

Syracuse University

**SURFACE**

---

The Courier

Libraries

---

Winter 1978

## Library Associates: 1968-1978 Transition and Renewal

Elizabeth Mozley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://surface.syr.edu/libassoc>



Part of the [American Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Mozley, Elizabeth. "Library Associates: 1968-1978 Transition and Renewal." *The Courier* 15.4 (1978): 28-32.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Libraries at SURFACE. It has been accepted for inclusion in *The Courier* by an authorized administrator of SURFACE. For more information, please contact [surface@syr.edu](mailto:surface@syr.edu).



THE LOWER YOSEMITE FALLS

*From a Carleton E. Watkins album at Syracuse University*

# THE COURIER

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

Volume XV, Number 4, 1978

# *Table of Contents*

**Winter 1978**

Page

Carleton E. Watkins, Photographer: 1829-1916 by Amy S. Doherty	3
Notes from a Cartoonist by Edward D. Kuekes	21
Library Associates: 1968-1978 Transition and Renewal by Elizabeth Mozley	28
News of the Library and Library Associates	33

## *Library Associates: 1968-1978 Transition and Renewal*

by Elizabeth Mozley

After fifteen years of growth and change, it was apparent that Library Associates needed to amend its constitution. The chairman of the Constitution Committee, Mr. Frank Love, first presented a new constitution to the Board of Trustees in the fall of 1968. He suggested that changes be made to increase the Board membership to thirty-three, to raise the membership donation to at least \$15.00, and to add a membership committee.

Mr. Warren Boes, the director of Libraries, suggested that there should also be a permanent fund-raising committee. An Advisory Board was created to serve as an adjunct to the Board of Trustees, to consist of former Board members whose interest in the library was still strong.

Chancellor William P. Tolley, who had instigated the founding of Library Associates, retired in 1969. Dr. Tolley's strong personal interest in Library Associates had had a decisive influence on the accomplishments of the group, particularly in the development of the rare book collection and the George Arents Library. Fortunately for Library Associates, Chancellor Emeritus Tolley has retained his interest in Library Associates, though in an unofficial capacity.

When the new chancellor, Dr. John E. Corbally, Jr., attended his first Library Associates' Board meeting in October 1969, the organization was spending its entire membership income for the purchase of books. The university covered operating expenses. The Treasurer's Report of October 2, 1969 stated that since 1954 Library Associates members had contributed \$126,043.76, not including gifts-in-kind. But operating costs had in recent years become double the income from membership. Members making cash donations had declined, in fact, to 137 by 1970, from 309 in 1968. Treasurer Frank Wingate had often suggested that Library Associates should exercise fiscal restraint in expenditures for rare books and should find a way to increase income.

---

*Elizabeth Mozley* is executive secretary of Library Associates and editor of *The Courier*. Material for this article was taken from the Minutes of Library Associates meetings in the Syracuse University Archives. This is the last of three chapters in Volume XV, 1978, of *The Courier*.



**DR. ADRIAN VAN SINDEREN AND MR. DAVID A. FRASER**  
Past chairmen of Syracuse University Library Associates.

Planning for the move to the new Bird Library was under way, occupancy being expected in September 1971. To relieve the library director of the burden of extra work, Dr. Howard Applegate, head of the newly formed George Arents Research Library for Special Collections, became executive secretary of Library Associates.

By the fall meeting of 1970, Library Associates had entered a period of re-assessment and transition. Mr. David Fraser, who had been chairman since 1963, resigned. He was succeeded by Dr. Benjamin

J. Lake, who still holds the office. The university was no longer willing to underwrite with such generosity such a small group. The Board of Trustees realized that Library Associates must become self-supporting within two years.

Discussion and plans centered on cutting expenses and increasing membership. *The Courier*, being a major expense was the subject of debate. Its high quality and usefulness to the libraries served as its defense, eloquently pleaded by the Publications Chairman, Mrs. Antje Lemke.

Mr. Chester Soling, Membership Committee chairman, spoke of plans to broaden the membership to include those outside the university. Further, he proposed that Library Associates should interest itself in all the Syracuse University Libraries, rather than only the George Arents Research Library. A number of his suggestions are now a regular part of Library Associates' program: membership cards which allow library borrowing privileges, lectures and luncheons, and occasional trips.

Efforts to increase membership would be supplemented by fund-raising activities. The Finance Committee felt that acquisitions goals needed to be fixed, and that it was important to work more closely with the university Development Office. A brochure was needed, and by 1972, the brochures and membership cards still used today, were ready for distribution.

To offset the cost of *The Courier*, Library Associates financed the publication of some special reprints, particularly a two-color brochure on the Studebaker collection, for sale to the general public. The reprints were attractive, but the project was dropped.

In 1971, Melvin A. Eggers became Chancellor of Syracuse University. Chancellor Eggers conceived the Library Associates as a friends of the library group, similar to those of the Law and Journalism Schools. He was interested in seeing the Associates become a strong library support group.

In 1972, Mr. Mayfield retired and Miss Arsiné Schmavonian became editor of *The Courier* and then executive secretary, following, after a time, the resignation of Dr. Howard Applegate from the University Libraries. The new library building opening had been delayed to fall 1972. Plans were being made for dedication ceremonies in the spring of 1973.\* It was expected that the new building would attract new interest in the library and increase Library Associates' membership.

---

\*Special issues of *The Courier* were prepared for the opening in the fall of 1972. Another issue had to be published for the dedication on April 6, 1973. (See *The Courier*, IX, 4-X, 1, 1972: Dedication Issue; and X, 4, 1973: Commemorative Issue)





**DR. BENJAMIN J. LAKE**  
Present chairman of Syracuse University Library Associates.

Library Associates was given a home in the new building, Room 611, where the office has since been located. The room was the gift of the family of William Cornell Blanding and Helen Butler Blanding, in their memory. It was a generous and appropriate gift, for Mrs. Blanding, S.U. '15, had been a charter member of Library Associates' Board of Trustees and both Blandings had a great interest in Syracuse University.

The membership campaign of 1972, directed by Miss Betsy Knapp, was aggressive and successful, bringing one hundred-fifty new members. The programs, organized by Mrs. J. Howland Auchincloss, attracted between one and two hundred people each. So, because of strenuous effort on the part of these two Membership and Program Committee chairmen and certain other trustees: Mr. Henry Bannister, Mrs. Antje

Lemke, Dr. Benjamin J. Lake, Mr. Frank Love, and Dr. Mary Marshall, Library Associates survived a drastic change, a crisis.

Miss Schmavonian had retired in early 1973. Library Associates was kept alive that summer by the Executive Committee despite the lack of an executive secretary and the lack of financial support from the university. Vice-Chancellor Newell Rossman encouraged them, saying that Chancellor Eggers had agreed to a limited amount of support to assist Library Associates in recovering from the changes of the past three years.

Meanwhile, Mr. Metod Milac had become acting director of Libraries, succeeding Mr. Boes, who had resigned.

In the fall of 1973, Elizabeth Mozley became executive secretary and editor of the *The Courier*.

With renewed support from the chancellor, with an office supplied by the library, and with an executive secretary to coordinate the programs, Library Associates began to increase its activities and improve its finances.

The new constitution, first presented to the trustees five years before, had at last been drafted, reflecting the changes in structure and philosophy since that time. It was approved at the fall 1974 meeting.

In the summer of 1974, a new director of Libraries, Mr. Donald C. Anthony, had been introduced to the trustees. At the fall meeting that year, he witnessed the beginning of a fund drive that within a year had raised \$12,514.00. An Endowment Fund was established with five thousand dollars of this, the remainder was used to purchase library materials — the first time in several years that Library Associates had been in a position to do this.

In 1976, an Antiquarian Book Auction was a successful fund-raiser under the direction of Mr. Sid Wechter. Part of the proceeds from the auction went into the Endowment Fund and part to acquisitions. The success was repeated with another auction in 1978, again with Mr. Wechter as chairman.

In spite of the withdrawal of cash subsidy from the university once again, in 1976, Library Associates continued its membership activities and its efforts to raise funds for library acquisitions and to publish *The Courier*.

Library Associates celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in May 1978, with a reception at the home of Chancellor and Mrs. Melvin A. Eggers. Volume XV of *The Courier* (1978) celebrates those twenty-five years with this brief history of Library Associates. It is an organization sustained by a nationwide membership numbering about four hundred, bound together by a group of strong and flexible trustees.