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Special Libraries, April 1949

Special Libraries Association

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SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Official Journal of the Special Libraries Association

VOLUME 40

April 1949

NUMBER 4

SPECIAL LIBRARIES
ASSOCIATION

Fortieth Anniversary

1909 - 1949

Published by
SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

SLAVONIC Encyclopedia

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Special Libraries

VOLUME 40 *Established 1910* NUMBER 4

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*Indexed in Industrial Arts Index, Public Affairs Information Service, and
Library Literature*

ALMA CLARVOE MITCHILL
Editor

KATHLEEN BROWN STEBBINS
Advertising Manager

The articles which appear in SPECIAL LIBRARIES express the views of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the opinion or the policy of the editorial staff and publisher.

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CHARTER

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we, Francis E. Cady, Mary H. Brigham, Mary Louise Alexander, Rose L. Vormelker, Elizabeth B. Wray, Mary de J. Cox, William Alcott and Herbert O. Brigham, all of lawful age, hereby agree to and with each other:

First. To associate ourselves together with the intention of forming a corporation under and by virtue of the powers conferred by Article III of Chapter 248 of the General Laws of Rhode Island.

Second. Said corporation shall be known by the name of

Special Libraries Association

Third. Said corporation is constituted for the purpose of promoting the collection, organization and dissemination of information, developing usefulness and efficiency of special libraries and other research organizations, and encouraging the professional welfare of its members.

RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO ACCEPT CERTAIN ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION WITHOUT NOTARIAL ATTESTATION

(Approved April 13, 1928)

RESOLVED, That the secretary of state is hereby authorized and empowered to accept without notarial attestation the articles of association for the incorporation of the Special Libraries Association, under the authority of Chapter 248 of the General Laws and all acts in amendment thereof and in addition thereto, provided, that two members of the association resident in Rhode Island certify as to the genuineness of the signatures of the incorporators subscribed to the aforesaid articles of association.

(Signed) ERNEST L. SPRAGUE,
Secretary of State.

CONVENTIONS AND PAST PRESIDENTS

<i>Organization Meeting</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Presiding Officer</i>	
Bretton Woods, N. H.	1909	John Cotton Dana	
<i>Convention City</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Term of Office</i>
New York, N. Y.	1909	John Cotton Dana	1909-1910
Mackinac Island, Mich.	1910	John Cotton Dana	1910-1911
Pasadena and New York	1911	Robert H. Whitten	1911-1912
Ottawa, Canada	1912	Daniel N. Handy	1912-1913
Kaaterskill, N. Y.	1913	Daniel N. Handy	1913-1914
Washington, D. C.	1914	Richard H. Johnston	1914-1915
Berkeley and Haines Falls, N. Y.	1915	Andrew A. Bostwick	1915-1916
Asbury Park, N. J.	1916	Frederick N. Morton	1916*
		Charles C. Williamson	1916-1917
Louisville, Ky.	1917	Charles C. Williamson	1917-1918
Saratoga Springs, N. Y.	1918	Guy E. Marion	1918-1919
Asbury Park, N. J.	1919	Maud A. Carabin	1919-1920
New York, N. Y.	1920	Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr.	1920-1921
Swampscott, Mass.	1921	Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr.	1921-1922
Detroit, Mich.	1922	Rebecca B. Rankin	1922-1923
Atlantic City, N. J.	1923	Edward H. Redstone	1923-1924
Saratoga Springs, N. Y.	1924	Daniel N. Handy	1924-1925
Swampscott, Mass.	1925	Daniel N. Handy	1925-1926
Atlantic City, N. J.	1926	Francis E. Cady	1926-1927
Toronto, Canada	1927	Francis E. Cady	1927-1928
Washington, D. C.	1928	Francis E. Cady	1928-1929
Washington, D. C.	1929	William Alcott	1929-1930
San Francisco, Cal.	1930	Margaret Reynolds	1930-1931
Cleveland, O.	1931	Alta B. Claffin	1931-1932
Lake Placid, N. Y.	1932	Mary Louise Alexander	1932-1933
Chicago, Ill.	1933	Mary Louise Alexander	1933-1934
New York, N. Y.	1934	Ruth Savord	1934-1935
Boston, Mass.	1935	Howard L. Stebbins	1935-1936
Montreal, Canada	1936	Howard L. Stebbins	1936-1937
New York, N. Y.	1937	William F. Jacob	1937-1938
Pittsburgh, Pa.	1938	Alma C. Mitchell	1938-1939
Baltimore, Md.	1939	Alma C. Mitchell	1939-1940
Indianapolis, Ind.	1940	Laura A. Woodward	1940-1941
Hartford, Conn.	1941	Laura A. Woodward	1941-1942
Detroit, Mich.	1942	Eleanor S. Cavanaugh	1942-1943
New York, N. Y.	1943	Eleanor S. Cavanaugh	1943-1944
Philadelphia, Pa.	1944	Walter Hausdorfer	1944-1945
No Conference	1945	Herman H. Henkle	1945-1946
Boston, Mass.	1946	Betty Joy Cole	1946-1947
Chicago, Ill.	1947	Irene M. Strieby	1947-1948
Washington, D. C.	1948	Rose L. Vormelker	1948-1949

* Resigned.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

CHRONOLOGY — 1909 - 1949¹

JOHN COTTON DANA, *President*,
1909-1911

Free Public Library
Newark, N. J.

FORTY years have passed into history since the organization of Special Libraries Association. Early in 1909, John Cotton Dana, Librarian, Public Library of Newark, New Jersey, and Mr. F. B. DeBerard, Statistician, Merchants Association, New York City, wrote librarians associated with manufacturing, business and engineering firms, civic and commercial bodies and public libraries maintaining business departments, regarding the possibility of an association for librarians in specialized fields. This idea was enthusiastically received and during the convention of the American Library Association held that year at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, Mr. Dana invited those interested in the formation of such an organization to meet with him on July second. At this meeting it was voted to form the Special Libraries Association and twenty of the twenty-six persons present became organization members. Although the early records are incomplete, it has been definitely determined that by November 5, 1909, the date on which the first annual conference was held, there were 57 members all of whom are regarded as Charter members.

Mr. Dana, as the Association's first president, laid the ground work for the Association's future. During his two years in office, committees were appointed for Agricultural, Commercial Associations, Insurance, Legislative and Municipal Reference, Membership, Public Utility, Sociological and Technology

libraries, and for Publications and Publicity. The formation of these committees might well be considered the beginning of our present Groups. A monthly magazine, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, first issued in January 1910, served as a clearing house for news and information of special interest to all the members. It also contained valuable book lists and bibliographies prepared by SLA members. John A. Lapp, Legislative Reference Librarian of Indiana, and Guy E. Marion, of Arthur D. Little Company, Boston, were the magazine's first editors. The first directory of members, including about 100 special libraries devoted to 23 subject fields, appeared in the April 1910 issue.

At the second and third annual conferences held in July 1910 and in September 1911, such projects as a *Trades Index*, which later became the *Industrial Arts Index*, and a *Public Affairs Index* were discussed. At the second conference SLA formally requested affiliation with A.L.A. This was granted on January 6, 1911.

Of the founder and organizer of Special Libraries Association, William Alcott has written: "Founder and organizer, and for two years President, more clearly than anyone of his time, John Cotton Dana saw the meaning of the new movement in the library world and of the need for an association for those engaged in this new and special library field."

ROBERT H. WHITTEN, *President*,
1911-1912

New York State Public Service Commission
Albany, N. Y.

During Robert Whitten's term, the question under consideration was primarily the definition of a special library and how it differed from a general library. Papers, devoted to its scope and

¹This article was prepared from a more lengthy chronology, copies of which may be secured from Miss Emma Boyer, Librarian, National City Bank, Cleveland 1, Ohio.

purpose, were presented at the annual conference and also at a joint session with the National Association of State Libraries and the American Association of Law Associations. In summing up the discussions, William P. Cutter said, "I consider a special library as one that serves people who are doing things, and a reference library one which serves people who are thinking things."

DANIEL N. HANDY, *President*,
1912-1914

Insurance Library Association
Boston, Mass.

In 1912, the membership of the Association included members from practically every state in the United States. The inauguration of "Responsibility Districts" was suggested by Herbert Brigham, who had served as one of the Association's first directors. The Executive Board, acting upon this suggestion, directed the newly-elected president, Mr. D. N. Handy, to name fourteen Districts, each one to be presided over by a District Head. The formation of these Districts was, without a doubt, the beginning of the "Chapter" idea. Active Chapters are functioning today in five of the original "Responsibility Districts," namely, Boston, Cleveland, Los Angeles, New York and Pittsburgh.

During Mr. Handy's administration, the *Public Affairs Information Service* was established with headquarters at the Indiana Bureau of Legislative Information, Indianapolis. Forty institutions enrolled and a system of exchange developed. Also during Mr. Handy's term committees were created: (1) To study the subject of a clearing house for municipal information; (2) To report on special libraries in relation to the training of men in industry; (3) To study classification schemes and their applicability to special library collections; and (4) To publish a book devoted to the special library movement.

A statement made following the sixth annual conference shows how the new

special library movement was growing: "The special library has marked another advance in the campaign to make the information from books, magazines, papers, manuscripts and special researches a factor in the practical work of commerce, industry and public affairs . . . one after another of the plans which have been formulated have been carried into action . . . five years time has seen the special library approved by big business and commercial concerns. The next five will see it established as a permanent adjunct of all progressive enterprises."

RICHARD H. JOHNSTON, *President*,
1914-1915

Bureau of Railway Economics
Washington, D. C.

It was in Mr. Johnston's administration that the H. W. Wilson Company took over the publication of the *Public Affairs Information Service*; the office of the Assistant-Treasurer was created; the need for a Headquarters Office was discussed; and the retiring president automatically became a member of the Executive Board.

During the five years since the organization of SLA its membership had increased to 354, including members from every section of the country and from foreign countries, "all interested in new methods of using print"; and SPECIAL LIBRARIES had published 75 bibliographies and many articles on various types of special libraries.

A. L. BOSTWICK, *President*,
1915-1916

Municipal Reference Library
St. Louis, Mo.

The first SLA Group, the Financial, was formed during Mr. Bostwick's administration and had charge of the SLA program held on January 12, 1916, in New York City; the H. W. Wilson Company announced the publication of the *Agricultural Index* in February 1916; and the Association recommend-

ed that steps be taken urging members of Congress to grant sufficient funds to establish a Municipal Reference Department of the Library of Congress.

John A. Lapp, Editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, first used the expression "Putting Knowledge to Work", when he said of the eighth annual conference: "Many contributions were made, not the least of which was the clearer recognition of the basic purpose of the special library, namely, to put knowledge to work."

F. N. MORTON, *President*,
1916

United Gas Improvement Company
Philadelphia, Pa.
(Resigned because of illness).

CHARLES C. WILLIAMSON, *President*,
1916-1918

Municipal Reference Library
New York, N. Y.

The *Official Index of State Legislation*, edited and published by the Law Reporting Company of New York City, was one of the accomplishments of Mr. Williamson's administration. Others included cooperation with A.L.A. in the war effort; suggestions for improvement of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*; organization of local Groups; the formation of an Employment Committee in the New York SLA; and the suggestion that the SLA annual conferences be held independent of the American Library Association.

GUY E. MARION, *President*,
1918-1919

Business Library Organizer
Boston, Mass.

The formation of an Advisory Council to the Executive Board came into being in Mr. Marion's term of office. Two members from each Group—Commercial, Financial, Insurance, Legislative Reference, Technical and Engineering, Industrial and Welfare—were appointed to serve in this capacity. F. H. Friedel was appointed editor of *SPECIAL*

LIBRARIES to replace Ralph L. Power, who was in the overseas service; a short course in library methods for business libraries was conducted by Louise B. Krause, of Chicago, at the Riverside Library School; and William Jacob was appointed chairman of a committee to collect data on special libraries throughout the country.

MAUDE A. CARABIN, *President*,
1919-1920

Detroit Edison Company
Detroit, Mich.

Miss Carabin stressed "the advisability of SLA's developing a service plan whereby it would become a positive adjunct to business research, co-ordinating data on various lines of research both complete and in progress, aiming to eliminate the uncompensated losses due to duplicated research." As a result, a Committee of Seven, the members consisting of three from A.L.A., three from SLA, and one a member of both associations, was appointed to study the various methods of research in business and industrial libraries.

At the twelfth annual conference the General Electric Company displayed a model industrial library and the New York bank librarians exhibited a model financial library.

DORSEY HYDE, *President*,
1920-1922

Packard Motor Car Company
Detroit, Mich.

By the time Mr. Hyde began his presidency, the liaison between the special library and business had been permanently established and courses in business library technique were beginning to be taught in many library schools. In February 1921 the University of Michigan announced its intention of placing a technical library at the disposal of Michigan manufacturers, and in April of the same year, Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, pointed out the value of the ser-

vice rendered to science and industry by the special library.

Also during Mr. Hyde's administration, Adelaide Hasse was appointed editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*; the Trade Catalogs (Lewis A. Armistead, Chairman), Methods (Ruth G. Nichols, Chairman), and Information Services (Herbert O. Brigham, Chairman) Committees were appointed; Kenneth G. Walker gave the first radio talk on special libraries, speaking from the Pittsburgh Post Station on "Putting Facts to Work;" Ralph L. Power called the first meeting of the Southern California special librarians; and Mr. Hyde was appointed a member of the National Research Council.

REBECCA B. RANKIN, *President*,
1922-1923

Municipal Reference Library
New York, N. Y.

Upon assuming office as President, Rebecca Rankin outlined the following ten point program for further development of SLA: (1) Establishment of a Headquarters Office to serve also as an information center; (2) Preparation of library exhibits at annual conventions of professional organizations; (3) Promotion of Groups; (4) Preparation of a library exhibit for the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial Exposition; (5) Systematic study of equipment devices; (6) Possibilities of certification for special librarians; (7) Improvement of employment possibilities; (8) SLA publicity in periodicals; (9) Establishment of training classes; and (10) A new directory of special libraries.

Miss Rankin also established a new policy of activity for the Association throughout the year to culminate at the annual convention, and she suggested a revision of the Constitution to allow for the formation of Groups and local Associations, integrating all in the national Association.

Also during her administration, Julia Elliott published the first classification

of subject headings designed primarily for the business library; Charlotte Noyes compiled a cumulative index to *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, Volumes I-XII; Leonore Tafel was appointed editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*; the President's Page in the magazine was inaugurated; and Groups for the first time were completely organized (Advertising-Commercial-Industrial, Civics, Financial Insurance, Medical, Newspaper, Sociological, Technology).

EDWARD H. REDSTONE, *President*,
1923-1924

State Librarian, State House
Boston, Mass.

Mr. Redstone's administration marked one of the milestones in the Association's history. It was during the sixteenth annual convention that the question of SLA becoming a section of A.L.A. was heatedly discussed, some members believing that such a union would be advantageous for both Associations. The proposal was defeated by a large majority. At this annual meeting the revised SLA Constitution was adopted and included provision for affiliation between the national and local associations and for Group organization.

During the year Laura R. Gibbs was appointed editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*.

DANIEL N. HANDY, *President*,
1924-1926

Insurance Library Association
Boston, Mass.

Ten years from the time Daniel Handy's first administration ended (1914) he began his second. His greatest task during these two years was the unification of the controversial forces within the Association. This he accomplished with courage and with the knowledge that SLA would grow in strength as the years unfolded.

It was during this administration that many library exhibits were held at national conventions of other associations. These included two sponsored by the Fi-

nancial Group at the annual meetings of the American Bankers Association; one sponsored by the Technology Group at the American Gas Association Convention, held in Atlantic City, N. J.; one sponsored by the Illinois Chapter at the annual meeting of the Illinois Products Association in Chicago; and one sponsored by the Boston Chapter at the Associated Industries of Massachusetts Exhibit.

Other highlights were the appointment of Herbert Brigham as editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, and R. H. Johnston as Chairman of a Survey Committee to report on the condition of the Association and its future program; preparation of union lists by the Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Southern California Chapters; a special library course offered by the American Correspondence School of Librarianship, with Margaret Reynolds, instructor; a series of advanced courses in special libraries to be conducted by the Library School of the New York Public Library, with Linda Morley, Florence Bradley, William Powlison and Claribel Barnett as lecturers; and the first conference held of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, a British library association patterned after SLA.

FRANCIS E. CADY, *President*,
1926-1929

General Electric Company, Nela Park
Cleveland, Ohio

The years 1926-1929 were important ones for the Association for they saw the formal adoption of the Institutional Membership; the increase in subscription price of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* from \$4 to \$5; the incorporation of Special Libraries Association in accordance with the laws of the State of Rhode Island; the establishment for the first time of an Executive Office in Providence, R. I., on September 15, 1927, with Mrs. Herbert Brigham as a part-time paid secretary. Library exhibits were held at the annual Congress of the National Safety

Council in Chicago; at the American Electric Railway Association Convention in Cleveland; at the American Gas Association Meeting in Chicago; and at the American Bankers Association Convention in Philadelphia.

At the end of its first twenty years SLA looked back over a period of constant growth and "entered upon its second twenty years with a firm resolve to make the special library even more efficient and valuable to industry." At this time there were 1,129 SLA members.

WILLIAM ALCOTT, *President*,
1929-1930
The Boston Globe
Boston, Mass.

Mr. Alcott's administration continued the excellent procedure of holding library exhibits with one being displayed at the American Bankers Association Convention in San Francisco, California, and another at the Investment Bankers Association Convention in Quebec, Canada. During this administration a Committee on Cooperation in Business Library Service, with Marian Manley as chairman, was appointed to act as an intermediary between special librarians and public librarians in the field of business service and to study problems affecting them.

MARGARET REYNOLDS, *President*,
1930-1931

First Wisconsin National Bank
Milwaukee, Wis.

Miss Reynolds inaugurated the idea of holding Executive Board and Council Meetings in cities having Chapters so that Chapter members would become better acquainted with the national officers. During 1930 the Financial Group sponsored two library exhibits, one at the American Bankers Association meeting in Cleveland and the other at the Investment Bankers Association convention in Chicago.

It is interesting to note the change in

the tone of the papers presented at the Association's twenty-third annual convention. Prior to this time papers had stressed the need for special libraries, but at the Cleveland meeting the emphasis was on business conditions and other subjects of general interest. This change in theme showed that SLA had reached maturity.

ALTA B. CLAFLIN, *President*,
1931-1932

Federal Reserve Bank
Cleveland, Ohio

During Miss Clafin's administration, Mrs. Herbert Brigham resigned as Executive Secretary and the Board, accepting the generous offer of the Standard Statistics Company, made through its Librarian, Eleanor Cavanaugh, transferred the Headquarters Office to the Standard Statistics Building in New York City. This office was in charge of Rebecca B. Rankin, assisted by a paid employe.

Also during this period Ruth Savord was appointed editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*; a new publications policy was adopted; a committee was appointed, with Rose Vormelker as chairman, to cooperate with trade association executives; Linda Morley offered a course in Special Library Administration at the School of Library Service, Columbia University; budgeting systems for local Chapters were adopted; the trade name, *Special Libraries*, was registered; and the employment work conducted by the New York Chapter was transferred to the Headquarters Office.

MARY LOUISE ALEXANDER, *President*,
1932-1934

Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn, Inc.
New York, N. Y.

One of the first projects undertaken by Miss Alexander, when she assumed the Presidency, was the appointment of a committee to take a national census of the Association to learn the desires and aptitudes of all SLA members. Other events during these years includ-

ed the appointment of Florence Bradley as editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*; the holding of the first Methods Clinic at a regional conference at Briarcliff Manor, New York, on June 17, 1933 (The Clinic was conducted by the New York Chapter); a grant of \$7500 from the Carnegie Corporation toward the financing and support of SLA's trade associations Project; the appointment of Ruth Savord as liaison officer between the national Association and local Chapters so as to establish closer cooperation; the employment of Elizabeth Lois Clarke as the first full-time paid Executive Secretary; and the inauguration of a membership gavel award to the Chapter having the largest percentage of increase in paid-up membership from May 20 to May 20 of each year.

RUTH SAVORD, *President*,
1934-1935

Council on Foreign Relations
New York, N. Y.

The outstanding accomplishment of Miss Savord's administration was the Board approval to publish the *Technical Book Review Index*, which had been discussed when Miss Alexander was president. Also during Miss Savord's term of office Marian C. Manley was appointed editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* and an Organization Chart for SLA was prepared and published.

HOWARD L. STEBBINS, *President*,
1935-1937

Social Law Library
Boston, Mass.

During Mr. Stebbins' administration, a second grant, from the Carnegie Corporation, this time for \$3000, was made to SLA for the purpose of promoting the *Technical Book Review Index*. Miss Granville Meixell, Engineering Librarian at Columbia University, was appointed editor of the *Index*, which position she held until the publishing of *TBRI* was transferred to Pittsburgh, Pa. During this period the bank accounts of SLA were consolidated; a monthly

financial statement was issued from Headquarters to all SLA officers; a reserve fund for the Association was established in March 1936 with \$500 in U. S. Bonds; and the first issue (October 1935) of the *Associate Members Bulletin* was issued. Ruth Savord was the first editor of this Bulletin; later Marguerite Burnett took over the editorship and also served as liaison officer. It was also while Mr. Stebbins was in office that SLA appeared on the air for the first time during an annual convention. The arrangement for this broadcast was made by William Jacob. New committees appointed were: the Committee to Promote the Development of Business Libraries, and the Committee on Training and Recruitment.

WILLIAM F. JACOB, *President*,
1937-1938

General Electric Company
Schenectady, N. Y.

During Mr. Jacob's administration the first *Trade Names Index* was published; the Student Loan Fund was established; a suggested form for Chapter Constitutions was presented for discussion; the first SLA representative to the American Documentation Institute was appointed; other SLA representatives appointed were those to the World Congress of Universal Documentation and to the H. W. Wilson Company; the *Chapter Town Crier*, with Marguerite Burnett as editor, was issued for the first time; and the first salary survey inaugurated under the chairmanship of Ruth Savord.

ALMA C. MITCHILL, *President*,
1938-1940

Public Service Corporation of New Jersey
Newark, N. J.

Miss Mitchill's two years in office marked another milestone in SLA's history. It was during her administration that the Headquarters office moved for the first time into rented quarters at the G. E. Stechert Company, 31 East

Tenth Street, New York City. From 1931-1939 it had, through the generosity of the Standard Statistics Company, been housed in its building, rent free. It was during her administration that the Executive Board began to hold several of its meetings separately from the Advisory Council; TBRI was transferred to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to be edited and published under the supervision of a committee composed of Janan Fertig, Chairman, Edith Portman and Elwood McClelland; the Special Library Page in the *Wilson Bulletin* was inaugurated with Mary E. Newsome as its first editor; Virginia Meredith was appointed editor of SPECIAL LIBRARIES succeeding Marian C. Manley, who resigned; SLA representatives were appointed to the Joint Committee on Indexing and Abstracting, to the Joint Committee on Survey of the Special Library Field, to the Joint Committee on Relations between National Associations; and to the American Standards Association Committee (Z-39); Microfilm and Documentation, the Archives, the Professional Standards and the National Defense Committees were also appointed; the Executive Secretary was named Advertising Manager of SPECIAL LIBRARIES; Miss Clarke resigned as SLA Executive Secretary; the first Life membership was taken out by Hazel Dobson and for the first time all the SLA Chapters (19) were visited by the president.

LAURA WOODWARD, *President*,
1940-1942

Maryland Casualty Company
Baltimore, Md.

Mrs. Kathleen B. Stebbins was appointed Executive Secretary under Miss Woodward's administration. Grace Aikenhead served as editor of SPECIAL LIBRARIES the first year of Miss Woodward's presidency and upon her resignation, Alma Mitchill took over that office. Under Miss Woodward's leadership, the Council of National Library

Associations was organized and the first volume of *Special Libraries Resources*, edited by Rose Vormelker, was compiled and published. These two years also saw the Placement Service inaugurated at Headquarters; the Duplicate Exchange List and Classification Schemes and Subject Headings Lists transferred to Headquarters; and the public Relations Committee and the Committee on Cooperation with Special Libraries in Latin America appointed; the *Associate Members Bulletin* discontinued; the appointment made of a Washington, D. C. liaison officer (Ade-laide Hasse) to keep SLA informed of new legislation pertinent to business as it affected special libraries; the extension of SLA services to all libraries engaged in national defense. A special grant of \$100 was received from the Office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs by the SLA Committee on Cooperation with Special Libraries in Latin America for the transportation costs of distributing SLA publications requested by special libraries in other American republics.

ELEANOR CAVANAUGH, *President*,
1942-1944

Standard Statistics Company
New York, N. Y.

During Miss Cavanaugh's administration, a Committee of Three was appointed to make a study of all the Association's activities; the SLA Manpower Survey was inaugurated; the name of the National Defense Committee was changed to the War Activities Committee; the Duplicate Exchange Service was discontinued; a representative was appointed to the Library Binding Institute; the International Relations Committee, a successor to the Committee on Cooperation with Special Libraries in Latin America, was established; the president was appointed a member of the Exploratory Committee on Aid to Libraries in War Devastated Areas; a new type of

article on the special librarian appeared in *Mademoiselle* for September 1943, entitled "Passing the Book"; *Something Special*, a novel type of recruiting pamphlet, was issued; a double entry system of bookkeeping was instituted at Headquarters; and a new type of financial quarterly statement was prepared by Walter Hausdorfer, Chairman, Finance Committee.

WALTER HAUSDORFER, *President*,
1944-1945

School of Business, Columbia University
New York, N. Y.

In Mr. Hausdorfer's term of office the publication policy of SLA was revised giving full authority over all publications, including SPECIAL LIBRARIES and the *Technical Book Review Index*, to the Publications Governing Committee, with the editor of SPECIAL LIBRARIES, who was also chairman of the Editorial Sub-Committee, and the chairman of TBRI, ex-officio members of the Publications Governing Committee; the annual convention in Chicago was postponed to conform with World War II restrictions on travel; Ruth Savord attended the United Nations Conference in San Francisco to assist Paul Kruse, from the Library of Congress, to set up a library for Conference delegates; Isabel Towner classified all classifications schemes on file at Headquarters and a mimeographed list by subject was issued to all SLA members; the pamphlet, *For Profit, Progress and Protection*, was prepared to interest small business companies in libraries.

HERMAN H. HENKLE, *President*,
1945-1946

Processing Department, Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Shortly after Mr. Henkle became president, *Special Libraries Resources*, Volume II, edited by Isabel Towner, came from the bindery. A study of SLA structure to cover organization of Groups and Chapters was undertaken,

and the Committee of Three was increased to five members. The Committee on the Development of Advisory Service to Business and Industry was appointed at this time, and the results of the SLA salary survey were reported.

BETTY JOY COLE, President,
1946-1947

Calco Chemical Division,
American Cyanamid Company
Bound Brook, N. J.

During Miss Cole's term of office, the Executive Board voted, upon recommendation by the International Relations Committee, to use some of the 1946 surplus of the Association towards a scholarship for a foreign library student; SLA became affiliated with the International Federation of Library Associations; the first *Newsletter* was issued in April 1947; Volumes II-IV of *Special Libraries Resources* were edited by Isabel Towner; and an SLA publicity brochure was mailed by all Chapters in the U. S. and Canada to companies in their areas which were without libraries.

IRENE M. STRIEBY, President,
1947-1948

Eli Lilly and Company
Indianapolis, Ind.

Following the Board's vote in Miss Cole's administration to offer a library scholarship to a foreign student, Miss Anne Margrethe L ovaas from Norway was chosen as the recipient immediately after Mrs. Strieby assumed the office of president. Also during Mrs. Strieby's administration, Mr. H. A. Fountain, Management Controls Consultant, was engaged to make a "Survey of office procedure at Headquarters plus a review of the present job analysis for employees"; the Chapter *Manual*, prepared in 1930, and the Group *Manual*, prepared in 1933, were both revised; a second salary survey was undertaken by Walter Hausdorfer as chairman; and SLA voted to participate in the newly organized U. S. Book Exchange, Inc.

ROSE L. VORMELKER, President,
1948-1949

Business Information Bureau, Cleveland Public
Library, Cleveland, Ohio

One of the highlights of Miss Vormelker's term of office has been the removal of the Executive Offices from the fourth floor of the Stechert-Hafner Building, 31 East Tenth Street, New York, to spacious new quarters on the eighth floor. The Association took a forward step when a pension plan for the Headquarters staff was instituted July 1, 1948. The Science-Technology Group sponsored a chemical library exhibit at the convention of the American Chemical Society, held in Chicago in October 1948. Several publications have come from the press during the past year.¹ Also completed was the *Manual* of the Geography and Map Group which will be published in August as a supplement to the *Library Journal*; and a committee *Manual*, the third in a series of operations manuals, giving functions and history of all committees, is in preparation.

In this, the Fortieth Anniversary year, the membership has grown to 5500 members in the U. S. and Canada and 32 other countries. The Reserve Fund now totals \$44,144.26, and SLA has been represented for several years at international library conferences held in Great Britain and on the Continent. There are now 22 Chapters in the U. S. and 2 in Canada and 14 Groups, not to mention innumerable committees and representatives to other organizations and associations.

As her presidential term draws to a close, Miss Vormelker sees the greatest needs of the Association as (1) a good public relations policy, (2) an employment policy, (3) a recruiting and training program and (4) a publications policy.

Aside from the concrete accomplishments, however, Miss Vormelker's year as president has been one of gathering

¹See page 149 for list of SLA publications.

many controversial opinions into a smoothly-running organization. It will go down in SLA's history as one in which the Association has gained encouragement and fortitude through the efforts of a patient and far-seeing leader.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *There undoubtedly are several discrepancies in this chronology, since it was prepared primarily from minutes of the Executive Board*

and Advisory Council meetings over the years and from back issues of SPECIAL LIBRARIES. If such is the case Emma Boyer, Chairman of the Chronology Committee, and the Editor ask your indulgence. In compiling these notes it has been our intention to set forth the highlights of each administration as well as "first" events. If some have been overlooked, let us know so that they may be incorporated in our Fiftieth Anniversary history.]

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

TURN back the pages of time. In the history of nations four decades is a brief period, but to the Special Libraries Association, it represents in the beginning a struggle for existence and even for recognition. Fifteen years after our formation we weathered a serious crisis and at various times friction caused minor difficulties, but as a rule the progress has been steady and the primary results eminently satisfactory.

I am writing these reminiscences as one of the founders of SLA and I am probably one of the few surviving members who attended the organization meeting held at Bretton Woods in the summer of 1909.

It is worthwhile recalling that the idea for the creation of SLA originated in the fertile mind of John Cotton Dana, who observed the great need for the establishment of this highly specialized group. This is not the place to make comparisons between the public and the special library field, but Mr. Dana in his persuasive way enlisted the help of his worthy assistant, Beatrice Winser, and Anna Sears, then librarian of the Merchants Association of New York. Earlier in the Bretton Woods conference of the American Library Association, Miss Sears told me about

Mr. Dana's plans and asked me to prepare a tentative form of organization and a draft of a constitution for the proposed new library association.

As a preliminary to the planned meeting, Mr. Dana at the fourth General Session of the A.L.A. on July 2, 1909, presented a brief statement under the title "Municipal, Legislative Reference, Commercial, Technical, and Public Welfare Libraries." He noted that Sarah B. Ball, of the Newark Business Branch Library, and Miss Sears had compared notes and decided to discover what was being done in similar institutions. Then came the idea of an association of those interested in special libraries. In closing, Mr. Dana urged that persons interested in this movement spend a few moments at the end of the Session in room four of the Convention hotel.

The organization meeting convened in this small room at the Mount Washington Hotel and, if memory serves me, the following persons were present: Mr. Dana, who presided; Miss Sears, who acted as secretary; Miss Winser; George W. Lee, of Stone and Webster; Robert H. Whitten, of the Public Service Commission, New York City; and myself. There were also a few others, including those persons who had heard the earlier in-

vation. During the meeting, R. R. Bowker, of the *Publisher's Weekly*, and Dr. Frank P. Hill, of the Brooklyn Public Library, entered the room and both wished us success in our undertaking. I do not recall the presence of C. W. Andrews, of the John Crerar Library, Chicago, but later he took an active interest in SLA and became identified with the Membership Committee.

The officers chosen were Mr. Dana, President; Mr. Whitten, Vice-President; Miss Sears, Secretary-Treasurer; George Winthrop Lee and Herbert Brigham as other members of the Executive Board.

The first regular meeting of SLA was held in the assembly room of the Merchant's Association of New York City, on November 5, 1909, with about fifty persons in attendance. The speakers were Sarah B. Ball, of the Newark Business Branch Library; Beatrice Carr, of Fisk & Robinson, New York; George Winthrop Lee, of Stone & Webster, Boston, Mass.; Milo R. Maltbie, of the Public Service Commission, New York; Robert H. Whitten and Herbert Brigham. Mr. Dana presided. I have not before me the register of that meeting, but I am sure that many of our pioneers were present. This list should include D. N. Handy, Guy E. Marion and Frank O. Stetson of Boston; Horace E. Flack of Baltimore; John A. Lapp and Ethel Cleland of Indianapolis; Eleanor Kemp and Sarah Kerr of New York; F. N. Morton of Philadelphia; Joseph L. Wheeler of Washington. To the list should be added the names of H. H. B. Meyer of the Library of Congress, who furnished yeoman service in the field of bibliography, and Wallace P. Cutter of the Engineering Societies, New York, who suggested the international technical index.

The Association was growing. The Executive Board had appointed various committees and chairmen as follows: Membership, Mr. Brigham; Publication, Mr. Dana; Publicity, Mr. Lee; Agricultural Libraries, Miss M. F. Warner;

Commercial Associations, Mr. DeBerard; Insurance Libraries, Mr. Handy; Legislative and Municipal Libraries, Mr. Lapp; Public Utility Libraries, Mr. Lee; Sociological Libraries, Mrs. H. P. Bates; and Technology Libraries, Mr. Wheeler.

In January 1910, the initial issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* appeared; in March the Boston Branch was formed, and Guy E. Marion, of Boston, replaced Miss Sears as Secretary-Treasurer. In that same month Mr. Lapp became managing editor and Mr. Marion business manager of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*.

Here are the highlights of those early days. Forty years is a long time to keep alive the memories. The men and women who carried the torch in the very beginning stand out in retrospect with friendships that endured through the four decades. Daniel Handy, with his keen sense of humor and fine companionship, has gone to his reward. Guy Marion, way out on the Pacific coast, writes often, but I wish I could see him face to face; George Lee, with his earnest approach to life, retiring many years ago and before his death drifting away from his old associates; John Lapp, who carried heavy burdens in the editorship of the periodical, and now a labor arbitrator, far afield from legislative reference; John Cotton Dana, the great man of genius, who conceived the whole idea and never lived to know the full measure of his great undertaking. But enough of personal remembrances. This story has not told the difficulties that beset the officers, editors and committee chairmen in the second decade of the century. For these men and women were nearly all holding down important jobs and the work of SLA had to be done in the so-called leisure hours, much of it at great personal sacrifice.

In glancing through the pages of the earlier numbers of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, I am impressed with the great number of bibliographical undertakings which

received their first impetus in the columns of our magazine. In conference discussion, in correspondence and in special committee, these bibliographical plans took shape and blossomed into full-fledged services of importance. In all this accomplishment, Halsey W. Wilson took an important part and must be considered one of the early supporters of the special library movement.

HERBERT OLIN BRIGHAM,
Charter Member.

From our earliest years there had been dissatisfaction with the connotation of the word "special" but no more descriptive word for the Association had been devised.

Accordingly there were those who sought to broaden the basis of our membership to make the going easier while others thought it better to justify our existence apart from the A.L.A. by sticking closely to our original idea—each according to his own connotation of the word "special."

The occasion for a statement came with the invitation during my term for a chapter on "Special Libraries" for the A.L.A. *Manual*. It transpired that I was compelled to write this Chapter VIII myself. I maintained that a special collection was not necessarily a special library but a special library was usually a special collection applied to and servicing a special interest or business. To that idea of a Special Library Association many still adhere.

R. H. JOHNSTON,
President, 1914-1915.

John Cotton Dana initiated the special library movement and pointed out its direction and purpose. His definition of such a library as "the library of a modern man of affairs" still stands close examination after forty years. "It is a library to which one does not repair, but from which emerges anything and everything applicable to the needs of a business firm. It is a library that is applied,

rather than applied to."¹

W. P. Cutter's definition, "A special library is one that serves people who are doing things" as distinct from "a reference library which serves people who are thinking things" marks the most telling difference. *Reference* is academic—*special* is dynamic. M. S. Dudgeon said, "A reference library is an academic institution for the scholar. A special library is a utilitarian establishment calculated to serve the worker too busy to take time for scholarly investigation."

Richard H. Johnston described special libraries in 1915 as Chapter VIII of ALA's *Manual of Library Economy*. Fifteen years later, he rewrote his pamphlet and privately printed it at Silver Spring, Md., where he still resides. In his second edition he pointed out clearly that it is not the book collection but the librarian that makes the library "special".

D. N. Handy, who served as president four terms, set up, with the writer, the first fourteen "Responsibility Districts."² This cut our new Association geographically.

John A. Lapp set the course for SPECIAL LIBRARIES and inspired the whole membership with a spirit of cooperation and mutual helpfulness. Adelaide R. Hasse raised it from an association organ to "the dignity of a periodical"; and Herbert O. Brigham increased its financial status beyond the dreams of its founders. The long list of other members who contributed so largely to the success of our early years cannot be named for lack of space. Many occupy a niche of special regard in my memory.

In 1919 the writer served as SLA's tenth president. It was the thrilling period of World War I. It was a time of reevaluation of many things. The Association

¹ R. H. Johnston in SPECIAL LIBRARIES, 1931, pg. 3.

² See SPECIAL LIBRARIES. 3:194-6 When I parted from him last summer, he remarked "Guy, it was a great crusade, wasn't it?" to which I thoroughly agreed. It was Dana's Crusade.

began to think of the whole nation as its field rather than the Eastern Seaboard and to see itself as an essential part in the whole library movement. In my presidential address at Asbury Park, N. J., after appealing for the support of special libraries by public libraries for their reaction of each upon the other, I said, "In this way we have a complete and entire library system for the whole nation. It centers in the Library of Congress at Washington, from there it radiates to every state in the Union to the several State Libraries, thence to the local public libraries within each state, and each of these in turn will be surrounded by a group of financial, commercial, industrial, medical, technical and other special libraries. We thus disarm all opposition and construct a whole organism. Special libraries should be helped not hindered, their Association should be supported and fostered, and the very greatest cooperation should exist between all libraries. No one element alone is complete without the others. All are stronger for each other's help."

At this time a new definition was offered: "A special library consists of a good working collection of information either upon a specific subject or field of activity; it may consist of general or even limited material serving the interests of a special clientele, and preferably in charge of a specialist trained in the use and application of the particular material." Perhaps this definition would still stand today.

The most important step of that year was the creation of the Advisory Council, which gave concrete expression to the Group idea, by permitting each of the seven Groups to elect two members to the new Council. Here was the beginning of our highly developed Group structure of today—starting with seven, it now numbers fourteen, and of the original seven at least four or five persist and perhaps, under changed names, the other two or three, while those re-

maining are new developments arising through the years.

Devoting a word to the present, the whole field of special librarianship has grown so tremendously since 1919 that one can hardly grasp what has taken place. The Treasurer's report of receipts in 1918-19 showed \$1,366.86 while that of the calendar year 1947 showed \$54,604.41; the membership dues were \$1,273.60, including subscriptions, compared with \$30,080.30 today.

While the past has been noteworthy and much that we dreamed of in the early days has come to pass, the future ought still to be compelling. In growth of numbers and spread of Association interests, the next decade does not seem so clear. Surely it should not be our goal merely to grow in size, if in that very diversity we should lose sight of the original purpose, namely, to take the library idea—the use of print—into the realm of active doers. Service, as distinct from method and minutiae, was our original challenge. We should refocus our attention on these fundamental objectives. Our junior past president has seen our internal defects of organization and discussed our structure in her annual report. It would be tragic if in growth we lost all purpose and became a heterogeneous mass of unrelated units. A more cohesive internal structure should be one of our early and important goals, and its expression should be so simple that every member, new or old, could comprehend it at a glance. If such a unity can be achieved, the power of our Association should be magnified many times.

GUY E. MARION,
*President, 1918-1919
and Charter Member.*

I was much interested to learn that a Fortieth Anniversary number of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* was being planned, and sincerely regret that I cannot cooperate in the way suggested. In the first place, I seem to be constitutionally unable to

reconstruct from memory a realistic picture of any part of my past experience, especially of a past so remote as my presidency of the SLA. I can't even recall the dates! I am sure we had some "burning" questions and equally sure that we thought at the time we had accomplished something definitely worthwhile. I doubt, however, that to the present generation of SLA'ers our triumphs would seem to have any importance at all.

Some day I suppose a history of SLA will be written. If, and when, it is, I shall be surprised (and gratified—assuming I am still alive) if my administration is even mentioned, outside of the chronological list. Perhaps you will say I should make sure of a place in history by taking advantage of this opportunity to put the future historian on the right track. But, alas! it can't be done. Not only is my memory a blank, but I have no documentation at hand.

Congratulations, and best wishes for the continued usefulness and constantly enlarging scope of **SPECIAL LIBRARIES**.

CHARLES C. WILLIAMSON,
President, 1916-1918.

From the international standpoint the United States of America has always been looked upon as a new country and this viewpoint has greatly influenced the thinking of many American citizens. As one important result of this type of thinking we find that the American people, in the past, have not given a great deal of thought to the history of the nation, the separate states, the counties, the cities and towns, the various social, business and professional groups, the families and the individuals whose efforts have resulted in the United States of today.

The above is one of the reasons why the special library is a relatively modern type of institution, the importance and practical value of which has only recently come to be generally recognized

and understood. The truth is that business in the United States today has reached a size and scope so unparalleled that its conduct must be based upon continuous study and appraisal of past development and of the results of past decisions and actions.

But research regarding the economic development of a particular business or corporation cannot be based entirely upon the material contained in the special library of that particular firm because its activities are related to or overlap the activities of other business firms. Hence the need for an organization such as Special Libraries Association and for finding media such as the *Special Libraries Directory*, the first issue of which was published in 1921 by our Association.

Business in the United States today has arrived definitely at the conclusion that all activity must be based upon a fact basis. Special Libraries Association has made real contributions to this end and all of our future efforts, as members of the Association, should be aimed at locating and obtaining all factual information which will aid American business in reaching still higher standards of completeness and accuracy in the planning and administration of all activities of the economic America of today.

DORSEY W. HYDE,
President, 1920-1922.

It was my privilege in 1920 to be elected president of the New York Special Libraries Association into which we instilled new life and activity. Monthly dinner meetings were instituted, and a large membership was soon attracted by spirited speakers. Interest was aroused and competition stimulated by dividing the Association into subject groups. Our objective was professional improvement which, in two years as president, I was able to stimulate through publication of a *Directory*, a subject key to the resources of our special library collec-

tions, a sampling of methods, and a registration for employment. Many committees set to work on definite objectives of this nature and with a changing personnel interested the entire membership and attracted new blood. Scores of New Yorkers enlisted then continue their active support today.

When chosen to serve as president of Special Libraries Association in June 1922, I determined to coordinate the activities of the local associations into the national. Those ideas which had developed successfully in the New York local were applied to the national. The locals were made Chapters and affiliated to form the national; Groups were created in accordance with subject interests, and they soon functioned as vital parts of the national. The Constitution was revised to permit of the new reorganization. The finances were improved to tie in with the scheme of administration and an institutional membership recommended to give more stability to the national Association. Efforts were initiated toward the establishment of a Secretary's Office as headquarters for information which gradually developed through the years, becoming a reality in 1928.

These basic stones in Special Libraries Association comprise the foundation upon which an excellent structure has been erected by many special librarians. The Association has functioned effectively and will continue to do so in the coming years under the constant leadership of capable officers, chosen by an alert membership.

May all the young members drive as fast and efficiently in their new airplanes as we in the past forty years have driven in our automobiles! More power to you! Throw in your throttle full ahead!

REBECCA B. RANKIN,
President, 1922-1923.

During the year 1924-1925, the Special Libraries Association had to solve

the question as to whether it should remain by itself or become a section of the American Library Association. Some of its members wanted to stay and work out their own destination by remaining independent of the A.L.A. As the years have passed, the Association has grown in numbers and strength due, in large measure, to the efficient paid Secretary, to its most competent Editor and to an interested group of leaders, eager for its future. With its strong Chapters throughout the strategic centers of the United States, and with competent leaders, the success of the Special Libraries Association is assured for the years to come.

EDWARD H. REDSTONE,
President, 1923-1924.

The main problem confronting SLA when I was honored with the office of President was that of financing. Prior to that time the large corporations, whose librarians formed the bulk of the Association's membership, were asked for annual contributions. This meant that each year the question of contributions to SLA had to be discussed with other appropriations by executive boards and decided pro or con.

In talking, one day, with the head of the Nela Park Department of the General Electric Company, he told me the best way to handle this problem of finances was to set up for corporations so-called "institutional memberships" similar to company memberships in electrical and other societies. In this way, when a company had once taken out such a membership, it automatically would be paid year by year unless someone on the company's board objected. This suggestion was passed on to the SLA Board and adopted and has been followed ever since. It put the Association's finances on a solid basis.

Another forward step during my administration was the incorporation of SLA. With the charter of the Associa-

tion, SLA reached full legal status.¹

FRANK E. CADY,
President, 1926-1929.

When *The Boston Globe* Reference Library was placed in my charge, in 1922, I had already served on *The Globe* for eighteen years as a reporter, followed by sixteen years as night city editor, and I entered upon the new work with trepidation. I knew only too well that I knew nothing about library management.

When a few months later, the new president of the Boston Chapter, Mr. Walter L. Briggs, assistant librarian of the Harvard College Library, asked me whether I would have the Chapter's opening meeting in *The Globe* Library, I was almost frightened. But I spoke with the management about it, and while there was no room in the building for such an affair, the president promised a room at a neighboring hotel, if that was satisfactory, and before the arrangements were complete a dinner for the Chapter members was included.

Ordinarily dinner attendance averaged 50, but the acceptance of the *Globe's* hospitality reached 103. When the business session was over, the crowd swarmed into the library. Everyone was anxious and interested to see what a newspaper library was like. At the end of the visit a group approached me and introduced themselves as members of the faculty of the School of Library Science at Simmons College, and they expressed themselves as being both surprised and delighted with the visit. "This is the first newspaper library we have ever seen," they said, and then asked if they might have samples of the containers we used for clippings and for photos, as well as prints from the rubber stamps we used. After that meeting my morale rose 100 percent.

Evidently the meeting at *The Globe*

library did more than raise my morale, for my inferiority complex wholly disappeared. In association with the Chapter members I found warm and helpful friends, and not until recent days have I found it necessary to be absent from their meetings. Attendance at the annual SLA conferences also opened up to me another world of friends and helpers, and, in 1929, came my election as president. No one could have had more congenial and cooperative fellow-workers than I did both as a member of the Executive Board and as president: Mary L. Alexander, Florence Bradley, Francis E. Cady, Eleanor Cavanaugh, Caroline Faltermayer, Sir Angus Fletcher, Daniel Handy, Rebecca Rankin, Rose Vormelker, and many others, to say nothing of the splendid men and women in the Newspaper Group. Now in my eighty-first year, I look back to the association with those friends and acquaintances as a happy chapter in a long life, and am grateful for it.

WILLIAM ALCOTT,
President, 1929-1930.

The most outstanding accomplishment during my administration as president of SLA was the inauguration of the plan, since followed, of visiting the various Chapters throughout the country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, so as to cement our relations. Almost every city where Chapters were in existence was visited. At the same time many special libraries were visited. For the future I believe that SLA should stress establishing closer contacts with individual libraries so that when we need help in our reference work we will know exactly to whom to turn.

MARGARET REYNOLDS,
President, 1930-1931.

After five years retirement from active special library work, I still feel the pleasure and pride which I have always had in my association with so many

¹ See copy of charter on page 123 of this issue.

keen-minded, alert, hard-working, unselfishly devoted co-workers. With such a group our Special Libraries Association cannot fail to continue its outstanding contributions to the library profession as a whole. It has my very best wishes for its future development and usefulness.

ALTA B. CLAFLIN,
President, 1931-1932.

It is difficult to remember any program that goes back fifteen years in history and I do not have access to any files. So, here are my impressions of two very interesting years—of hard work, some frustration but some very real rewards. In addition to the personal satisfactions, perhaps one or two of the following may still be considered gains for SLA: The first full-time paid secretary was employed and a regular office set up in space generously donated by the Standard Statistics Company; the first Carnegie Corporation grant to SLA was secured for the promotion of library service to trade associations under the NRA; the first procedure manuals were written for the operation of SLA Groups and Chapters as one of our many efforts to help these important units. After a considerable struggle, it was decided to purchase a government bond as a token that the Association meant to operate on a sound financial basis. The first bond for \$500 was bought during Howard Stebbins' administration, thus starting SLA's Reserve Fund.

As I follow SLA reports today, I think of the lean years when we were in the red as often as in the black. During my administration, funds were so low that the noble, resourceful editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, Florence Bradley, had regularly to check on the bank balance before she could plan and produce the next issue of the journal. SLA has come far through the efforts of devoted members and I am terribly proud of it. My great hope is that prosperity shall not kill the early pioneering

spirit nor lessen the accomplishments.

MARY LOUISE ALEXANDER,
President, 1932-1934.

My presidential year, 1934-1935, saw the organization of two new Chapters and of three new Groups, publication of a national Directory and of the first and only SLA Organization Chart, and the inauguration of TBRI. There was also an increase in membership, in subscriptions to *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* and in advertising revenue. All this was done in the sixth year of depression, and with a president who was ill for several months. I take particular pride in recalling these accomplishments because credit for them belongs so completely to the loyal, hard-working Groups, Committees and Chapters and to the 1800 interested members who were responsible. I can think of no better future for our Association than a revival of that spirit of *individual* responsibility which vitalized the whole Association that year.

RUTH SAVORD,
President, 1934-1935.

The years 1935 and 1936 were not entirely peaceful for SLA. Divergent views on the rights of Associate members, allocation of dues and budgets, and the status of Chapters under the Constitution came to a head in that period. To pilot the ship was not an easy task but the efforts of wise counsellors brought us eventually into calmer seas.

I do not recall that my two years in the president's chair coincided with any spectacular developments or with any radically improved methods or basic steps forward. I believe it was a constructive period because we proved to ourselves that sharp differences of opinion and tenacious holding of points of view could be harmonized and that a few concessions here and there could unify our purposes and clear the way

for continued advance.

HOWARD STEBBINS,
President, 1935-1937.

May I step out of the shadows of back-stage and into the spotlight of front-center just for a brief moment, to congratulate the Special Libraries Association on its fortieth anniversary! Who would have thought, from the meeting of a small group of determined individuals back in 1909 at Bretton Woods, that the spark they generated then would grow into the present dynamic Association of over 5500 members throughout the world!

What a terrific expansion from the little Association of only 1,997 members in the year when I was at the helm—1937-1938—only 11 years ago! In reminiscing, I think of two accomplishments which, to me at least, are landmarks of my brief tenure: (1) from a publication angle, the issuance of the first *Trade Names Index*; (2) from an organizational viewpoint, it was the first year, that SLA vice-presidents were assigned definite executive responsibilities in national SLA affairs, instead of simply having a title and a vote at board meetings. In my opinion, this latter idea paved the way for the present practice of considering the first vice-president as the president-elect for the succeeding year. No longer need a person take on the office of national president, as I did, without adequate preparation.

As to the future—World War II taught the world the value of library methods and research. The special library idea is spreading like wildfire. At the present phenomenal rate of growth, SLA will soon be in the front ranks of the professional associations of the country.

More power to you, SLA! I'm proud to have had a brief moment in helping you on the road to professional glory!

WILLIAM F. JACOB,
President, 1937-1938.

When I look back upon my two years as president the one event which stands out most prominently is the moving of SLA Headquarters into rented quarters. It was an entirely new procedure and many members of my Board were skeptical for fear we could not survive financially if rent were added to our other expenditures. The years which followed have proven how successful has been that venture into the unknown. Headquarters Office not only flourished in its new home, but increased in usefulness to all members of the Association, so that before long a larger staff and additional space were needed. Last July Headquarters moved into its present location on the eighth floor of the Stechert-Hafner Building which is approximately three times the size of the room occupied in 1939.

The attitude of the Association that year when it had to assume a larger financial burden has been, I believe, characteristic of SLA from its organization in 1909 to the present time. It has never side-stepped its responsibilities. In those early days when SLA was finding its place in the library world, it was fortunate in having for its leaders men and women with far-seeing vision and in its later years, having reached its maturity, its leaders have been of the same outstanding calibre. Let us hope in the years ahead that our Association will not become too unwieldy or too engrossed in material gains to lose the far-sightedness of our early pioneers.

ALMA C. MITCHILL,
President, 1938-1940.

War Years! Years of intensive activity and production for SLA! The years of four new Groups: *Geography and Map*; *Hospital and Nursing Librarians*; *Advertising*; and *Transportation*. A new Chapter: Minnesota was born. New publications came off the press: *War Subject Headings*; *Index to Petroleum Statistics*, rev. ed; *Aeronautical Refer-*

ence *Library; Manual of Classification and Cataloging of Maps; Handbook of Commercial, Financial and Information Services*, rev. ed.; and *Patent Index to Chemical Abstracts, 1907-1936*. The years we were all out on editing *Special Libraries Resources*, Vols. 2-4. The years of the *Manpower Survey* and the *Salary Survey*; the years when the Finance Committee made a six-year comparative analysis of our income and expenditures; when double entry book-keeping was installed at Headquarters, and HQ staff enlarged; when we initiated quarterly budgeting; when we had an annual surplus of \$4000 one year and \$7200 the next; when we transferred \$20,000 from the checking account to the Reserve Fund; when we voted by mail ballot for the first time. The years of an intensive training and recruiting program with two recruiting pamphlets off the press. The years when the Illinois Chapter did such a grand job for the Alien Property Custodian. The years when we proudly announced 75 members in the Armed Forces. It seems like only yesterday that I was visiting Chapters, getting bumped off planes, and sitting up all night in airports or railroad coaches—Years of intensive membership cooperation with telling results—Grand years to have been president!

ELEANOR S. CAVANAUGH,
President, 1942-1944.

There is so much of importance to be done that no one president, no one board, in the course of a year, can contribute more than a small bit to the total. Considering the three-fold aims of administration: continuing the life of the profession; giving continuity, coherence and significance to the programs; and perfecting the structure of the Association so that it will be democratic and efficient, it is clear that whatever is accomplished in one year or another is due to the work of many members over a period of years. Because of the vitality of our cooperative

efforts, the future of the Association is assured.

WALTER HAUSDORFER,
President, 1944-1945.

Much more vivid than my memory of what I did for the Association while I was president are my recollections of what the presidency did for me. It left me with a vivid impression that the strength and vitality of SLA stems directly from its membership, and especially from the activities of its Chapters and Groups. The primary contribution that any president could make would be to improve ways and means by which this vitality can find expression and by which communication between members and groups of members can be improved. As an objective this was uppermost in my mind during the year, and I hope we made a little progress. A special effort to increase membership participation through the Board and Council meetings did appear to meet with some success.

HERMAN H. HENKLE,
President, 1945-1946.

There is just one factor which accounts for Special Library Association's past growth, its present recognition as an outstanding organization and its future position in the library world. That is cooperation. This characteristic was, in my opinion, the most outstanding during my term of office. SLA's strength lies in this cooperative thinking, planning and working. Without it, SLA would disintegrate; with it, SLA will continue to progress in a manner in which every member can be proud.

BETTY JOY COLE,
President, 1946-1947.

In 1947-1948, SLA approached another milestone in its growth. The preceding decade brought opportunities for service undreamed of when the Association was organized. Likewise, these same years accumulated problems. In

trying to understand them and to prepare for further Association development, the necessity for a more cohesive organization became apparent. Many members recognized that lines of communication at all levels were breaking down. To strengthen them, Group and Chapter Manuals were revised and distributed, calling for an active period in clarifying committee policies integrated at the Group and Chapter levels. Many gaps appeared, pointing the way for continued efforts to achieve coordination, thus re-emphasizing the need for installation of a communications system to handle every type of information that SLA members want to get across to one another. This urgent need for a fully informed membership went hand in hand with the realization that there must also be a cautious approach to alterations in the structure and scope of an organization which had gone forward too rapidly to pause for a period of self-examination.

IRENE M. STRIEBY,
President, 1947-1948.

The Special Libraries Association is fast approaching its fortieth birthday, and I, as one of its early members, pause to salute it, and to review briefly those years in the light of the past, the present and the future.

Founded in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, in 1909, by a stalwart group of far-seeing persons, the Association has grown to its present proportions, both in its membership and the work it has accomplished, because of the spirit which filled its members in those early years. Although our numbers were small and our finances precarious at times, much of the work which is being carried on so efficiently today had its humble beginning then. Now, through increased membership, due to industry's needs for libraries to aid its research, we are better fortified financially to develop and expand our program. We are doing so with telling results and with the ever-growing respect from the world at large in which we hold our rightful place.

The future of SLA looks brighter than ever before. We should be mindful, however, that its continued success is again dependent upon the spiritual ideals of its forbears. In our great desire to go forward, let us remember this and keep closely to our own interests through a corresponding membership. Let us not attain this through material means but by a loftier aim upon which any sustained growth is attendant.

MARY DEJ. COX,
A Signer of the 1928 SLA Charter.

NEW HORIZONS

AT this forty year mark we are facing a world which undoubtedly will be so different from the one we've known to date that the changes electricity brought in the past will be dwarfed in comparison.

Yet one basic fundamental reason for the existence of SLA remains the same. The world will continue in its need for knowledge which may be "put to work" and indeed more so than ever. It will be SLA's opportunity as well as

its duty to foster the organization of the record of the amazing amount of research in the world in order that its results and tremendous implications may be put to greatest use.

This is no mean program. It demands clear thinking on our part. It requires a re-examination of our objectives. It needs our direction for the training of those who would be part of the program. It calls for a 100 percent alertness on the part of every SLA

member to go outside the confines of his or her library to inform and to instruct those as yet unfamiliar with this movement.

It means more active participation in real work—preparation of more tools to expedite the use of resources at our command; it means continuous study on our part; and above all it means putting aside all petty thoughts of whatever origin they may be and working constructively with each other.

Techniques and form of organization may need revision. As an Association we shall have to cut our pattern to fit the cloth but may it never be without vision of its potentialities.

Throughout the files of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* we find the statement "We are at the crossroads," reiterated by one after another of our leaders. Sure-

ly in the air age which is upon us, and the atomic age which is around the corner, we have come to another crossroads, but *SLA's* part is still, to put it in the words of John Lapp, "to gather all of the experiences available with regard to an institution's problems, to classify it in such a way as to make it quickly available, to digest and prepare same in usable form, to study actual problems which confront the institution and to attempt to bring the information gathered to the right man at the right place so that it may function in the work of the institution which it serves." To this we should add "at the right time" for a piece of information presented tomorrow when it should have been yesterday may spell the difference between failure and success.

ROSE L. VORMELKER, *President.*

TRIBUTE TO THE EDITORS

ONE of the first steps undertaken by the Special Libraries Association when it was organized in 1909 was the publication of a monthly magazine. This was indeed a wise decision as it has proved beyond a doubt to be the instrument which has made possible the Association's growth and through which the special library principle has extended itself into every type of business and industry as well as the professions and among governmental agencies.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES has been most fortunate in its editors. Through forty years there have always been capable special librarians who volunteered to serve as the guiding hand in the publication of a monthly magazine. The editing of a regularly issued publication requires much time and effort, and a strong conviction in the person who assumes such a responsibility that it benefits his profession. Our editors have all given ungrudging and unstinted service,

and with no compensation except the satisfaction of a job well done and the knowledge that, but for their leadership in editing the contributions of the members to *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, the Association would not have enjoyed its current prestige.

John A. Lapp, Bureau of Legislative Information, Indiana State Library, the first editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, set the pattern of the magazine and devoted seven years to his ideal for it. He remained as editor until September 1917. The length of his devotion to the job was also matched by the term of Herbert O. Brigham, Rhode Island State Librarian, who was our able and energetic editor during the years 1924 to 1931 when *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* was a much huskier periodical and the exponent of a fast-growing and vital Association. Again our present devoted editor, Alma C. Mitchill, has bettered those previous long term editorships and is now entering upon her eighth

year in guiding our magazine in the ranks of the best library journals. So these three loyal special librarians have served as editors for more than half of the forty years of SLA's existence.

Marian C. Manley, Librarian of Newark's Business Library, also gave unstintingly of her enthusiasm to *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* for the five years 1934-1939. Her editorship was characterized by a general survey of the special library profession made under her stimulus which proved to be a splendid recruiting feature.

Most of the other editors of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* served a term of one or two years, and each and every one of those nine persons did an admirable job, undertaking the responsibility with enthusiasm and interest, reflecting in the magazine the ideas of the membership and reporting well the varied activities of its component parts. Let us recall these confrères chosen by the Executive Board for editorship:

Ralph L. Power was Librarian of the Boston University College of Business Administration when called to the editorship in September 1917 and carried it loyally until the appointment of J. H. Friedel in September 1918. Also of Boston, Mr. Friedel represented SLA on A.L.A.'s enlarged library program and, as editor until September 1920, gathered a staff of associate editors to help him in subject fields such as government libraries, business libraries, etc.

Dorsey W. Hyde, Jr., elected president in 1920, was forced to edit the October issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* before the newly-appointed editor, Miss Adelaide R. Hasse, then Librarian of the Council of National Defense in Washington, D. C., brought to *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* a refreshing interest in Federal Government libraries. Her "Government Services Department" was a new feature which continued until the end of her editorship in 1922. The "President's Page", too, was first begun in 1922.

Leonore A. Tafel, of the research staff of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in New York, was editor for nine months in 1923. This was the first time photographic illustrations in the text were attempted. A cumulative index for volumes I-XIII was prepared by Charlotte Noyes, Librarian of Dupont Company, and printed in the 1923 volume.

Laura R. Gibbs, Information Chief of Tel-U-Where Company in Boston, was Secretary-Treasurer of Special Libraries Association in 1924 and generously assumed editorship of the magazine as well for that year until Mr. Brigham took it in October 1924. Mr. Brigham continually improved *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* by increasing the contributions from members and starting "Events and Publications" in 1925, continued ever since, and by his procural of advertisements to help defray costs.

When the Secretary's Office was re-organized and moved to New York in September 1931, Ruth Savord, Librarian of the Council on Foreign Relations, accepted the appointment as editor, while M. Dorothy Howard, of Standard Statistics Company, served as Advertising Manager. Miss Savord's editing reflected an active Association with renewed vigor, extending its service into new fields. That year of 1931-1932 saw a few photographs in *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* and many splendid articles. Miss Florence Bradley, Librarian of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, continued the same high standards from September 1932 to July 1934, when Marian Manley took the helm.

Between Miss Manley's term and Miss Mitchell's, Mrs. Virginia Meredith was editor for the year 1939-1940 and Grace D. Aikenhead for the year 1940-1941. To each and every one of these thirteen editors the members of SLA are eternally grateful for their leadership and for their product, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES, a bound file of

39 volumes, fills more than a 3-foot shelf, each volume varying in thickness from 200 pages in the early years to 500 pages nowadays, all well-indexed and forming an encyclopedia of information on special libraries. It is indeed

a monument to our library profession in which we take pride, and to the editors we shout forth a paean of praise and give full tribute to all for their successful efforts and good works.

REBECCA B. RANKIN.

SLA STRUCTURE OF CHAPTERS AND GROUPS

Chapters

Since the membership of the Association was scattered over a large number of states, the SLA Executive Board in 1912 approved a recommendation to form Responsibility Districts, each one to be presided over by a District Head. By means of these Districts, members of one locality could meet together for informal discussion between annual conventions. In some instances these Districts became local associations. In 1924 the Constitution was amended to provide for these local associations and several requested affiliation with the national organization. Thus the SLA Chapter idea was born. Today there are twenty-two Chapters in the United States and two in Canada.

The following list gives the name of each Chapter, dates of organization and of affiliation with the national Association, and total membership as of January 1, 1949.

- ALBANY CAPITAL DISTRICT: (Org. November 23, 1934; Aff. February 9, 1935) Disbanded March 25, 1944.
- BALTIMORE: (Org. and Aff. May 15, 1930) Membership, 66.
- BOSTON: (Org. May 15, 1910; Aff. January 5, 1925) Membership, 293.
- CINCINNATI: (Org. June 2, 1927; Aff. September 29, 1930) Membership, 91.
- CLEVELAND: (Org. December 1919; Aff. February 24, 1927) Membership, 124.
- CONNECTICUT VALLEY: (Org. May 17, 1934; Aff. June 19, 1934) Membership, 96.
- GREATER ST. LOUIS: (Org. and Aff. December 15, 1941) Membership, 74.
- ILLINOIS: (Org. June 24, 1925; Aff. September 1, 1925) Membership, 348.
- INDIANA: (Org. June 11, 1941; Aff. June 15, 1941) Membership, 61.
- KANSAS CITY: (Org. and Aff. January 1948) Membership, 49.
- LOUISIANA: (Org. and Aff. June 1946) Membership, 64.
- MICHIGAN: (Org. 1926; Aff. March 14, 1929) Membership, 155.
- MILWAUKEE: (Org. December 2, 1930; Aff. February 23, 1931) Membership, 51.
- MINNESOTA: (Org. and Aff. June 1943) Membership, 112.
- MONTREAL: (Org. and Aff. June 13, 1932) Membership, 111.
- NEW JERSEY: (Org. April 24, 1935; Aff. June 11, 1935) Membership, 141.
- NEW YORK: (Org. May 15, 1913; Aff. January 5, 1925) Membership, 1,256.
- PHILADELPHIA COUNCIL: (Org. 1913; Aff. January 6, 1934) Membership, 284.
- PITTSBURGH: (Org. December 5, 1922; Aff. January 5, 1925) Membership, 156.
- PUGET SOUND: (Org. and Aff. March 1945) Membership, 88.
- SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION: Org. 1921; Aff. October 9, 1924) Membership, 229.
- SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: (Org. March 15, 1922; Aff. January 5, 1925) Membership, 196.
- TORONTO: (Org. May 9, 1940; Aff. June 3, 1940) Membership, 85.
- WASHINGTON, D. C.: (Org. September 30, 1940; Aff. October 25, 1940) Membership, 735.
- WESTERN NEW YORK: (Org. and Aff. March 1945) Membership, 181.

Groups

During the first year of the Association's activities, Committees such as (1) Agricultural Libraries, (2) Commercial Associations, (3) Insurance Libraries, (4) Legislative and Municipal Reference Libraries, (5) Public Utility Libraries, (6) Sociological Libraries and (7) Technology Libraries were appointed. The idea that promoted the establishment of these Committees might well be considered the birth of our present Groups. Separate Group organization, however, is first mentioned in the *Proceedings* of the tenth convention, held in June 1919, when the (1) Commercial, (2) Financial, (3) Insurance, (4) Legislative Reference, (5) Technical and Engineering, (6) Industrial and (7) Welfare Groups were formed.

Those now functioning are listed below with dates of organization or affiliation with the national Association and approximate membership as of January 1, 1949.

ADVERTISING: (Aff. 1942) Approximate membership, 340.	MUSEUM: (Aff. 1929) Approximate membership, 337.
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: (Aff. 1934) Approximate membership, 612.	NEWSPAPER: (Aff. 1925) Approximate membership, 328.
BUSINESS (Formerly "Public Business Librarians": (Aff. 1934) Approximate membership, 461.	PUBLISHING: (Aff. 1948) Approximate membership, 136.
¹ COMMERCE: (Aff. 1924) Disbanded November 5, 1943.	¹ SCIENCE - TECHNOLOGY: (Org. 1924; Aff. March 1925) Approximate membership, 1,886.
FINANCIAL: (Org. 1919; Aff. 1924) Approximate membership, 481.	SOCIAL SCIENCE (Organized originally as the "Civic-Social" Group which name was changed to "Social Science" Group in June 1936): (Aff. 1928) Approximate membership, 986.
GEOGRAPHY AND MAP: (Aff. 1944) Approximate membership, 189.	TRANSPORTATION: (Aff. 1943) Approximate membership, 164.
HOSPITAL AND NURSING LIBRARIANS: (Aff. 1944) Approximate membership, 310.	UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE: (Aff. 1934) Approximate membership, 957.
INSURANCE: (Org. prior to 1922; Aff. date not available) Approximate membership, 173.	

¹ This Group, formally organized in June 1924, was originally known as the "Technology" Group. In October 1926, the "Advertising-Commercial" Group and the "Technology" Group merged as the "Commercial-Technical" Group. Eight subcommittees representing (1) Advertising, (2) Chemistry, (3) Electrical Engineering, (4) Illuminating Engineering, (5) Industrial Relations, (6) Marketing, (7) Oil, (8) Public Utilities, (9) Rubber, (10) Technical English and (11) Transportation, were appointed. In October 1933, this Group was again divided into two Groups, namely, "Science-Technology" and "Commerce".

SLA PUBLICATIONS 1917 - 1949

SPECIAL LIBRARIES, the official journal of the Association, has been published regularly since its inception in January 1910. Issued ten times a year it includes articles of interest to SLA members on both professional and non-professional topics, a section on Events and Publications and news of Association activities.

Technical Book Review Index, issued ten times a year, is unique in its field, providing quotations from approximately 800 scientific and technical publications. This *Index* serves as a check list and as a reference guide to reviews on innumerable scientific and technical books.

Professional Tools

As the need arises for a publication to increase the efficiency in a special field the Association arranges for its compilation and printing. The following is a list of SLA publications from 1917 to date:

- 1917—
*The Business Library as an Investment.
- 1921—
*Workshop for Assembling Business Facts.
- 1923—
*Bibliography: The Foundation of Scientific Research.
*Preliminary Report of the Findings of the Committee on Methods.
- 1924—
*Your Bank and the Organization of its Library.
- 1922-25—
*Commercial Libraries and the Department of Commerce.
- 1925—
*Source List of Statistics of the Rubber Industry.
*Value of the Company Library.
- 1924-26—
*Bibliography on Rubber Technology. Sections 1-7.
- 1928—
*Railway Transportation: A reading list.
- 1929—
*Use of the Museum Library.
- 1930—
*The Bank Library, 3rd ed. (Earlier editions published in 1928, 1929)
*An Employer Selects a Business Librarian, by Louise Krause.
*Urban and Interurban Electric Railways: A selected list.
- 1931—
*Gold: A reading list.
*Information Bulletins
No. 1. Recent Technical Bibliographies, March 1925
No. 2. Foreign Bureaus of Information in New York City, 1925
No. 3. Bibliography on Illumination, 1924-25
No. 4. Bibliography on Illumination, 1925-26
No. 5. Bibliography on Illumination, 1926-27
No. 6. Bibliography on Electrical Literature, 1928
No. 7. Bibliography on Rubber Technology, June 1926-Dec. 1927
No. 8. Bibliography on Illumination, 1927-28
No. 9. Bibliography on Illumination, 1928-29
No. 10. Trade Directories, 1931
No. 11. Bibliographies of Bibliographies 1931
No. 12. Bibliography on Illumination, 1929-30
No. 13. Bibliography on Electrical Engineering, 1931
*Secondary Reserves and Investment Policies in Banks.
*Statistics on Commodities.
*Trade and Technical Associations and the Library (SPECIAL LIBRARIES—*Reprint* October 1931)
*Union List of Periodicals in Special Libraries in the New York Metropolitan District.
- 1932—
*Basic List of Current Municipal Documents.
*Federal Relief Program: A reading list and outline.
*Proposed Changes in the Banking Structure.
*Taxation: A reading list.
- 1933—
*"New Deal" Emphasizes the Need for Business Libraries.
- 1934—
*Business and Trade Dictionaries.
*Facts: How to have them when you need them.
*The Librarian in the Field of Research. (SPECIAL LIBRARIES—*Reprint* August 1934)
*Rubber Periodicals: A selected list.
*Trade Associations. A preliminary directory for Northern California.
*Trade Associations in the United States: A finding list of directories.
*Trade Associations in the United States: A reading and reference list.
*Trade Catalog Collection.
- 1935—
*Organization and Activities Chart. (SPECIAL LIBRARIES—*Reprint* January 1935)
*President's Page. Constitutional Revision. (SPECIAL LIBRARIES—*Reprint* September 1935)
*Special Libraries Association and Business and Professional Workers.
*Statistics of Canadian Commodities.
- 1936—
*Proposed Constitution and By-Laws (SPECIAL LIBRARIES—*Reprint* April, September 1936)
*SLA Regional Promotion of Information Sources.
*Special Library in Business.

- *When Business Uses the Public Library (SPECIAL LIBRARIES—*Reprint* February 1936)
- 1937—
 Guides to Business Facts and Figures, 2d ed. (First edition published in 1933)
 *Scope and Purpose of Special Libraries Association.
 *Social Welfare: A List of Subject Headings in Social Work and Public Welfare.
 *TBRI and What It Offers.
- 1938—
 *Business Profits and the Use of Published Information.
 *Directories for the Business Man.
 *Problems Involved in Considering Adequate School Courses for Special Librarians, by L. S. Morley. (SPECIAL LIBRARIES—*Reprint* May-June 1938)
 *Select List of Current Foreign Financial Sources.
 *Special Library Profession and What It Offers.
 *Suggested Form of Constitution for Chapters of SLA (SPECIAL LIBRARIES—*Reprint* April 1938)
 *What the Special Library Profession Offers.
- 1939—
 *Handbook of Commercial and Financial Services, 2d ed. (First edition published in 1931; for later editions see Handbook of Commercial, Financial and Information Services)
 *Professional School and Departmental Libraries.
 *Technique of Group Leadership, by Ralph de Somari Childs.
 *Union List of Scientific Periodicals. (Later revised under title—Union List of Technical Periodicals)
- 1940—
 *Associate Members' Bulletin, Oct. 1935-April 1940.
 *Banking and Financial Subject Headings.
 *Business and the Public Library.
 SLA Proceedings 1938, 1939, 1940. (Published as separate volumes during these years)
- 1941—
 *Abstracts of Committee, Chapter and Group Reports. 33rd Annual Conference. Creation and Development of an Insurance Library, 2d ed. (First edition published in 1932)
 *Directory of Microfilm Sources.
 *Discussion Conference Units, Hartford Convention.
- *Trade-names Index.
 *World War II; a bibliography.
- 1942—
 *SLA Handbook.
 *U. S. Government Periodic Publications.
- 1943—
 *An Aeronautical Reference Library. Contributions Toward a Special Library Glossary.
 *Index to American Petroleum Statistics.
 *War Subject Headings for Information Files.
- 1944—
 Handbook of Commercial, Financial and Information Services. (Formerly published under title of Handbook of Commercial and Financial Services)
 *Source List of Selected Labor Statistics.
- 1945—
 Classification and Cataloging of Maps and Atlases.
 *Classification Schemes and Subject Headings Lists.
 List of Subject Headings for Chemistry Libraries.
- 1947—
 Directory of Microfilm Services.
 Special Library Resources, Vols. I-IV, 1941-1947.
 *Union List of Technical Periodicals. (For earlier editions see Union List of Scientific Periodicals)
- 1948—
 Classification Schemes and Subject Headings Lists Loan Collection. SLA. Supplement.
 *Directory of Members of Special Libraries Association. Latest ed. (Earlier editions published in 1921, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1937, 1942, 1945)
 SPECIAL LIBRARIES Index
 Vols. 1-13 1910-22
 Vols. 14-17 1923-26
 Annual indexes, Vols. 18-39; 1927-1948.
- 1949—
 Aviation Subject Headings.
 Special Librarianship As A Career. Latest ed. (Earlier editions published in 1933, 1937, 1942, 1945, 1947)
- IN PREPARATION—
 A Brief for Corporation Libraries; A Guide for their Operation and Management.
 Manual for Newspaper Libraries.
 Manual for Science-Technology Libraries.
 Subject Headings List for Aeronautical Libraries.

Tentative Program of the SLA Fortieth Annual Convention in Los Angeles, June 12-17, 1949

WITH the arrival of the New York Central's Anniversary Special Train at 10:40 of the morning of June 11, 1949, the Fortieth Annual Convention of the Special Libraries Association will be unofficially under way. After a sufficient interval to allow members and their friends to register at their respective hotels, a luncheon will be held at Hotel Clark to extend to all the warm welcome that is typical of true California hospitality. The balance of the afternoon will be devoted to registration and distribution of information kits at the Hotel Biltmore.

On Sunday, June 12, the Executive Board will convene for the greater part of the day. Two tours have been arranged for those who need not be present at that meeting: a short tour of Hollywood via the ocean, and a more elaborate one to the enchanting Padua Hills with stops at San Gabriel Mission and the famous Guasti Winery on the way. The Registration and Information offices will be open during the afternoon at the Biltmore Hotel, and every day thereafter from 9:00 A. M.-5:00 P. M. A reception in the evening of visitors by national officers of the Association and those of the West Coast Chapters will mark the official opening of the Convention. This event will be held in the lovely Renaissance Room of the Biltmore.

Breakfast meetings will be held Monday, June 13, by the Insurance, Financial and Newspaper Groups. The First General Session, which will be addressed by President Rose L. Vormelker, will take place from 10:00 A. M. to 12:00 noon. Miss Vormelker will speak on "Special Librarianship Today." A general luncheon will be followed by meetings of the Newspaper and Social Science Groups and a late afternoon tea for the Biological Sciences Group.

The Employment Office will be open from 3:00 to 9:00 P. M. The Science-Technology; Social Science; Business and Newspaper Groups will hold dinner meetings which will be followed by an evening meeting of the Social Science Group.

Breakfast meetings of the Newspaper; Publishing; Geography and Map Groups are scheduled for Tuesday morning, June 14. Exhibits of interest and importance to special librarians will be displayed at the Biltmore Hotel beginning Tuesday at 9:00 A. M. and continuing through Friday. The Executive Board and Advisory Council Open Meeting will convene at 10:00 A. M. and all members are urged to attend. Luncheon meetings are planned for the Business; Newspaper; Insurance; Science-Technology (Pharmaceutical Section); Biological Sciences and Hospital and Nursing Librarians; Social Science; Financial and Museum Groups. Afternoon meetings will be held by the Social Science; College and University; Insurance and Business; Financial and Science-Technology (Engineering-Aeronautics Section) Groups. Visits to the various newspaper libraries are planned for the Newspaper Group during the late afternoon. The Employment Office will be open from 2:00 to 5:00 P. M. The Engineering-Aeronautics Section of the Science-Technology Group, and the Newspaper Group are both scheduled for dinner meetings that evening. The Group and Chapter Relations meeting, which is open to all members, will be held at 7:30 P. M. at the Los Angeles Public Library.

On Wednesday, June 15, the Registration and Information offices at the Biltmore will be open as usual from 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. as will the Employment Office. Buses will leave the Biltmore at 10:00 A. M. for a two-hour trip

to the Huntington Library in Pasadena. The Biological Sciences and Hospital and Nursing Librarians; Insurance; Newspaper and Transportation Groups are all scheduled for luncheon meetings. Afternoon activities include a joint meeting of the Insurance, Financial and Business Groups; a meeting of the Social Science Group; and a meeting of the Science-Technology Group followed by a tea. Additional visits to newspaper libraries will occupy the Newspaper Group during the afternoon, and a visit to the Mt. Wilson Observatory Library is planned for the Science-Technology Group. Dinner meetings are scheduled for the Newspaper and Science-Technology (Chemistry Section) Groups; and evening meetings are planned by the Museum Group and the Science-Technology Group.

The calendar for Thursday, June 16, is marked for breakfast meetings for the Transportation; Newspaper; Financial; Insurance and Science-Technology (Petroleum Section) Groups. Registration, Information and Employment offices will be open from 9:00 A. M.-5:00 P. M. A joint meeting of the Business and Advertising Groups is planned for mid-morning as are sessions of the Hospital and Nursing Librarians; Newspaper; Biological Sciences; Science-Technology (Petroleum Section) and Social Science Groups. A metals symposium is planned for the Science-Technology Group to begin at 10:30 A. M. Luncheon meetings will be held by the Newspaper, Science-Technology (Public Utilities Section), and Insurance Groups. The afternoon will include meetings held by the Business and Science-Technology (Public Utilities Section) Groups. The University and College Group will be entertained at tea at U. C. L. A. after a visit to the University libraries. Thursday evening has been reserved by the San Francisco Chapter for an outdoor "Centennial Swing"—an event that will attempt to convey to visitors some of the color and

romance of early California—the days of the Spanish mantilla, missions and gay caballeros. The cost for this outing, which includes a barbecue supper, is approximately \$4.

The highlight on Friday, the final day of the Convention, will be the Annual Business Meeting. There will be one breakfast meeting—a business meeting of the Newspaper Group. Luncheon meetings are planned for the Science-Technology and Newspaper Groups. The afternoon will be devoted to a tour of the motion picture studios, without which no visit to California is complete. A dinner meeting of the Newspaper Group will mark the official close of the Convention.

A cruise to Catalina Island has been arranged for Saturday, June 18. A special train will leave Los Angeles at 8:30 A. M. for Wilmington where Conventioneers will board the ship at 10:00 A. M. arriving at Catalina at 12:15 P. M. A full afternoon's entertainment has been planned which will include luncheon at the Seafood Grotto; a trip to the Submarine Gardens via glass bottom boat; a drive along Avalon Terrace; and a visit to Bird Park. These activities are, of course, optional; members are free to formulate their own plans for the afternoon. The ship leaves for the mainland at 4:30 P. M., making connections with the train at Wilmington at 6:45 P. M. Arrival in Los Angeles is scheduled for 8:00 P. M. The cost of the entire trip is \$11.57.

Due to the enthusiasm and efficient planning by the West Coast Chapters, the Fortieth Annual SLA Convention bids fair to be one of the most outstanding ever held. Members are urged to send in their pre-registration and hotel reservation forms not later than May 1 in order to expedite final arrangements.

This schedule is of necessity a tentative one. Complete and final Convention plans will be outlined in the schedule which will appear in the May-June issue of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*.

SLA CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

A number of inquiries have come to the Chapter Liaison Officer concerning outlines and descriptions of courses or institutes conducted by Chapters or Groups either currently or in the past. Beatrice V. Simon, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Library Education, is interested in any courses which have been offered by Chapters. The Spring Institute conducted by the NEW YORK CHAPTER, the course offered by the NEW JERSEY CHAPTER, and those offered by the Advertising, Financial and Insurance Groups of the NEW YORK CHAPTER, and the PITTSBURGH CHAPTER'S educational course, 1948-49, are the types in which her Committee is interested. If your Chapter has ever given such a course, won't you, as the Chapter President, write the details to Miss Simon. Her address is: The Redpath Library, 3459 McTavish Street, Montreal 2, Quebec, Canada.

ARCHIVES CHAIRMEN—ARE YOU KEEPING YOUR ARCHIVES UP TO DATE?

The report of the Archives chairman of the PITTSBURGH CHAPTER reminds us that the archives of each Chapter are important. Whether it is a new Chapter or an old Chapter, it is necessary that records be kept. It is easy to keep current records but very difficult to replace them if they are lost. The archives file should contain the minutes of all meetings, annual reports of officers, committees and Groups, Chapter bulletins, programs of meetings, and Chapter problems. Some Chapters bind their bulletins at intervals. This is a good practice for all Chapters to follow.

HOW ABOUT A CAR-POOL FROM EVERY CHAPTER FOR CONVENTION TRAVEL

Some members of the WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER are planning to drive to the Convention and some in the LOUISIANA CHAPTER are making similar plans. Why not an SLA car-pool from every Chapter?

SLA ON THE AIR

Several members of the NEW YORK CHAPTER have appeared on the air recently. Catherine Heinz, Librarian of the United Hospital Fund, was a guest on the Margaret Arlen Show, December 14, 1948, over WCBS, and spoke on the need for books in veterans hospitals.

Margaret Hills discussed her library and the Bible as the Book of all nations, when she was a guest, December 12, 1948, on the *Living Bible* program, WNEW.

Harry Marble's *Hits and Misses* program over WCBS, January 17, 1949, featured three librarians from SLA; they were: Mary Martin, *Sales Management*; Lydia Gifford, Steuben Glass Company; and Caroline Lee Gilbert,

Bureau of Advertising.

On Sunday, February 20, the ST. LOUIS and KANSAS CITY CHAPTERS participated in the radio program *Quiz of Two Cities*. Members from the KANSAS CITY CHAPTER who took part were: Jane Ahern, Theodore Cutler, R. C. Janeway and Sarah Lechtman, with Zelia French and Idris Smith, as alternates. Those from ST. LOUIS were: Anna Irene Marten, Allen Ring, William Vitali, Elizabeth W. Owens, and two alternates, Krimhilde Williams and Dorothy Drach.

METHODS MEETINGS

Methods meetings continue to be popular. MINNESOTA'S meeting at the Historical Society was an outstanding one. Miss Lucille Kane, Curator of Manuscripts, explained the methods used in evaluating manuscripts as potential source material for organizational histories. The BOSTON CHAPTER'S *News Bulletin* says: "We begin the New Year with our annual methods meeting. Many expressions of approval have been heard for this type of meeting in the past few years, and your program committee has taken cognizance of the fact in planning the year's program."

Bernard B. Lane, PUGET SOUND CHAPTER, says "Response has been slow coming in for the *Manual on Shortcuts and Gadgets*. Please send in your suggestions on library procedures which you have worked out so that others may benefit." Mr. Lane's address is: Monsanto Chemical Co., Seattle 4, Washington.

NEWS NOTES

We like the way some Chapters announce more than one meeting in advance. The CONNECTICUT VALLEY CHAPTER does a very good job of this. With all details given of meetings well ahead of the date, plans can be made to attend. The NEW YORK CHAPTER mails each month to all members a postcard listing all meetings held during that month, whether Chapter or Group.

The CINCINNATI *Bulletin* carries a column of news about the Oak Ridge Library Club. Many SLA'ers are active in this group.

From the CLEVELAND CHAPTER *Bulletin* we learn of Special Library courses offered at Western Reserve University: "Indexing & Abstracting," Feb. 10-June 2; and "Reference Work in Science & Technology," Feb. 11-June 3. Special librarians interested in attending without formal credit are welcome, with no charge for tuition.

At the January meeting of the MILWAUKEE CHAPTER, the star attraction was Mrs. Esther Purdy Potter from the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C., Director of the Dewey Decimal Classification Revision, which is to

be published in 1950. The subject of her talk was of such widespread interest that many guests turned out as well as a good showing among the members of the Chapter. Mrs. Potter gave a fascinating account of the problems and scope of this revision.

The March PITTSBURGH meeting sounded particularly interesting. Mr. O. J. McMunn spoke to the Chapter on "The Service the Special Librarian Renders Management." Miss Garland, President of the Chapter, said: "At our March meeting, we had the opportunity of viewing our problem through the eyes of one sitting on the other side of the table. We are equipped to tackle a situation from the librarian's angle, but it takes a business trained executive to give us a new slant and a different approach to the problem at hand."

Many SLA'ers, particularly those in the Science-Technology Group, had an excellent opportunity to obtain some constructive ideas for handling Publication Board Reports, etc., at the March meeting of the NEW JERSEY CHAPTER. Morris Schoengold and Paul A. Sutherland, both of the Standard Oil Development Company Library, spoke on "Handling of German Technical Information."

SLA GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Plans for the Los Angeles Conference are progressing. Most of the Groups' plans for meetings have passed their preliminary stages. Very excellent programs are in the offing, well spiced with visits to interesting libraries. We are looking forward to meeting many of our colleagues who have been unable to make the long trek across the nation to our past conferences.

Last year, meetings of Group officers and Chapter officers were held separately but simultaneously. Many Group and Chapter officers and SLA members interested in Group and Chapter affairs wished to attend both meetings. It has also been found that a great many problems appear in both Chapter and Group organizations. With these factors in mind, it was decided that a joint meeting should be held in 1949 with topics on the agenda of interest to both Groups and Chapters. *Projects and Publications* has been chosen as the general topic for the joint meeting. It is expected that various other issues will be brought out in the course of the discussion. Therefore, it is to be hoped that the joint meeting will have the same attendance as a General Session, and that there will be

HAVE YOU READ?

. . . "Characteristics of the Research Literature Used by Chemists and Physicists in the U. S." by Herman H. Fussler, Assistant Director, University of Chicago Library, in *Library Quarterly* for January 1949.

. . . "Library Usage Means Integrated Teaching" by Brother James Alpheus, F.S.C., Librarian, Christian Brothers College, published in *Catholic Library World*, November 1948.

. . . "We Have Cut Our Catalog Costs" by Jerrold Orne, Librarian, Washington University, in *Library Journal*, October 15, 1948.

Carnegie Institute of Technology has announced that it has completed its drive for a special book fund to be used to fill in materials needed for research and instructional purposes. Total amount received was \$110,000. The major share of these funds will be used to provide files of periodicals in the sciences and engineering fields. C.I.T. has now obtained extensive and nearly complete holdings of the most important sets in the field of mathematics. Additional funds will provide materials in the fine arts.

ELIZABETH W. OWENS,
Chapter Liaison Officer and Chairman,
Chapter Relations Committee.

just as much participation from members in attendance as time permits. From four to six persons will appear on the formal panel, thus leaving time for general discussion.

Most of the mid-year reports of the Groups have been received. Their contents indicate conscious direction and considerable activity. The HOSPITAL and NURSING Librarians are launching a survey of hospital and nursing libraries throughout the United States. The objectives and standards for medical and nursing school libraries, previously in preparation by this Group in cooperation with the comparable group of A.L.A., has been expanded to participation by M.L.A.

The GEOGRAPHY AND MAP GROUP is committed to a project, sponsored by the *Library Journal*, to edit a special edition of the *Journal* entitled *Maps in Libraries*. There will be about sixteen short articles by various authors, on subjects relating to the need, acquisition, processing, cataloging, etc., of maps.

Gretchen Little, chairman of the Science-Technology Group, is not only the ranking officer of the Association's largest Group, but she is setting a new record in promptness of reporting. As a part of her mid-year report

she sets forth five items under *Problems*, which I believe will be of interest to all members of Groups:

1. Keeping the Group membership informed (charging a fee—so membership will be limited to only those really interested).
2. Informing national officers of Group activities, especially the Public Relations chairman.
3. Organizing the Group so that the chairman will have less correspondence.
4. Financing Group Section publications that have limited interest. (Would the national Association sponsor these projects or loan the money? For instance, *The List of Chemical Awards*. This should be issued in pamphlet form, perhaps by offset. American Chemical Society members and others in allied fields would be interested in the publication.)
5. Having Chapter representatives write to their officers giving them comments from Chapter members. This report would be mailed to all Chapter representatives in the hope that some response would be forthcoming.

The Pharmaceutical Section of the SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY Group has launched a new publication, the first issue of which was received February 10. This is *Unlisted Drugs*, a current listing of new information not readily available from standard sources. The first issue was devoted to foreign equivalents of trade names of pharmaceutical products on sale in the United States. The publication is compiled from contributing information sent by member librarians, and is obtainable at a subscription rate of \$5.00 per year.

The INSURANCE GROUP reports that "plans for next year's meetings are being started. Mrs. Hinkle, new vice-chairman in San Francisco, is in charge of the program and is already hard at work. There is also another idea in progress: to hold an East Coast meeting sometime before June, probably in New York."

The SOCIAL SCIENCE GROUP's publication, *Source List of Selected Labor Statistics*, has become an Association publication.

The FINANCIAL GROUP is helping to plan an interesting joint meeting in Los Angeles which will be a "Work Simplification Clinic." This Group has just compiled a *List of Bank Libraries in the United States and Canada* and a *List of Economic Letters* which are published by banks in the U. S. and Canada. Both of these will be published in the Group *Bulletin*.

HELEN ROGERS,
Group Liaison Officer and Chairman,
Group Relations Committee.

Announcements

Who Will Win the Membership Gavel Award?

*"It ain't the guns nor armament
Nor the army as a whole,
But the everlastin' team work
Or every bloomin' soul."*

—Kipling.

Your Membership Chairman, in looking over some Membership Promotional Manuals for ideas, discovered the above verse, which she thought expressed the idea of membership work very well. Every SLA'er should consider himself or herself a member of the Committee and take advantage of all opportunities to interest eligible prospects in the class of membership best suited to their needs. Only in this way can we keep our organization healthy and growing. The deadline for tabulation of memberships for the GAVEL AWARD is May 20.

MRS. HAZEL IZZO, *Chairman*,
National Membership Committee.

Dr. Marie H. Law, Drexel Dean, To Retire

Dr. Marie H. Law, dean of the Graduate School of Library Science at Drexel Institute of Technology, Philadelphia, for the past twelve years, and member of the Institute's faculty since 1922, will retire September 1, 1949. In approving Dr. Law's formal retirement at their regular meeting, the Drexel Board of Trustees also voted to appoint her Dean Emeritus.

The Board named Dr. Harriet D. McPherson, now professor of library science at Drexel, to be Dean Law's successor in September. The dean-elect joined the Institute's faculty last June, coming to Philadelphia from Smith College, Northampton, Mass., where she was head librarian.

Dr. Milton J. Ferguson to Edit Forthcoming Edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification

The Dewey Decimal Classification Committee of the Lake Placid Club Education Foundation has announced the appointment, effective March 1, 1949, of Dr. Milton James Ferguson, retiring chief librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library, as editor of the 15th Standard Edition of the *Dewey Decimal Classification and Relative Index* which the Foundation intends to publish in 1950 through its subsidiary, the Forest Press of Lake Placid, New York.

Because of the useful public service the Decimal Classification Committee is performing, the Library of Congress cooperates generously with it and has granted the use of office

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and working space in the Library Building in Washington, D. C. Dr. Ferguson will make his headquarters there until the new book is published, and Mrs. Esther Potter, who at present is supervising the preparatory staff, will act as his chief assistant.

Oberley Memorial Award

The Oberley Memorial Award is given every two years to that American citizen who compiles the best bibliography in the field of agriculture or the related sciences. The twelfth award, for 1947-1948, will be made in 1949. Those interested in competing for the prize should send four copies (either processed or printed) to the chairman of the Award Committee not later than June 15, 1949. They should be accompanied by a letter which states that they are being entered in competition for the award. The award is limited to publications issued during the calendar years 1947-1948. Librarians or others who are aware of existing bibliographies which should be considered are urged to call this notice to the attention of the compilers. The Chairman of the Committee is Marvin A. Miller, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Ohio Valley Regional Group of Catalogers to Meet

The Ohio Valley Regional Group of Catalogers will hold its annual meeting, Saturday, May 21, 1949, at the University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky. Fremont Rider of the Microcard Foundation and Chairman of the Microcard Committee, will be the speaker.

It was Mr. Rider, Librarian of Wesleyan University Library, who first suggested the possibilities of the microcard in his book, *The Scholar and the Future of the Research Library*. Since the microcard involves many phases of library work, the meeting is open to librarians in all fields. Those who wish to attend should contact Elizabeth Chambers, Head Cataloger, University of Louisville, who is in charge of local arrangements for the meeting, or Lois Goan, Cataloger, DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, chairman of the Group.

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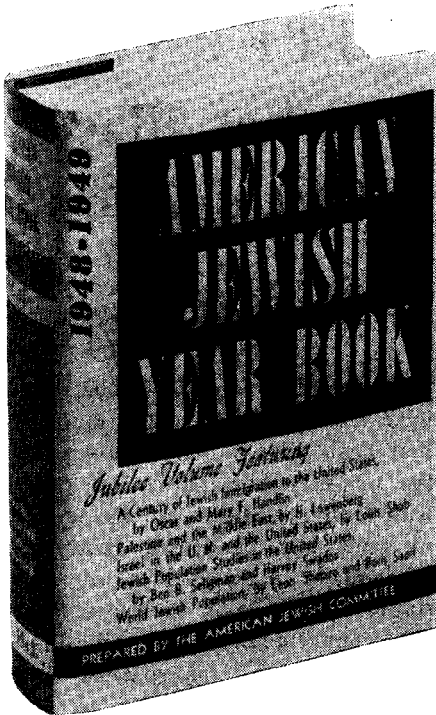
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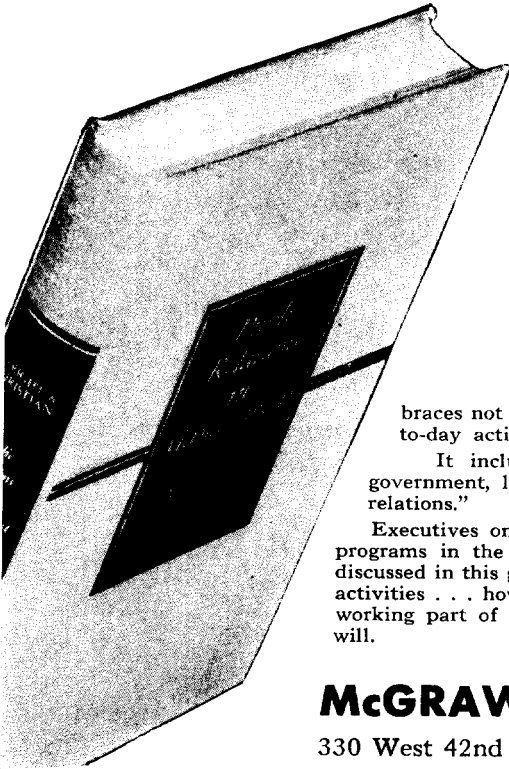
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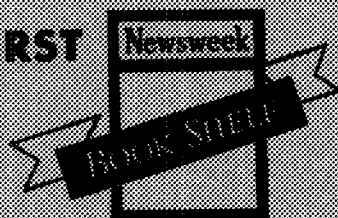
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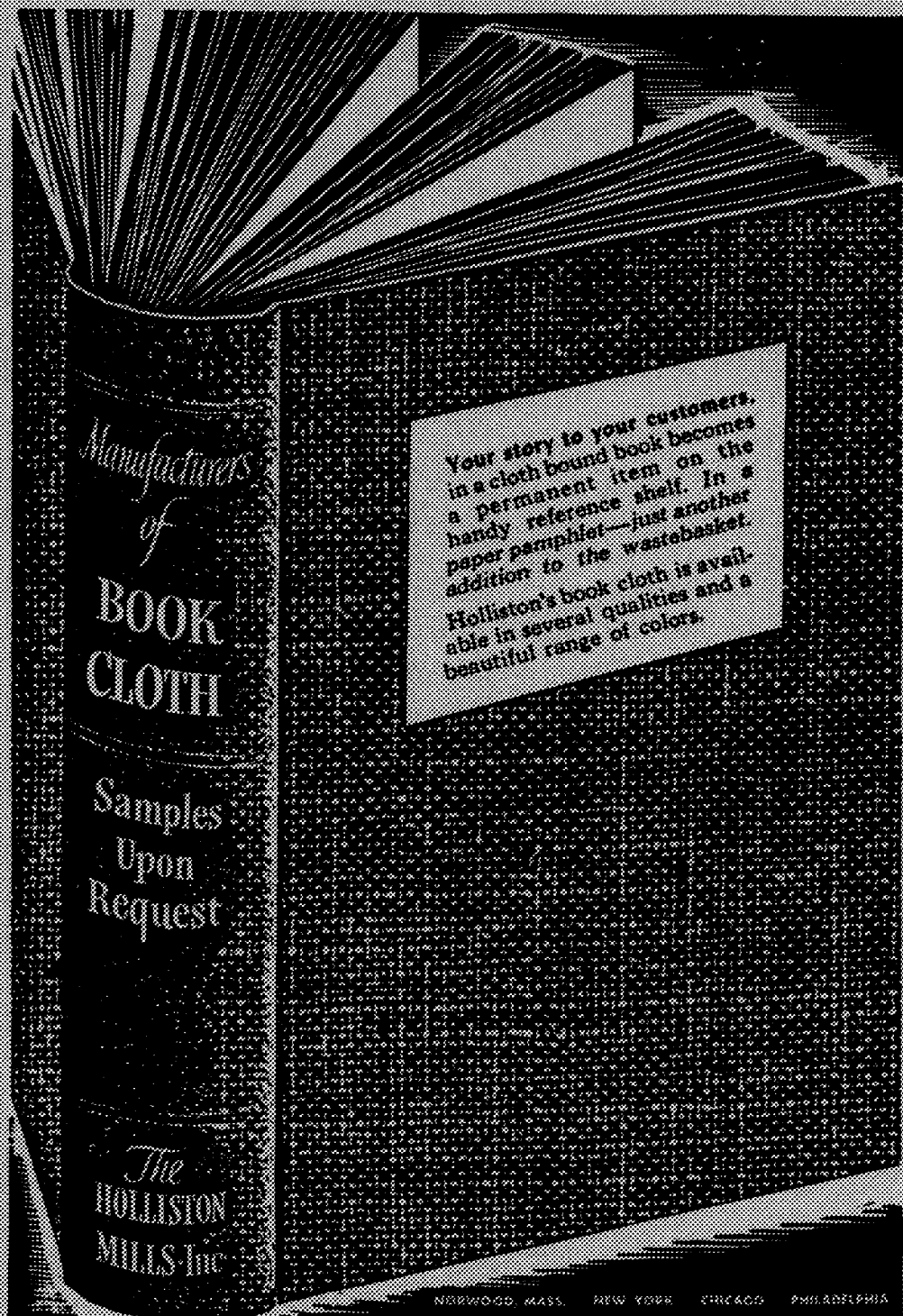
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