in the way of adverse criticism; the author will love you, the publisher will praise you, and the public be damned. These are the reviewers who find themselves at total variance with Brooks Atkinson's definition of a critic as one whose duty is "to pitch into the intellectual life of the . . . (nation) and express himself with force and clarity."

How do these people manage to review such a prodigious number of volumes? For one thing, all are fast readers and skim-readers. For another, few of them take notes. Finally, all of them have a readily available storehouse of those "stale phrases" referred to earlier.

Clifton Fadiman, one of the best of the professionals and something of an exception to the rule, claims to read five to ten thousand books each year. Serious works, he says, take some time, but "the usual tripe is read practically with the speed of light."

Lewis Gannett compares reading to gear shifting. He reads in low gear, he writes, for the first pages, then lets in the clutch and goes into high. He reads by the clock: "If I am not making my minimum hundred pages an hour—or more, depending on the type of book—I must force myself to a more energetic pace."

Some professionals make no pretense at reading all of a book. Some confess to reading the dust jacket, the preface, and the last page or so. The review then follows.

Others belong to the 30-30-30 club; that is, they read the first 30 pages, the middle thirty, and the last thirty. Edward Bok, the muckraker, defended this practice with his much quoted statement that one does not need to eat all of an egg to prove that it is bad.

My point is made, I trust. The professional reviewer, faced with a stack of volumes on varied matters, with tight deadlines and with numerous noisy competitors for his job, has to be kind. He has to praise. He simply cannot afford the luxury of penning what the late Carl Becker called "information meditated as well as catalogued—something of originality and constructive literary power."

Point three: Too many reviewers, fearing author, publisher, and reader, are timid. Here we are faced with a combination of human nature and defense mechanisms. The reviewer's highly vocal and immediately present critics are the author and the publisher. The key to sweetness and light with these is the favorable review.

Certainly the authors do not take severe criticism lightly. Few of them are as unconcerned as Rupert Brooke, who wrote as a preface these lines: "Go forth, my book, and take whatever pounding the heavy fisted destinies prepare. I know you are not anything astounding, and to be quite sincere, I don't much care. Get off your overcoat, the gong is sounding. The enemy has risen from his chair. He doesn't look so overwhelming, but his arm is long. Watch out for an uppercut."

Most authors feel about books as parents do about children. No parent wants his child spoken of as dull, or even average. If the father, in a moment of fake humility, expresses doubt that his baby is unusually bright or pretty, he expects you to disagree and that with speed and conviction. Fail to do so and all cordiality is at an immediate and permanent end.

The fear of publishers is as real as the fear of authors, and perhaps more so. The blackball is black, whether in the publishing business on the Greek letter fraternity.

The fear of the public is the fear of being caught up in ignorance. Interestingly enough, one can say good words about bad prose and defend them with an air of gifted per-
unless indefensible on the same or any other basis.

Hence, to the uncertain, overworked reviewer, the broad path is clearly marked.

Posternity, of course, will catch up with reviewers, whether they make the mistake of being too mild or too harsh; but this fact is of little consolation to the man who writes today and hopes to be writing tomorrow. The verdict of posternity he tells himself, has never bought many groceries.

By now I have made a case with which you already agree or disagree. I have offered no solutions to the problems I have spotlighted. This is generally true of those who complain.

I am not sure that I have remedies at hand. I do have three suggestions. One is now practiced by your own organization in its publication The South Carolina Librarian: that is, you assign books to people who have the educational and professional background to review them. This makes good sense to me.

Secondly, I believe library people might do much toward cutting down the number of useless books simply by not ordering them. Library purchases represent the margin of profit for an amazing number of volumes. Careful selection, especially in the repetitious areas, would go far toward insuring an improved editorial selectivity on the part of the publishing houses.

Third, I would hope that you, and indeed all literate people, might take the time and trouble to review some of the reviewers. A few well-composed letters to appropriate journals, Sunday magazine sections, and book pages would, I suspect, create considerable confusion in the ranks. And out of confusion, in this case, might come reform.

Whatever the value or lack of value in these suggestions, I have enjoyed this opportunity of reviewing the reviewers with you. My object has been to enlist your support as well in upgrading good books as in downgrading bad ones. In the wider view of things literary I agree with John Milton, who wrote long ago: "As good almost kill a man as kill a good book. Who kills a man kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but he who destroys a good book kills reason itself."

---

A NEW LOOK AT OLD PROBLEMS

Resumé of Address

By Mr. Guy R. Lyle,

Director of Libraries, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.

(College Section, October 30, 1959)

Despite the amazing growth of college libraries within the past two decades, there remain many tough recurring problems about which very little has been done.

One of these problems is the failure of the college library to be represented by a clearly defined code of library policy in the college By-Laws or in the faculty or administrative staff handbooks which substitute for or supplement the By-Laws in some institutions. In the speaker's opinion, what has been accomplished is good (examples were furnished from Williams, Coe, Vassar, Bowdoin, Davidson, Winthrop, Washington and Lee, Antioch, Madison, Ripon, Carleton, and the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina), but it is not enough. There are too few codes and fewer still which cover the essential elements of a code of library policy. The importance of the code was illustrated by reference to departmental libraries and to staff status.

The faculty library committee is another example of a recurring library problem. Librarians expect the committee to exert leadership, to show initiative, but instead frequently find it embarrassingly ready to agree with whatever line of action the librarian suggests. The speaker stressed the peculiar nature of the library's position which makes the faculty library committee so important. The library is a college-wide service organization whose activities touch everyone; it is, on the other hand, a tight complex organization whose activities are controlled from within and whose inner workings are largely unknown to those it serves. Herein lies the danger. Unconversant with library procedures, the faculty may create the fiction that the library is working in opposition to their real needs. The library committee, with its Janus-like relationship to the library and to the faculty, can familiarize itself with library operations, better understand them, explain them to other faculty members, and take responsibility when decisions which they have discussed and approved are criticized or misunderstood. The speaker mentioned several important requirements for developing the library committee's interest, loyalty, and effectiveness.

The third problem mentioned was the measurement of library use. Present records of library use are incomplete and inadequate. The speaker mentioned several reasons why the problem must be faced. A new approach, perhaps utilizing the detailed "spot" testing of library use three or four times a year, may provide a better basis for generalizing about library use than present methods.

Finding the right answer to these problems is not easy. Since librarians habitually adapt themselves to the acceptance of limitations or else avoid such problems altogether, they have not accustomed themselves to thinking how to achieve practical and efficient solutions to these problems. Now is the time to begin; solutions can be found if each librarian will search for an answer to at least one problem in his own campus situation and let the rest of the profession know about it when genuine and real progress is made.

Guy R. Lyle, Nov. 1/59

1960 OFFICERS:

George L. Olsen ___________ Chairman
J. Mitchell Reames ______ Vice-Chairman and Secretary

DEADLINE for October issue of THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIBRARIAN will be September 1, 1960.
VITALIZING "DEADWOOD"

By Mrs. Eulalie Steinmetz Ross,
Supervisor of Work with Children,
The Public Library of
Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Ohio
/Public Library Section, Oct. 30, 1959

Not too many years ago children's librarians were considered the custodians of the books entrusted into their keeping. According to modern library philosophy children's librarians are the dispensers of books. It is their responsibility, and their very real pleasure, to get the books off their library shelves and into the hands of their young patrons.

If an examination of a library's shelves reveals too many good children's books "in" instead of "out," too many fine titles turning into "deadwood," the examination should proceed further to determine why the condition exists and how the books can again be made vital and meaningful to the boy and girl reader.

The fault may be in the appearance of the book itself. A shabby cover and dirty pages do not encourage any reader. Occasionally bindings fade until the dingy color remaining is a deterrent rather than an invitation to read. Sometimes new origional bindings are unfortunate in color and design such as the black cover of Anne Parrish's Floating Island, and the dull blue of Tal, by Paul Fennimore Cooper. Fine print, crowded lines, and insufficient leading between lines can also contribute to the "deadwood" situation. Books of many pages, such as Big Tiger and Christian, by Fritz Muhlenweg, and Selma Lagerlof's The Wonderful Adventures of Nils often deter the casual browser although the inveterate reader glories in the thick, fat volume. Too many books crowded on a shelf may have a negative effect on the child: it is difficult to get a book off the tight shelf, and why read books no one else is interested in?

The Dewey Decimal Classification, for all its ingenuity, may be the reason why some books do not circulate in a children's room. The separation of "history" and "travel" books has no meaning to the child of today's social studies. The reader of fairy tales misses The Arabian Nights in the literature number and Hawthorne's version of the Greek myths in the 200's. The same reader, in some libraries, may also miss the fairy tales of Anderson, Pyle, and Sandburg because they are classified as fiction.

It is possible, too, that the children's librarian may be the reason why her books do not, in library parlance, "move." She may not have read them. She may not know the treasures on her own shelves. The one and only remedy for this lack is to read the books. Nothing—no review, condensation, or summary—can substitute for the knowledge and enthusiasm gained by simply reading a book.

Such knowledge will make it possible for a children's librarian to talk about her wares with authority when she is helping the children look for books. The boys and girls are not at all interested in what some name reviewer said about a children's book, but they accept what their own librarian says of it as gospel, if what she says is based on her own reading. And the children can detect fraud with uncanny astuteness.

If the children's librarian knows her books thoroughly she can also move her "deadwood" titles by putting their "best foot forward" in exhibits. On February second she can open Carolyn Sherwin Bailey's Miss Hickory and The Tough Winter, by Robert Lawson, to the chapters about the ground hog. Julia Sauer's Fog Magic and Carl Sandburg's poem about fog, as well as Bright Island, by Mabel Robinson, and Rachel Field's verses about islands, make interesting table exhibits. The lovely picture of a sea shell on the end-papers of Elizabeth Enright's The Sea Is All Around is the perfect accompaniment for an exhibit of shells, along with the usual shell identification volumes and the unusual one, Houses from the Sea, by Alice Goudy.

"Deadwood" titles can also be included on reading lists for the children, if the librarian knows her books. There is no obligation to include only new books on lists for boys and girls. Indeed, to do so often means sacrificing quality for recency and whether a book is new or old means little to children so long as it is good. Frequently the solid older book has more to offer the child reader than the easy-to-read, easy-to-forget modern title. Lists of children's books are often put in local papers and some libraries, in their own publication, have a page of books for boys and girls. Instead of listing only new books in either local paper or library publication, old titles worth reading can be introduced by compiling subject lists such as "Nature's Way in Children's Books," "Holiday Craft for Children," "Legendary Heroes," "Quests and Journeys," etc. Reading lists prepared to help the children make books a part of their summertime fun can also include the older books as well as the new.

Book talks given to children either at the library or in the classroom of the school offer another opportunity to revitalize older titles that may be sitting unread on library shelves. Marguerite Henry writes good horse stories. This, any self-respecting horse-conscious child reader can readily tell you. The reader is not so apt to know that Will James spun one of the best horse stories of all times when he wrote Smoky, or that Anna Sewell makes the reader actually feel like a horse when reading her nineteenth-century classic, Black Beauty. Child readers know, perhaps too well, the modern easy-reading, fictionized biographies; but do they know such splendid biographical portraits as Elizabeth Janet Grey's Penn, Hildegarde Swift's Railroad to Freedom, or Cornelia Meigs's Invincible Louisa? A children's librarian, knowing these books, can make them known to the children also, using the book talk as her medium.

In her role as gentle persuader, the children's librarian will find it helpful if she knows the general and special interests of her boy and girl patrons according to age, sex, and individual personality. This knowledge will help her lead the children to the finer books, the unusual books, the books that are too frequently "deadwood." Fourth grade girls find most doll stories easily enough, but, because of its title and its binding (already mentioned in this talk) they are apt to pass right by one of the best doll stories of them all: Floating Island. The same little girls read
fairy tales as a rule; a librarian who knows this can offer them further imaginative enrichment with the delicate fantasy of Marjorie Rawlings, *The Secret River*, and Robert Nathan's *The Starfish and the Snowflake*. When they get somewhat older the same girls satisfy their romantic yearnings with Eleanor Farjeon's romances about Martin Pippin, Marchette Chute's *Innocent Wayfaring* and the lovely old French legend of *Aucaussin and Nicolette*. Little boys chortle over Robert Brooke's famous pig, Freddy; a sympathetic and knowledgeable librarian can introduce them also to the famous animals of Hugh Lofting, Kenneth Grahame, and Robert Lawson. A few years later the same boys, bent on interplanetary investigation, find the Heinlein and Norton titles for themselves, but, unless a librarian tells them about it, they are apt to miss John Keir Cross's excellent science fiction story: *The Angry Planet*.

Unread titles on the shelves of a children's room are not always, therefore, 'deadwood.' They are often only tired, dirty copies of good titles that need replacing with newer editions attractive in format and well-printed. Sometimes such books need only an informed librarian to move them from the shelves into the children's hands. She can do this simply by sharing her enthusiasm for the books by talking about them to the children individually and in class groups, by including them on book lists, and by building book exhibits around them. A sensible interpretation of Dewey tells the children about them to the children individually and in class groups, to the child to come read, interested in them will find them. Half-full shelves instead of tightly jammed ones issue a simple but potent invitation to the child to come read, *too*.

Children's librarians who know their books and their children have little need to worry about "deadwood." The good books in their collections will be "out," not "in," and they will be dispensers of books, not custodians of them.

To what source would you turn for a picture of the Undergraduate Library? For "some items of South Caroliniana gleaned in recent months from various trade bibliographies" and listed by the above Library's Director, Mr. J. Mitchell Reamies? For a concise account of the renovations at McKissick Library? For information upon that new and important compilation *Southeastern Supplement to the Union List of Serials*? For an excellent and moving account of Dr. R.L. Meriwether and his invaluable work with the South Caroliniana Library? For an unusual and informal picture of Dr. Meriwether? For an account, with picture, of the new Director of the South Caroliniana, Mr. E.L. Inabinet, long and ably associated with that illustrious institution? To what source? Well, if you are wise, you will turn to the October number of *The South Carolina Librarian*, where you will find them all! You will find them all clearly, reliably, and delightedly presented; and you will find this excellent magazine (official publication of the South Carolina Library Association) here at this Library.

Oh, INDEED no; those items are NOT all the important material to be found there. Furman University's new Library is described by its Librarian, Dr. R.C. Tucker; Citadel's new Library-Museum is described by Captain J.M. Hillard, Librarian; reviews of significant new books and news of libraries and of librarians are accorded space; and, really, just about everything interesting and appropriate for a South Carolina library publication (including illustrations) can be located in this unusual issue of an outstanding library journal.

(Praise a bit fulsome? Oh, no. Lavish, perhaps; but merited.)

McKissick Library, Uni. S.C., *Library Books This Week*. *(Editor's note: good filler material!)*

---

**1960 OFFICERS.**

Miss Carrie Gene Ashley  
Chairman  
Miss Elizabeth L. Porcher  
Vice-Chairman  
Mrs. Verona Brunson  
Secretary

---

**TRUSTEE SECTION**

The Trustee Section of the SCLA convened at a luncheon meeting held during the annual session of the Association at Clemson. Mr. W.B.S. Winans, Chairman of the Section, presided. During the session the recently formulated Constitution and By-Laws for the Section were presented to the membership and adopted. Mrs. Girdler B. Fitch, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers who were elected unanimously to serve during 1960:

Mrs. John D. Smith of Spartanburg, Chairman.  
Mrs. T.A. Black of Colleton County, Vice-Chairman and Chairman-elect.  
Mrs. Ora H. Kirkley of Pickens County, Secretary.
CHAPIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

By Mrs. Shirley W. Boone, Librarian

Chapin Memorial Library had its beginning in the old Chamber of Commerce building in the heart of downtown Myrtle Beach. The library was established in the fall of 1939 as a regional library, a project of the government to open libraries in “remote” districts where good reading was not easily accessible. The Chamber of Commerce had disbanded for a time, and they graciously gave the use of their building to the library. With a deposit of 500 books from the government and one donated book, the library was open for business. Its central location was ideal and it soon became a very popular place.

When World War II came, the library was moved to the Chapin building, as part of the government recreation project for servicemen stationed near by. However, the project proved to be unsatisfactory, so back to the Chamber building went the library where it remained until May, 1947. At this time the Chamber was being reactivated, so once again the library had to be moved. This time to the old USO building that had been purchased by the town of Myrtle Beach. Then in January of 1948, due to lack of heat, the library was once more moved to the Chapin Building. In August of that year, a dream of a great many people began to materialize. The town of Myrtle Beach accepted from the Chapin Foundation* a grant of $40,000 for the purpose of erecting a library building on the southern end of Myrtle Beach Memorial Park (Kings Highway and 14th Avenue North) which had been donated to the town of Myrtle Beach by the Myrtle Beach Farms Company. An additional $2,000 was appropriated for landscaping purposes.

The Chapin Foundation stipulated that the library, after its completion, be given to the town of Myrtle Beach to be maintained and operated, and be named Chapin Memorial Library in memory of Simeon B. Chapin.

A library commission was then established and the following members were named to serve on it: Dr. C. D. Brearley, Chairman; Claude Epps, J. Harry Spann, Mrs. James E. Bryan, Jr., and Mrs. Holmes B. Springs.

The library was formally opened on June 1, 1949, and has shown an interesting growth paralleling that of the city whose population increased from 3,345 (1950 census) to 16,000 (est.) in 1959. The number of volumes increased from 1800 to 10,000 with a circulation increase from 8,000 to well-over 41,000 in 1958.

The exterior of the library is brick, and the interior is in Williamsburg Green and white with modern furniture in light oak. New draperies are being made for all the windows. In 1956 the library was air-conditioned (a gift from the Chapin Foundation). In June of 1959 a new room was added to the library. This new room houses the children’s collection. A work-room and office combination was also added at this time. The library also contains, to the right of the circulation desk, a Periodical-Reference-Non-Fiction Room and to the left a reading room containing the Adult Fiction. The new addition was made possible through the generosity of the Chapin Foundation and the City of Myrtle Beach.

The library is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon, and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9. There is a story hour for children on Saturday morning from 10 to 11. The library staff consists of one trained librarian, Mrs. Shirley W. Boone, and one part-time assistant, Mrs. O. C. Callaway.

Chapin Memorial Library is a fitting tribute to the memory of Simeon B. Chapin.

*Mr. Simeon Brooks Chapin, financier and philanthropist, in 1940 established the Chapin Foundation, which since his death in 1948 has provided funds for many Civic improvements.

Greenwood City and County Public Library needs the following issues of the SOUTH CAROLINA MAGAZINE to complete its file: Vols. 1 and 2; vol. 4, no. 2; vol. 5, nos. 1 and 2; vol. 6, nos. 1 and 2; vol. 9, July 1946. The library will be glad to receive, buy or exchange the above. It has the following duplicates: vol. 9, nos. 1 and 4; 1947: Jan.-May; July-August, 1951: Oct., Dec.; 1952: May-Dec.; 1953: Feb.-May; Aug.-Dec.; 1954: Feb., May, June, Aug., Sept.-Dec.; 1955: Jan.-Aug., Oct., Nov.; 1956: Jan., March-July, Oct.; 1957: Jan.