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SPECIAL LIBRARIES

"PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK"

VOLUME 24

JULY, 1933

NUMBER 6

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS CHICAGO'S EXPOSITION

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SPECIAL LIBRARIES published monthly March to October, with bi-monthly issues January-February and November-December, by The Special Libraries Association at 10 Ferry Street, Concord, N. H. Editorial, Advertising and Subscription Offices at 345 Hudson Street, New York, N. Y. Subscription price: \$5.00 a year, foreign \$5.50; single copies, 50 cents.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Concord, N. H., under the act of March 3, 1879

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

JULY, 1933

Volume 24

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Number 6

A Century of Progress—Chicago's Exposition

By RUTH G. NICHOLS

Librarian of Federal Reserve Bank, Chicago

ON THE night of May 27th, there sprang into being a fairyland of light and color such as had never been seen before. A faint ray from the star Arcturus furnished the initial impulse to touch off a flash which sent a great beam of light revolving majestically over a group of many-hued buildings. Every one of the 80,000 to 90,000 people who saw it watched with breathless awe, sensing something truly momentous — that their great Fair was a success. While that was a first great historic occasion, still every visitor throughout the duration of the Fair may nightly see the same miracle come to pass.

No one discovery has had such far-reaching effect on the progress of the past century as electricity. We have marched a long way from the Centennial in Philadelphia in 1876, when the telegraph constituted almost the only use of latent electric power and the telephone was only a toy, to the Century of Progress in 1933. The present Fair, more than any other probably, points to the future possibilities of science and invention through electricity, physics and chemistry. It is the purpose of this great Fair to show just what industry has done and can do, if properly guided, to extend health, leisure, knowledge and beauty and create a happier civilization than has hitherto been known.

The dominating feature seems to be the transformation of the new age through electricity. It will affect our daily living, our homes, our businesses, our relationships, our political and social economy in a greatly accelerated degree. Such realization is tremendous, bewildering, frightening at times, but stimulating. Can we march with these great forces, controlling and using them to make our world greater and better or will they overcome us in the end? Today, as we look back, we must admit that a century of dazzling scientific advancement has culminated in unemployment and misery, in chaos, in dictatorship, in loss of faith in old forms of government, economics, religion. Somehow in the new century, we must do better. We must rise to a greater understanding, a more efficient control of the moral and spiritual as well as the material aspects of these forces.

The only individual honored with a memorial at A Century of Progress is Thomas Alva Edison, the "wizard of Menlo Park," who with his dogged patience, subtle insight and creative imagination was more responsible than any other one factor for the strides made in the past few years. Everything about this world's fair is a testimonial to his genius. The movement, the color, the light, the thrill of progress are the heritage he has left to the world.

So completely is the Exposition electrified that engineers and research men are becoming much interested to discover the extent to which the visiting public will appreciate the demonstration as a whole. Development of the numerous types of lighting fixtures for the exposition is expected to prove of inestimable value to commercial electricians in the future. At such a place as A Century of Progress, experimentation with lighting is possible which would not be practical elsewhere. For the reason that the greatest amount of space possible was designed within the buildings, walls have generally been built without windows, making the lighting problem one of special significance.

The educational aspects of the Fair are being emphasized and utilized in another direction. Many of the departments at the University of Chicago, Northwestern University and other schools are offering courses with the special advantage of laboratory work in the Hall of Science, Electrical group, Travel and Transport building and Social Science exhibit. Schools of Commerce and Engineering are particularly stressing the advantages of such a utilization of the Fair's opportunities. Members of science faculties regard the Hall of Science as particularly well adapted for laboratory work. Instructors in art will find the collection of old masters and modern painters available in the Fair's exhibit of paintings and sculpture at the Art Institute, of the greatest interest in their courses. Classes in biological sciences, physical sciences and social sciences will also spend much time at the Fair.

How do libraries and the book world fare at A Century of Progress? This Exposition was conceived and accomplished in a time of severe depression. Against the greatest financial odds its exhibits in the realm of industrial and scientific achievement have been prepared. Educational institutions, social welfare organizations and all the activities having to do with "uplift" in our national life suffer even greater financial curtailment than does industry in times like these. It is a sad commentary on our national viewpoint that many of the organizations most needed to keep our body politic wholesome, sane and morally healthy are the first to be considered "luxuries" and to be cut off from support. To many such organizations was denied the privilege of any representation in this Exposition because of lack of funds.

Under this category come libraries. There is no general library exhibit at the exposition, because of the inability of the A. L. A. to finance the project. And there is no exhibit of S. L. A. because their exhibit was dependent on that of the A. L. A. Only at the last, and reluctantly, did these organizations relinquish their hope of being represented. Nevertheless library work is demonstrated here and there throughout the Fair. Through the courtesy of the Medical Science Division of the Exposition, space was made available to the A. L. A. Committee on Hospital Libraries. The Presbyterian Hospital of Chicago and the American Library Association are cooperating in arranging a model hospital library in miniature, the theme of which will be "Directed Reading Aids Recovery." An electrically operated book wagon, guided by a "hospital librarian" will make the tour of a "ward" so that visitors to the exposition may see just how book service is given to patients. In the Social Science Hall, there has been placed, for exhibit and reference purposes, a collection of about 1,000 books on scientific subjects. These were selected by a committee, headed by Mr. Christian Bay, Librarian of the John Crerar Library, and most of the volumes are a loan from that library. There is also a collection of religious books on display in the Hall of Religion.

On the Midway, the Streets of Paris have their typical book stalls. Also a book-

store has been planned and developed through the energy and initiative of one of Chicago's book dealers — Mr. Adolph Kroch. This is really a model collection of several thousand volumes, over fifty publishers having sent what they consider their outstanding publications for display. In addition to current English and American literature, there are to be collections of German, French, Swiss, Polish, Norwegian, Czechoslovakian and other publications. There will also be representative groups of fine bindings and rare books from some of the best known English binderies.

The Art exhibit of the Exposition is housed in Chicago's Art Institute, outside the Fair grounds. It has been assembled (with one exception) entirely from American sources and the catalog states that "private collectors and the guardians of public collections have been so generous, that, with the significant examples already owned by the Institute, it has been possible to arrange a sequence of the masterpieces of painting, beginning with European works of the thirteenth century and coming down to European and American examples today." The theme of "A Century of Progress" of art must be broadly interpreted to mean, not only art of the last century, but a hundred year's progress in American collecting.

Garden lovers, and it is known that S. L. A. has a large number in its membership, will be delighted with the unique exhibits centering around the Horticultural Building — a picturesque L shaped structure on Northerly Island. Grouped about the building are fifty-two gardens containing all the flowers that can be grown in Chicago. The nation's foremost landscape architects collaborated and all the resources of modern scientific horticulture were brought into play to make these gardens a continual paradise of blossoms.

The exposition site in itself presented many problems to the men selected to develop this modern miracle. All of the acreage is newly made, having been pumped from the bottom of Lake Michigan by sandsuckers and by filling bulkheads. There was no soil suitable for growing plants. It was necessary to bring in thousands of yards of rich prepared top soil. Beneath the surface are miles of drainage pipe and irrigation equipment installed that the grounds might be green and the gardens blooming throughout the summer and fall. Within the Horticultural Building a succession of more than twenty important flower shows will follow each other throughout the duration of the Exposition. During the S. L. A. meeting, the show will be orchids and lilies of the valley.

Volumes could and probably will be written about the architecture of this fair. It is one of the main features which marks its originality. At first it may seem merely daring and bizarre, but the innovations here, as in all other things, have not been used merely in an effort to secure novelty or stunt effects. Experimentation, with an eye and a thought to future uses, has been the guiding motive. Just as the dome of the transportation building is suspended in order to give greater unobstructed exhibit space, so the architecture of other buildings is designed to fit the materials used and the purpose of the structure. Color and light, too, will have a new significance as the hand maidens of architecture in the building era which will follow this fair.

Dramatization of scientific processes is one of the main elements of this Exposition. Instead of seeing rows of static exhibits, as fairs of the past have presented, visitors to Chicago's 1933 Exposition will witness not so much products as processes. Motion and dramatization tell the story of how the world of science and industry works. And the dependence of industry, manufacture and commerce upon the pure sciences

is demonstrated as mathematics and physics, chemistry, biology, medicine and geology become living, dramatic explanations of nature's mysteries.

There are provided also yardsticks from the past by which to gauge the progress we have made, such as the reconstructions of huge, prehistoric monsters, the great Mayan temple, the gorgeous Chinese Golden Pavilion of Jehol, the pageantry of transportation from crude wagons to the finest trains, automobiles and airplanes, the log-hewn cabin birthplace of Abraham Lincoln to the pre-fabricated homes of tomorrow.

The carnival spirit, that is an essential part of all successful fairs, has been fully provided for. The 1933 Fair caters to a far more sophisticated public than past expositions, for motion pictures and the press have familiarized every hamlet of the country with the strange and amusing sights of the world. The crowds of 1933 do not gape as those of 1893 did, but they apparently do enjoy the entertainment which is provided. In the face of scoffing and doubt, Chicago's "White City" in 1893 brought amazement and delight to more millions than have ever attended any other exposition in this country. In 1933, they bid fair to repeat and even to exceed that achievement.

A Message from the Illinois Chapter

TUESDAY, October 17, 1933, has been chosen as "Special Libraries Day" at the World's Fair, and is so listed in the official publication of the World's Fair Special Events Division which is circulated all over the country. As we will first "officially" visit the World's Fair on that evening the Program Committee is planning a dinner party and journey to the Fair in celebration of "Special Libraries Day."

"Our Part in a New Century of Progress" is the inspiring theme of the 1933 S. L. A. Convention. A wonderful century of progress has just passed. The Chicago World's Fair is the living and breathing manifestation "all under one cover" of what we of the world have been accomplishing for a hundred years. To look forward with vision and inspiration to what we shall accomplish in the coming century is our main thought. S. L. A. must be ready to launch its own little part in the "new century" when we gather together in Chicago. We must allow no lull in our progress and must double our vigor toward putting S. L. A. well on the map of progress.

For the first time in three years, S. L. A. is holding its Convention jointly with A. L. A. We are looking forward to the advantages and pleasure that our joint meetings with A. L. A. always afford us. The Stevens Hotel which is headquarters, October 16-21, is only two blocks down Michigan Avenue from S. L. A. headquarters at the Congress Hotel. With this convenient arrangement, a wonderful, stimulating conference is ahead for you. Ideas, friends, and fun are waiting for you in Chicago. Be with us!

MARION MEAD, *President*



Two Reasons for Going to Chicago in October

S. L. A. Convention and A Century of Progress

OCTOBER 16th will find Chicago the mecca of the library profession. Will you be there? You can't really afford to overlook this supreme opportunity.

A program, well-balanced and interesting, is now being arranged. We have been very fortunate in securing a man who has for the past five years been an adviser and planner for A Century of Progress and has a reputation as a lecturer and sociologist — Allen D. Albert. The remaining parts of the program are to be arranged so that sufficient time will be allowed to visit, not only libraries and the Century of Progress, but also participate in the meetings of the A. L. A. which is meeting at the same time just across the way — the Stevens Hotel.

Visiting the Century of Progress exhibition grounds, you will see the dramatization of the achievements of mankind made possible through the application of science to industry in a most modern, beautiful and interesting presentation. The hundreds of added amusements and features which give you much enjoyment can be "sandwiched" in while visiting the exposition.

The Chicago librarians are willing to stake their reputation in extending an invitation to come to Chicago during the convention and promising you a program and three days full of entertaining and interesting trips never to be forgotten.

Mark Your Calendar—October 16th–18th

CHICAGO!

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Tentative Schedule

	<i>Morning Session</i> 10:00–12:00	<i>Afternoon Session</i> 2:15–4:30	<i>Evening</i>
Monday October 16th	Group Meetings: Insurance Group Museum Group Newspaper Group	General Session	Banquet 6:30–8:00 Joint Meeting with A. L. A. A. L. A. Reception
Tuesday October 17th	Business Session	Business Session	Sightseeing Tour — World's Fair
Wednesday October 18th	Group Meetings: Civic-Social Group Commercial-Technical	Group Meetings: Financial Group Museum Group Reception and Tea Art Institute, 5:00–6:30	Free

Some of Our Members and What They Do

MARY BOSTWICK DAY

Formerly of the National Safety Council, now Librarian of The Museum of Science and Industry

"CHICAGO has answered the age-old call of the youth of seven to seventy in a new way. It has opened to the public a treasure-house of mechanical wonders—a great museum of science and engineering, where visitors can push buttons and pull levers to their hearts' content, and see and hear the answer to the eternal question of the mechanical age—Why, and how does it work? It is a museum of the new age, an age in which things move. Such, in brief is the new Museum of Science and Industry, founded by Julius Rosenwald, which now occupies part of the remodeled Fine Arts Building in Jackson Park. The vast interior of the building, designed to accommodate the planned exhibits and the library will not be completed until 1935. However ten per cent of the building is now ready for the Century of Progress. The Library now consists of some 10,000 volumes devoted to the history of the sciences and industries; it has been an active factor in the building up of the present Museum. Two panels in the new building will portray the future of the Museum Library and its relation to the Museum of tomorrow. Recently the librarian gave a lecture to the thirty new guides and guards on the Museum Library and its scope. A supplementary reading list on museum work was supplied to each member of the class. After the talk and the completion of their required reading, an examination was held. This was only one of many methods which have been used to cement the library with the Museum and its problems.

EDITH MATTSON

Chairman of our Program Committee and Librarian of The Commonwealth Edison Company

OUR Library was established in 1902 for the purpose of collecting all available material bearing on the various phases of the public utility industry, especially in the electric light and power field, and making this information accessible to its employees. Thus it has become a technical reference library with research work as its primary function.

The books on its shelves number about 6,500, including a valuable collection of proceedings of various technical societies, many of them from their inception, as well as bound volumes of technical periodicals from the beginning of

publication in some cases. About 150 magazines are received currently. These resources together with an alphabetical subject file of pamphlets and miscellaneous material form the nucleus of the Library.

JOSEPH CONFORTI

A former Vice President and chairman of many Committees.

THE technical material of the Library of The Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company consists mostly of information on engineering subjects such as chemistry, physics, gas engineering, fuels, heating and ventilation, statistics, etc.

Business subjects covered are advertising and selling; bookkeeping, accounting and auditing; office and works management, business correspondence, personnel; statistics; economics; etc.

Public utility material includes commission reports, opinions, orders and standards of service; valuation and rate practice; municipal; customer, and employee ownership, etc.

Miscellanies comprise general reference works, such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, and directories; indexes to current technical periodicals and catalogs of books in print; government publications, especially those of the Bureaus of Census, Labor, Mines, and Standards; and bound volumes of chemical and gas journals.

The collection on the History of the Gas Industry is believed to be the most complete in the middle west. It includes many of the 300 volumes on gas history purchased from Leon P. Lowe, whose father, Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, invented the carburetted water gas process and donated the observatory bearing his name on Mount Lowe, in the Sierra Madre Mountains of California, to the top of which he also built a railway.

ETHELDRED ABBOT

Active leader of the Museum Group

THE Ryerson and Burnham reference libraries of the Art Institute of Chicago with 28, 165 and 6,039 volumes respectively, fill an important part in the educational resources of the city. Their founding and continued growth are due to the foresight and generosity of its citizens. The numerous colleges and universities refer their students to these libraries for courses in architecture, fine arts, textiles, costume, and the history of civilization. Artists, designers and

the public generally may use the collection freely. For the Staff of the Museum, the Faculty and students of the Art Institute School the libraries are an essential laboratory.

In 1901 the late Mr. Martin A. Ryerson gave the building which forms so appropriate a setting for the books in which he was vitally interested. During his lifetime he contributed regularly towards its growth. The Library has a small endowment, but depends upon the budget of the Art Institute and gifts from friends from year to year. The notable collection of Japanese and Chinese illustrated books and the descriptive printed catalog of them were largely the gift of Mr. Ryerson.

Daniel H. Burnham at his death in 1912 left an endowment for a library of architecture which has become through careful buying and the generosity of other donors one of the best in the country. It contains special collections — drawings and manuscripts by Louis H. Sullivan; volumes from the collection of Fontaine & Percier, architects to Napoleon. Both libraries have many complete sets of periodicals. A large reference and circulating collection of photographs, color prints and slides covers the fine and decorative arts.

CARRIE MAUDE JONES

Degree of Master of Business Administration conferred upon her at the June commencement of Northwestern University

THE largest collection of information on real estate practices and problems in the world is to be found in the library of the National Association of Real Estate Boards. The writing of books and pamphlets on this particular phase of business is a recent development and it was not until 1924 that the National Association began to collect its embryo library. At that time all existing books on real estate could easily be placed on a three foot shelf with room to spare. In the brief span of eight years several hundred books have made their appearance, many of these at the instigation of the National Association.

Thousands of pamphlets, articles and speeches are included in the files of this library, forming the most valuable part of the collection. Bound magazines and current issues of approximately 150 periodicals are available for use. The only existing complete file of the National Real Estate Journal is to be found here. The interests of the "realtor" may be judged by the range of subjects covered in this library as material can be furnished on approximately 3,000 subjects dealing with real estate.

Since the National Association is a federation

of local real estate boards in over 500 cities in the country, the membership of these boards is served with information direct from the national librarian. Cooperation is also given to the public, to students and to other libraries. Research problems are investigated by the librarian from information gathered from local real estate men and is disseminated through pamphlets and bulletins.

ELEANOR CONWAY

A frequent contributor to the Museum Group columns

JUST a year ago the Chicago Historical Society moved to its new home in Lincoln Park. The collections of Chicago's treasures which have been gradually brought together since the Library was destroyed in the Fire are now cared for in the manner of caring for treasures. In the reading room, enclosed cases of early American design protect and at the same time display some of the choice volumes of Illinois and Chicago lore. A modern stackroom where a ventilating system keeps the air properly changed does much toward keeping material from becoming dust laden. Here shelf after shelf of biographies, reminiscences, pioneer sketches, files of reports of clubs and organizations hold the story of Chicago's marvelous growth. And there is a large vault where are kept original documents, letters, account books, manuscript maps and other sources shedding interesting sidelights on local and national development. These range from official documents to personal letters and notes, mementos of pioneer life. A charming colonial reading room provides space for thirty readers and off to one side are cubicles for those who would be students.

LUCILE L. KECK

Member of Civics Social Group

THE Joint Reference Library was founded by the American Legislators' Association, the American Municipal Association, the American Public Welfare Association, the International City Managers' Association, Municipal Finance Officers' Association, and the Public Administration Clearing House, as a joint enterprise in May 1932. Of the cooperating organizations, five are housed at 850 East 58th Street, Chicago, with the sixth located at only a short distance. Each organization is continually collecting reports, statistical data, and pamphlet material which it is difficult for the ordinary library to secure. In addition, each subscribes to, or receives on an exchange basis, a large number of periodicals

and books. More than three hundred and fifty periodical publications are received by the group

The very nature of these organizations indicates the fact that overlapping in the acquisition and disposal of material would be inevitable unless the administration were in the hands of a single agency. Such centralization puts the informational facilities of each organization at the disposal of the other five, and eliminates duplication of effort in collecting material. Each organization possesses some specific material which it finds necessary to keep in its own office, but the major part of the collection is stored in the library proper, and a centralized index is kept in the library

The library publishes weekly a classed bibliography of accessions and significant current periodical articles, which is distributed by several of the supporting organizations to about 500 of their constituents.

MILDRED A. BURKE

Chairman of Newspaper Group

THE Tribune Library has been planned and organized to be of practical benefit to an almost century old newspaper. The publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, Colonel Robert R. McCormick, has defined a newspaper as "An institution developed by modern civilization to present the news of the day, to foster commerce and industry, to inform and lead public opinion, and to furnish that check upon government which no constitution has ever been able to provide." The changing flash of events, especially in the last three months, has called for much rapid fire information about currency, inflation, banking legislation, and financial statistics. The fast moving political stage in Washington has brought many requests for legislative bills, including the industrial recovery act, sales and income tax material, statistics regarding the cost of government, taxation figures, relief measures, reparations and debts. There has been and is always an abundance of spot news and the Library aids in the speed in publication of news and facilitates the work of the writers in what that great newspaper figure, Joseph Medill, considered the foremost work of a paper when he said, "Get the News."

If the latest material is not obtainable in the Library, it is readily supplied from the many fine special libraries in Chicago. During 1932 the Tribune Library borrowed 2,000 books, magazines and reports from the Chicago Public Library, University and other Libraries. Clippings, government reports, new books, and other printed matter are used daily by the advertising and financial writers.

Clippings, books, reports, state and national legislative bills, magazines and surveys aid them in their work. The clippings filed under subjects are so arranged that the news worker can refer to the political and other records of the past, as well as present.

The greater use of the Library by the news writers proves that they recognize and appreciate the material which aids in the accuracy, speed and quality of work produced with these references at hand. Although the Library is primarily intended for use of the *Tribune* staff many students, historians, and business men turn to the files of the paper for the material which meets their needs.

MARY M. WELLS

Librarian of the National Safety Council

OURS is a highly specialized compilation of the accident experience of this country and to some extent the world at large. It is unique in that it records only safety experience, with such allied subjects as industrial health and psychology. Practically everything that has been written on accident prevention is on our shelves or in our files. We have a photographic department which rivals a newspaper "morgue." Our safety poster file goes clear back through the years to No. 1, issued in 1913 when the Council was organized and includes a most interesting assortment of foreign posters. Our engineering files are filled with technical expositions and charts and graphs galore.

As we conduct a rather heavy correspondence with safety leaders in many foreign countries, our six librarians and assistants must have not only a broad safety educational background but some facility in interpreting and translating. In addition to countless staff requests we receive an average of 700 inquiries each month from our 4,000 members in this and other countries. The goal of the National Safety Council is "Universal Safety" and it is good to know that our Library is playing an important part in bringing about its realization.

RUTH G. NICHOLS

Advisory Editor of this issue of Special Libraries

THE Federal Reserve Banks of the country are charged by law with reporting the credit conditions and needs of their districts to the Federal Reserve Board at Washington. To carry on this work each Bank maintains a department of Research & Statistics, the main function of which is to assemble statistics and publish monthly business conditions reviews and an

annual report. The Federal Reserve Board at Washington has a similar organization. As most of the Federal Reserve Banks and the Board maintain financial libraries as a part of this statistical organization, the special library has therefore had especially favorable opportunity for development in the Federal Reserve System.

The functions of the library in the Chicago bank are to serve the Research Division, the officers of the bank, its employees, the member banks, and other outsiders as we can. It is strictly a financial and banking library, with considerable material on the industries of the Chicago section and such general material as our work calls for. It does not contain much material on investment banking.

We have a deposit collection from the Chicago Public Library for our employees and circulate about 1,000 books a month. This entitles us to the short loan privilege, in which connection we have received wonderful cooperation from the Public Library. We have a staff of four, a chief librarian, a cataloger and reference librarian and

two assistants in charge of files and the deposit library.

MARION MEAD

President, Illinois Chapter, S. L. A. and newly elected Secretary-Treasurer of Chicago chapter of American Statistical Association

THE chamber of commerce library should be termed a "general special library"—it is a vest-pocket edition of a public library. It does not specialize in any one subject or any group of similar subjects. It tries to keep material, in small amount, on every subject possible. Our Library is for the use of the 4,000 members of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, and as the membership includes representatives from every industry, profession, and type of business in Illinois, the library and research department must keep on file information as diversified as its large membership.

Besides the reference collection the library keeps material and documents on hand for free distribution to its members.

"Directory of Libraries of the Chicago Area"

CHICAGO LIBRARY CLUB, 1933

A New Directory Listing 437 Libraries in the Chicago Area Presents Evidence of City's Claim as a Leading Library Center of the United States

THE Chicago Library Club has just published a most complete, attractive and up-to-date directory of the libraries of the Chicago Area, including historical sketches of the four local library organizations, one of which is the Illinois Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

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- North Shore Library Club, by Nelle A. Olson
- Directory of Libraries of the Chicago Area
 - Public libraries (tax-supported)
 - High school and other secondary school libraries
 - University and college libraries including professional schools
 - Special libraries
- Subject Index to Collections

This directory is recommended to special libraries and librarians. Those who expect to visit Chicago for the S. L. A. Convention and the Century of Progress in October will find this handbook an excellent guide in selecting libraries to visit.

Orders should be sent direct to Jerome K. Wilcox, John Crerar Library, Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Price 60 cents.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Our Part in A Century of Progress

IT IS a nice coincidence that makes us consider plans for our October program in Chicago at just the same time that industry is looking itself over, setting up codes and talking in specific terms of the New Deal. We in S. L. A. should not be at all in tune with the times if we failed to ponder our past and appraise our future opportunities. We, too, must be ready for the New Deal — what part do we wish to play in it?

What are we, as individuals and as an Association, going to amount to in the new order? As to the importance of research everyone is in agreement. If the librarian can sense the needs, be thoroughly familiar and constantly in touch with the sources of data in his field, understand his company's problems and have the complete confidence of all units in his organization, then the individual librarian's place is secure. But the Association's problem is difficult because, to progress, S. L. A. must somehow arouse in members almost as much interest and professional zeal as they have for their own paid jobs. Our greatest present problem in S. L. A. is to find a way to persuade members that they have an individual responsibility to their profession and that, by doing their share for the Association that is constantly working for their profession, they insure their own future. Talking at Chicago is not enough. It is thinking before we meet that I want.

It would be a brave person who would attempt to prophesy very far ahead, so I shall only mention a few urgent, vital things we might do right now. At my request, a writer, thoroughly in touch with informational needs in many fields, has presented a brief to our Association showing what S. L. A. might do to help business men and

to make ourselves known to the world. He suggests basic lists of books on all the important business and economic problems, reviews and opinions on new material, advice to corporations on organizing and operating small information files even before they can afford a librarian. All this material should appear regularly in the better trade magazines. Who in S. L. A. is to prepare such material?

Our local chapters could be analyzing opportunities for new libraries and sponsoring an unemployment program in their community, could be discussing practical problems in a way to help the entire profession. Our Groups could be preparing annotated lists of the basic books in their fields; could be at work preparing publications of our own. More people should contribute to this magazine, *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, so that it might reflect the entire association.

Do we realize that the new National Industrial Recovery Act gives trade associations a responsibility hitherto undreamed of? If they are truly to represent their industries, they must have information, few of them have functioning special libraries and must organize them quickly. S. L. A. is the only existing group to help in this program.

At our coming Convention we are going to discuss all these matters in order to reach conclusions that will decide the immediate future of S. L. A. I urge each of you to prepare for this Chicago meeting. In the new "Century of Progress" what shall be our part? Based on the wishes of the majority, your officers will then know how to plan for the role S. L. A. is to play in the new order.

MARY LOUISA ALEXANDER

The Philadelphia Council

FOR the last two consecutive years June 17th has seemed to be Affiliation Day. In 1932 at Lake Placid, the Montreal Association sent Miss Maude Martin with a request for Affiliation, and this year on that day at Briarcliff Mr. Rigling, chairman of the Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia was represented by Mrs. Gertrude Maxwell, chairman of the Policy Committee. S. L. A. was delighted to receive Mrs. Maxwell though our Philadelphia members have contributed to national affairs so constantly and generously that such action seems only a pleasant formality — the Council has always been one of us.

If Affiliation Day is to become traditional, may we be allowed to wonder why the special librarians of Connecticut do not prepare for the joys of organization and follow this good example of the Philadelphia Council — June 17th, 1934?

WHO'S WHO

Alfred Rigling

WHEN word came of Mr Rigling's election as chairman of the Special Library Council of Philadelphia for the third consecutive year, we placed that on a par with the other pleasant honors that have come to him these last few months. On June 21st the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon him by the University of Pennsylvania. On May 17th he was recipient of an Honorary Membership from the Franklin Institute where for fifty years he has given such constant and valuable service. At present he is making plans for the library to be housed in the new building that is now under construction on the Parkway. In addition to being



an active member of S. L. A. for many years, he gives generously of his interest to the American Library Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, National Geographical Society, Pennsylvania Library Association, Pennsylvania Library Club, Special Libraries Council of Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, City History Society, Rittenhouse Astronomical Society and the Franklin Institute.

Born in Philadelphia, August 1868, Mr. Rigling's one hobby has been its early history, many items of which have been brought to light through his constant researches.

Snips and Snipes Goes to the Conference

Questions — a week later. . . . Why does a pleasant day (*i.e.* June 17) pass so quickly? Although we got to Briarcliff before 10 in the morning and didn't leave until after 10 at night, our day was gone before we had much more than turned around. . . . How does the Editor expect us to put twelve crowded hours onto one page? . . . And why weren't we bright enough to take notes! . . .

Statistics. . . . About 125 people attended the one day Regional Conference. Some of the more opulent arrived at Briarcliff on Friday and the disgustingly wealthy stayed over the Sabbath as well. . . . There were three speeches in the morning session and eight in the afternoon. Florence Grant made the longest speech and Lyda Broomhall the shortest. Six states were represented. We personally spoke to Connecticut in the person of Mrs. Bevan, Rhode Island in Mr. Brigham, Pennsylvania in Mrs. Maxwell, New Jersey in Miss Clement. As for New York, President Hausdorfer must have felt like the old woman who lived in a shoe — if you know what

we mean Miss Claflin came all the way from Cleveland but was too exhausted to attend all meetings. The best we could do for Ohio was to pass along greetings through Rebecca Rankin to Miss Claflin. . . .

Easy on the Eye. . . . We operate on the assumption that our Specials are intelligent and efficient (very!). It's such a relief to take a day off and examine them with a Ziegfeldian eye and rediscover that many of them are ornamental as well. Proof? — Well, you saw Eleanor Cavanaugh in that blue frock, didn't you? and Elizabeth Wray looking eighteen in a hard blue hat and a shirt waist dress, Marguerite Burnett like "A Portrait of a Lady in White Lace", Nelle Barmore's saucy red jacket and saucier red shoes. Secretary Rankin in a green evening dress, Lillian Scardefield in blue and white looking like the first cool sip. Florence Bradley with that lovely head topping a soft print, and President Alexander dressed in what ought to be compulsory. . . .

We liked. . . . Mr. John Flynn's square face and the straightforward things he told us about

special libraries and where they fell down. We liked the idea of "a roaming researcher" riding from library to library for his facts. . . . We liked Mr. Ordway Tead's slightly caustic tone. We were interested in his plan for spreading light among our users and wondered what some of our hard-boiled sisters thought of it. . . . We liked to hear Margery Quigley say her public library could not get along without our directory of special libraries. . . .

Clinic . . . We confess and are heartily ashamed and sorry but all we heard of the afternoon meeting was Editor Bradley's closing statement that she had received three (3) letters about the magazine in all the months of her editing and President Alexander's Roland that that was three more than she had received about her entire administration. We listened to Marguerite Burnett's entertaining account of the Clinic. During the applause we crept silently away. . . .

Divertissement. . . . On the merits of the evening's entertainment, written and staged by Aina Ebbesen and Marjorie Church Burbank, we refuse to commit ourself. After all there are limits! However we *can* say the impresarios turned up an unusually good and good-looking crop of actors Emily Dean, Nelle Barmore and Marjorie Burbank made devastating belles of the period of the Columbian Exposition. As for the impersonators of the Baby Parade, if we were one of the dignitaries taken off, we'd watch our step. The Babies are very perspicacious! Margaret Kehl's voice and Beatrice Hager's indefatigable fingers must have been a boon to the authors. And if you've never heard Isabella M. Cooper

being a Master of Ceremonies, you'll have to take our word for it, she's swell. . . .

Snippets. . . . Enid Hawkin's beaming face as she told us she had given up an important faculty wedding to attend the Conference. . . . Ruth Savord's homeless condition after she had given up her room to the conspirators of the evening. . . . Gertrude Peterkin's gracious supervision of the dinner seating. . . . The place cards. . . . Mary Cox sewing lace on Helen Craig's costume for dear life and never asking a question. . . . Mary Parker from a completely recumbent position giving advice. . . . Marjorie Burbank's and Aina Ebbesen's harried and hollow faces. . . . Linda Morley whooping — and when we say whooping we mean whooping — when Baby Linda came out in the Baby Parade. . . . Mr. Fletcher having his mind made up for him. . . . The Public Librarians who came to see and remained to enjoy the *Divertissement*. . . . The large delegation from Standard Statistics; the larger one from Metropolitan Life. . . . Nelle Barmore's red wig! Marjorie Burbank's blonde wig!! Elizabeth Wray's Harpo Marx wig!!! . . . The shock of seeing Dorothy Avery who looked all of seven playing pool with a cigarette hanging out of the corner of her mouth. . . . The Laven-dar Birthday Party for Miss Alexander, complete except for the guest of honor. . . .

L'envoi. . . . To this commentator, the Conference was the success it promised to be. (Remarks about the weather are out of order.) With Briarcliff as a foretaste of what a sure-nough convention will be, — Chicago, HERE WE COME. . . .

EVENTS and PUBLICATIONS

Editor: Margaret Bonnell

GUY E. MARION, Manager of the Research Department of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, is responsible for the compilation of 189 statistical studies made during the year 1932. A mimeographed list of these statistical studies shows them to cover a wide variety of industrial and business subjects. The statistical sheets are filed in accordance with Dewey Decimal classification. Any of these may be secured gratis from Mr. Marion.

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A 32-page pamphlet of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce on "Scrip and Barter, Their Uses and Their Service" describes types of

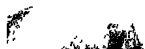
scrip, its successful use and objections to it. The extension of this system of exchange is indicated by the existence in February of about 300 barter organizations and 100 groups using scrip.

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Current Tax Review is a monthly digest for business and professional men, acquainting them with changes and interpretations of Federal and State tax laws. It is published by the National Library Press, 1440 Broadway, and costs \$2.50 a year.

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The British Library of Information is obtaining from H. M. Stationery Office, London, for whom



they are the American agents, a number of copies of the "Brief Guide to Government Publications" for distribution. "The Brief Guide" which is sometimes referred to by its sub-title — "His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1786-1925" — was prepared for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1925 where the Stationery Office had a display of official publications. A copy will be sent to any library sending 5¢ to cover postage.

Attention is also directed to changes which have been made in the official catalogues of government publications. The "Consolidated List of Government Publications, 1932" has been furnished with a contents list which should prove helpful to those not acquainted with the arrangement of the List and the index has been much expanded; the British Library, however, warns that the index is not exhaustive. The "Monthly Circular, A Selection from Recent Publications" has been entirely recast; the more noticeable changes are in type and the increased number of broad heads under which publications are grouped and with the descriptive notes on the more important titles they combine to make the "Circular" still more useful as an ordering tool. The Consolidated List or the Monthly Circular will be sent free upon request to the British Library of Information, 270 Madison Avenue, New York City.

The British Library also informs us that a revised scale of exchange discounts has been worked out for British official publications in the United States which it is hoped will result in a reduction in cost to the purchaser. The prices charged are intended to cover all postages, allowances for fluctuations in exchange and losses in transit, &c. To arrive at the American selling price, the sterling prices are converted at gold parity and discounts are allowed on the resulting dollar figures according to a scale varying with the dollar-sterling exchange and the size of the order.

* * *

Something new in the way of "Guides to Business Facts and Figures" is S. L. A.'s latest publication. It is for special and public librarians, business men and research workers in the business field and aims to serve as a key to current data and as a buying list for individual requirements, emphasizing the less known business reference sources. A feature which is likely to prove particularly valuable is the comprehensive subject index which groups all sources containing data on each topic even though it may not be specifically mentioned in the main annotated entries which are classified in eight main groups. General Indices,

STATE AND MUNICIPAL BONDS

By W. L. Raymond

The 1932 Edition presents sound criteria for judging state and municipal securities.

Price \$4.50

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9 Newbury Street Boston, Mass.

Statistics, Financial, Income, Wages and Cost of Living, Foreign Commerce, Transportation and Communication, Business Management, and Marketing, indicate the scope of this reference tool.

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MISS SARAH DE H. KINNEY

MISS SARAH DE HART KINNEY, daughter of the late Capt. and Mrs. D. C. Kinney, of Nashville, died May 30, 1933, and was buried in Mount Calvary cemetery, Nashville, Tenn.

Miss Kinney was a graduate of Peabody college and was librarian at the United States forest products laboratory, Madison, Wis., for seventeen years. She left the government service to become library specialist in New York City. She also was noted for her work in reorganizing and cataloging a number of large libraries for colleges and private institutions.

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