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# SPECIAL LIBRARIES

"PUTTING KNOWLEDGE TO WORK"

VOLUME 24

MAY, 1933

NUMBER 4

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# SPECIAL LIBRARIES

MAY, 1933

Volume 24

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Number 4

## Guideposts for a Science Museum Library

By MINNIE WHITE TAYLOR

Librarian of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History

RECENTLY a request was received from a museum curator for a manual, or suggestions, on the operation and standard reference works for a Science museum library. Since no manual is yet available, and since museum curators evincing such an active interest certainly ought to be encouraged, a somewhat lengthy reply was sent. During its preparation, it occurred to me that my point of view was only one of many, and ours a comparatively young and inexperienced museum library. With the hope of arousing some discussion, and other suggestions which might prove useful to our committee which is considering a manual for Science museum libraries, certain portions of the letter are here presented:

Mr. Laurence Vail Coleman, in his *Manual for Small Museums*, has a chapter on "The Museum Library" which you have doubtless seen; there are several points which I should like to discuss further. While we maintain very cordial relations with the Cleveland Public Library, depending upon it largely for the more popular material, my experience convinces me that a "few hundred reference works" would not be a satisfactory working library for the average museum; the convenience of having material available for immediate reference is most essential — as those having engaged in scientific research can well appreciate. After all, a small museum is a potential large one, and the foundation of the library should be laid with that in mind.

As Mr. Coleman states in his paragraph on book selection, "the most practical way to develop a small library is to secure books only as they are needed." This is the principle which has been followed here; consequently, our Library is strongest in geology and ornithology, because these two departments have been developed first.

The book list by Miss Agnes L. Pollard, Curator at the Public Museum of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, to which he refers, was published in 1928 as number seven in the series, *Publications of the American Association of Museums*; I believe this is still available from the association at seventy-five cents (Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.). In her foreword, Miss Pollard refers to the list as a "suggested foundation," which is accordingly very useful.

The twenty-seven science book lists published last year by the American Association for the Advancement of Science also contain valuable suggestions, as do the bibliographies on various natural-history subjects by Mrs. Clara H. Josselyn, Librarian of the Buffalo Museum of Science. To these lists might be added the following reference tools: *United States Catalog of Books in Print*; *Cumulative Book Index*; *Union List of Serials*, and *Supplement*; *Agricultural Index*; *Industrial Arts Index*; *International Index to Periodicals*; *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*; *Aker's Simple Library Cataloging*; *Mudge's Guide to Reference Books*; *Lippincott's Gazetteer*

of the World; Rand McNally's *Commercial Atlas* and *Commercial Atlas of Foreign Countries*; *Goode's School Atlas* (useful in departments); *World Almanac*; *American Men of Science*; *Who's Who in America*; *Handbook of Museums*; Meisel's *Bibliography of American Natural History*; Mawson's *Secretary's Guide to Correct Modern Usage, Dictionary Companion*, and *Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms*.

Much material can be obtained by gift — Federal and state publications, mainly; more, by exchange from other scientific institutions; many museums are very generous, and will send their available publications on faith — if there is reasonable assurance that exchange material will be forthcoming eventually; a few insist upon a piece-for-piece exchange, or purchase.

After considerable study of the two systems of classification in most common use in this country, the Dewey Decimal and the Library of Congress, we came to the conclusion that a Science museum library is more comparable to a division of a university library than to one of a public library, and that, consequently, the Library of Congress system would better meet our needs; we have not regretted this choice, even though our collection is still relatively small; only a few modifications have been found advisable. The Library of Congress cards have saved much time in cataloging.

In closing his chapter, Mr. Coleman says: "The technique of caring for a small reference collection of books may be learned with the help of any librarian, but it is highly desirable that a museum librarian have at least the professional library training afforded by a summer course at one of the universities which offer such instruction." I am inclined to take exception to this point of view; if it means simply the physical care, possibly — but the technique of cataloguing and of reference work is not quite so incidental. Furthermore, some professional library training is not only "highly desirable," but absolutely essential. It is equally as essential that the librarian be a college graduate with a scientific background, or have equivalent experience; only with this equipment can one give to the museum the best service in the performance of reference work, the preparation of bibliographies, the development of the collection, and a sympathetic understanding of the problems of the several departments.

Mr. Harold L. Madison, Director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, in his address before the Museum Group at our Cleveland Convention in 1931,\* said concerning the museum librarian: "She should not be regarded as a mechanical contrivance for the sole purpose of putting books on shelves, taking them off when wanted, and returning them to their proper places after used. Neither should she be regarded as a mere messenger. Rather, she should be a person with three outstanding qualifications — training, experience, and personality. A well-trained librarian will know methods. . . . She should also be trained in the subject matter. . . . An experienced librarian will know what to do and how to do it. She will have been through a period of absorption which has developed habits that have made her expect to do her duty to her employer and her profession. A librarian with personality — the right kind of personality — will be able to fit hers with other personalities; she will be tolerant, courteous, helpful, tactful, and efficient; she will not joke with her job, nor will she take herself too seriously.

"An individual meeting these requirements is one capable of taking responsibility, and on whom responsibility should be laid. Her position in a museum should be one of curatorial capacity. . . ."

\*"A Museum Director Looks at his Library," *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, v. 22: 297-302. September, 1931

The operation of a museum library differs from that of a public library in several respects. For instance, it is one of several departments in a museum, and as such must conform so far as is possible to the policies of the institution. It is a "special library" in every sense of the word; no one who considers it a sacrilege to depart from the usual library practices should become a museum librarian. Theoretically a reference library, usually open to the public, the staff may borrow books, the privilege frequently being restricted to office use; a time limit is not always practicable since it is seldom observed. While a record is kept of the borrower of each book, staff members will sometimes transfer a book to another without notifying the librarian, the discovery being made only when the original borrower is asked to return the book. A museum librarian should be a real diplomat to keep peace in the family, since each curator will be sure that his is the only department which uses a particular book — and, therefore, it should be deposited there. Usually trustees, and sometimes members, have the privilege of borrowing books; most books are available for inter-library loan, at least within a certain radius of the museum.

The care and handling of lantern slides may be a part of the library routine; here this work is taken care of in the Department of Education. The demand for photographs and colored plates is so constant that we are gradually building up a picture collection; this is really in two sections; one, photographs of exhibits in the Museum; the other, photographs, or pictures (colored or half-tones) by reputable artists, of natural-history subjects. Three daily papers (Cleveland) are clipped by the assistant at the Museum Information Desk; items relating to the Museum or to the staff are pasted in a scrapbook; those relating to natural history which receive the Librarian's approval are arranged by subject, and placed in their respective folders — anchored by U-File-M strips; the folders are filed alphabetically in a vertical file.

At this Museum exchanges are initiated by the Librarian, and the exchange list kept up-to-date, memoranda being sent to the mailing assistant of additions, withdrawals, or changes of address. Two monthly reports are prepared; one, for the Bursar and the keeper of the donor cards, which includes accessions, gifts of miscellaneous publications not accessioned, and withdrawals; the other, an account of the "high spots" and special activities in the Library for that particular month. This is sent to the Director, and to the Chairman of the Library Committee, who also happens to be the President of the Board of Trustees. An annual report is also required.

Since it is important that all gifts be credited to the donors, the recording and later identification of an occasional group of miscellaneous publications not accessioned — pamphlets, separates, and serials — used to be a problem. Now we have "miscellaneous publications" cards numbered consecutively, the number preceded by "MP." When material of this nature is received, a card is made out with the name and address of the donor, the date, and the number of pieces received. The number, MP34 for instance, is written in pencil in the upper right corners of the covers of the corresponding publications, and entered on the regular Library donor card. The MP cards are filed numerically; the donor cards, alphabetically by name of donor. If later on it is desirable to know the sources of a publication marked MP34, it is a simple matter to refer to the MP card of that number; by referring to the donor card, we can see at a glance how generous Mr. A. has been.

Surely there must be numerous additions and corrections to the above "guide-posts." We hope that many will be forthcoming in the very near future.

## The Art Museum Library Serves the Curator

By DR. G. L. McCANN

Curator, Cincinnati Art Museum

**T**HE Art museum library has an especially difficult rôle to fill among special libraries because it usually must combine two functions: that of a highly specialized reference service for the curatorial staff, and, in most modern museums today, a more popular reference, reading, advisory and study service for students and the general public.

In both these relations the library is an integral and necessary part of the museum, though its importance not infrequently escapes the notice of the public, of the trustees, and even, in some cases, of the museum officials. Too often it is the step-child of the institution, the first department to suffer curtailment when the financial pinch is felt, the last to receive recognition and appreciation under all circumstances. Its importance is usually overlooked for the more spectacular aspects of museum work, — exhibitions and activities. Yet a well-organized library and efficient library staff are essential to the success of both.

In its contact with the public the museum library supplies much art information. This increases the understanding of exhibits and supplements the educational work to an extent limited only by the use the public makes of the library facilities. In this way it is of great indirect service to the staff, but, as a direct aid in all study and research, the museum library is absolutely indispensable to the curator. On its resources he must depend for the careful preparation and documentation that are the groundwork and background of all museum work.

Modern museums are no longer content merely to put on view a miscellaneous collection of objects that may with more or less justice be called art. The tendency today is to select carefully, install well, and above all to label adequately and accurately everything offered for public study and enjoyment. Supplementary to labels and an extension of the museum's instructional function, are the articles on exhibits, exhibitions and art subjects that an active museum staff is called upon to write. Without the library, the curator, to whom this work falls, would be almost helpless. Even if he is an acknowledged expert in some small corner of the great field of art, he nevertheless must depend on an immense mass of printed material and reproductions of related works of art to corroborate each judgment and to supplement his own point of view, as well as to serve as a check of his work against that of all other authorities on the subject. Frequently, the curator must classify, learn to know thoroughly, label or write about some exhibit that falls within the general field in which he is a specialist, but which represents a subdivision he has not yet had occasion to study in detail. He must call on the library to supply him with what he needs to pursue this specialized research. The literature of art has grown so, both in complexity and volume, that the necessary material can be made quickly and completely available only through a highly organized library. The curator may demand by exact title some authority with which he is familiar and on which he counts to obtain bibliographical references for further investigation. In that case, the library's task is the comparatively simple one of supplying without delay the work in question, a matter of routine if the book collection happens to include it. Not infre-

quently, however, it may be such a costly, rare or unusual volume that it is not in the museum library. The library now has the problem of finding the work, for in such cases there can be no substitute or makeshift. The librarian takes over the search, a time-consuming and often intricate pursuit. The curator, with his manifold duties and his lack of specialized knowledge of the library resources of the country, could not give the time necessary to a thorough search, nor would he always know where to look. Through the museum library he can be sure of tracing eventually any book in existence.

Frequently the demands of the curator are less specific and more complicated. Having examined the recognized authorities on a subject, he may feel dissatisfied and wish to be sure that no other printed source, that has escaped listing in the regular bibliographies, anticipates him in a discovery or conceals the exact bit of data he seeks. The librarian is the highly trained technician in the science of tracing information — first to search out the more easily found periodicals and book references, next to seek in the more remote and unlikely lurking places the desired knowledge.

When it is some corroborative fact in quite another field than art, needed for checking a date or ascertaining the subject of a painting, for example, the curator would be lost without the expert assistance of the library staff. The frequent need for just such alien material in art work proves how necessary it is that the art librarian be not only highly trained in the technical side of the profession, and reasonably conversant with the art field, but also resourceful and experienced in general reference work. Ideally, the art librarian is the liaison officer between the curator and the knowledge he needs, often of the most unusual and diverse sort, not infrequently totally outside his own specialty and quite unrelated to art.

Another example of the sort of help the curator can best receive from the library is while organizing and installing exhibitions where there is need for information on contemporary, little known or local artists whose work has not yet found place in a monograph. Running down the few facts necessary for an informative label may in this case be next to impossible without the examination, and often correlation for the sake of accuracy, of a number of scattered books, periodical notices, or clippings. The curator, continually pressed to open an exhibition to the public on the appointed date, can rarely take the time for this task himself, but depends on the library to assemble a mass of material over which he can skim and from which he can glean his facts.

In short, from the curator's point of view the library is the very heart of the museum. It is the repository of his most indispensable tools. Books stand next in importance to the art works themselves in the operation of any Art museum. Without their help, the systematic arrangement, and complete identification of art objects proper to museum display and study collections would be impossible, for this work is done according to the accumulated knowledge and experience of a fellowship of scholars of the past and present, whose findings are available to all in printed form. The library is the coordinating, organizing, and preservative agency, as well as the active seeker of knowledge, through which the curator can tap without unnecessary loss of time and energy the numberless sources of information of which some idea has been given here. For its work the Art museum library deserves recognition and every facility that can add to the realization of its ideal of efficiency. Above all, it deserves an adequate staff to perform the exacting tasks set it. Another way to promote ease and speed of library service is to make requests as clear and definite as possible. Not

without justification do librarians complain that often they are handicapped in reference work by not knowing the purpose of the material they seek. By definition of his profession, the museum librarian is both intelligent and discreet, and because of his intimate and broad knowledge of the books he handles can often give more valuable assistance if given the curator's confidence and informed concerning the problem in hand.

The curator who has at his service an adequate library, staffed by well-trained librarians, and who knows how to make the maximum use of both, saves time for himself, can do his own work more effectively, and serves the museum and the public better. It is, after all, a simple application of the principles of efficiency, coöperation and specialized functions: the librarian by special training and wide experience can most quickly, easily and completely provide the material, the curator can then turn all his energy and his own specialized talents and training to making use of it. And lest the reader think the librarian who combines in one person all the qualities and gifts to which the curator has had to have recourse in this article is an entirely hypothetical paragon, be it known that almost any art museum librarian does daily just these things and many others equally necessary without thinking very much about it.

## Leisure and the Museum Library

By THOMAS COWLES

Vice-Chairman, Museum Group

**T**HE thought-taking and the stock-taking which are the program of the hour in every field are leading to a revision of accepted standards in library work. The public library in all its aspects is being subjected to a thoroughgoing reevaluation of its place and function in an ordered economic and social scheme. None of us but expects the ordeal of budget-cutting by legislatures and of scrutiny by experts in public administration will confirm our opinion of the public library as an indispensable agency in the educational system of modern civilization.

No less is the special library likewise undergoing a searching examination of its value and its function in its own sphere of activity. And no less are special librarians confident that the outcome in their case will be equally favorable. First, since economic and social planning can be accomplished in no other way than on the basis of extensively gathered, honestly reported, and rigidly verified facts; secondly, since locating and making such data available for use, with intelligence, discrimination, and speed, are the prime functions of special library work. The only qualification of this confidence one might make is perhaps in the nature of a counsel of perfection, namely, that more and more imperatively must the special librarian, in business, in technology and science, in whatever branch of information service he elect, be specifically and adequately equipped to put his particular sort of knowledge to work.

"Putting knowledge to work" has been the motto of special librarians for years, and no phrase so aptly or so exactly expresses the peculiarly strategic rôle which they can play in the gigantic task just ahead, the building of a rational economy by transforming the social waste of unemployment into a wide and just diffusion of the leisure which the machine age has so precipitately and so painfully thrust upon us.



The economic and technological and scientific libraries will be called on to furnish the data for use in building the main structure of the planned order, technocratic or other; indeed, the technocrats would have been wise to enlist the expert services of special librarians instead of relying on engineers alone before making public their recent conclusions. But the main plant once under way, with a shorter working week and a secure and adequate income for everyone established, the use of leisure time immediately becomes of tremendous importance. Here will museum libraries, by the very nature of their job, be in a key position for contributing to the constructive use of leisure.

Museums themselves are already undergoing a pretty thorough transformation in the manner of presenting their displays. Heterogeneity of collections is being replaced by integration of subjects, selection of material, and frequent change of exhibits. Multiplicity of specimens arranged without thought of background or natural sequence is giving place to psychologically organized and economically displayed units. Labels are being designed and worded to be read with ease and instruction. Lighting is being employed to give comfort as well as the illusion of reality. Reflections from glass are being abolished and decoration is being used only for the purpose of emphasizing exhibits, not for its own sake. Skilled docents are increasing in number and effectiveness. All in all, museum fatigue is fast giving place to esthetic pleasure, physical relaxation, and skilful instruction. In short, the museum is becoming the resort for intellectual and artistic recreation, and as such a complementary but wholly necessary aid to formal education. In addition, the museum is being taken to schools and even to homes by means of portable displays, films, slides, reproductions, and models.

The effect of this developing technique on the museum library is patent. The preparation of the kind of exhibit just described can be accomplished only by use of authoritative literature. The frequent change of exhibits requires printed material on an increasing number of topics. The employment of technically trained docents demands reference material for their use and for the use of an inquisitive public stimulated to learn more about the subjects and objects that they have seen or that have been explained to them. The casual sightseer and tourist will give way to the seeker of information and enjoyment. True that in many, if not in most, cases future patrons will have to be led and stimulated to use the museum to its full potentiality. But the field is boundless and the opportunities it presents for developing effective use of the leisure, which is the only justifiable product of a mechanical civilization geared to serve and not to master, make a challenge of the highest order.

Museum librarians, like other special librarians and indeed all librarians, if we are to meet the challenge successfully, must not merely refurbish a few of our techniques in the interest of a quantitatively increased efficiency in order to solve the immediate problems of lowered budgets and decreased personnel, necessary as this is; we must enlarge our point of view so as to encompass this whole problem of constructive leisure from every angle. Data from which to build part of the picture of the present are being compiled by the Survey Committee from the survey of Art and Science museum libraries conducted last year; surveys of the rest of the field will doubtless be made. The resulting blueprints should put us in a position to attack the problem before us with intelligence, courage, and enthusiasm, for it will be, in essence, that of putting knowledge *wisely* to work.

## Anthropology: Its Library Classification Problems

By FRANCIS P. ALLEN

University Museum, University of Michigan

THE classification problem in the special library of anthropology is a pertinent one. We are faced with the problem of finding our material in a great variety of classes no matter what classification system we use. Classification systems such as the Library of Congress system proceed to assign to anthropology a definite place in one schedule (the G schedule in L. C.), but it is immediately apparent that the literature of the anthropologist falls beyond the scope of this schedule. This is due in part to the vagaries and artificiality of all classification systems. It is also due in part to the inclusiveness and diversity of the scope of anthropology. In many fields of knowledge such as history, geography, folk-lore, and archaeology we find vast numbers of books which are of importance to anthropologists. The following examination of the various schedules of the Library of Congress classification system aims to bring out the importance of each from the point of view of the anthropologist and librarian.

### CLASS A. GENERAL WORKS. POLYGRAPHY

In this schedule we find two classes where the anthropologist may find much material, AM = Museums — collectors and collecting, private cabinets; and AS = Societies, academies. In AM we find the publications of the more general museums, those not limited to any one field but which include anthropology. Here also are classed books on museum methods and technique such as Coleman's "Manual for Small Museums," and books on the preservation and preparation of museum collections.

In AS are classed the publications of learned societies and academies of a general nature such as those of the Smithsonian institution of Washington. Here are classed the publications of a few academies of science with diversified interests such as the Papers of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters.

### CLASS C. AUXILIARY SCIENCES OF HISTORY

The CC and CB classes are the ones in this schedule which are most closely allied to anthropology. The CB division, called "The history of civilization and culture; general intellectual life and progress," is one of those general divisions

where few anthropological books are classed, as GN is a much better place for most of them; however, those dealing with the theory of civilization may go in this class.

The CC division deals with archaeology, although there is a place in the anthropology class for prehistoric archaeology under GN700-875, and a place in N for artistic archaeology. DE and DG, the divisions for classical antiquities, are also closely allied to archaeology. In CC are classed only titles on general archaeology, while material on the archaeology of special countries is found with the history of that country in the history schedules, D, E, and F.

### CLASS D. UNIVERSAL AND OLD WORLD HISTORY

The D schedule includes the history of all the countries of the world with the exception of those of the western hemisphere, which are classed in the E and F schedules. There are several groups of material here which are of interest to us, and among them none is more important than the society publication, chiefly historical in content but anthropological as well. The *Bulletin of the Société normandie d'études préhistorique* is an example of this type of society publication. Another group in the D class which is closely allied to anthropology is the one on ethnology, where we find Kroeber's "Peoples of the Philippines" in DS. There is also a section of the D class devoted to ethnology and civilization.

### CLASS E-F. AMERICA

These schedules, dealing wholly with America, are of especial importance to the anthropologist who is studying aboriginal America. His group, called aboriginal America — The Indians, extends from E51 to E100. In E51 go the periodicals, society publications, and collected works dealing with the American Indian such as the U. S. Bureau of American Ethnology annual reports and bulletins. In E58 go general works on the aboriginal inhabitants of the Americas, and in E59 are classed books on special topics relating to the American Indian. Material dealing with the origins of the Indians, prehistoric archaeology, and cliff dwellings in America go in E61. There is a special place (E73) for mound builders and mounds in general followed

by E74, which is given over to a geographical division for local mounds, where we class such titles as Moore's book on *Florida mounds*, "Northwestern Florida Coast Revisited" in E74.F6.

The next division of importance (E77) deals with general works on the Indians of North America. This number differs in scope from E58 by covering only North America, while the latter covers Central and South America as well. E78 is a local division number where books may be classed geographically, E78 C15 for the Indians of California, etc. Indian reservations are classed here under State, unless held by a single tribe, when they are classed in E99. E81-83 deal with Indian wars. In E83 special wars are chronologically arranged, as E83.67 for Ellis' book on King Philip's war. E85-87 deal with Indian captivities, attacks and adventures, depredations, etc. In E89-90 are classed biographies of Indians.

E91-95 cover government relations with the Indians, E92 being the place for the annual report of the Department of Indian Affairs of Canada, and E93 for Helen Hunt Jackson's sketch of the government's dealings with some of the Indian tribes, entitled "A Century of Dishonor." E97 is the place for education and the American Indian. Under E97.6 there is a list of Indian schools with the Cutter number for each. In E98 are classed books on other special topics relating to the American Indian, such as E98.A3 for agriculture. E99 takes up the Indian tribes individually and alphabetically. The rest of the E schedule is devoted almost entirely to history and offers little to the anthropologist.

The F schedule, dealing with local U. S. history in F1-999 contains much valuable anthropological material, geographically arranged by sections of the country. F597 is the number assigned to history of the Northwest, and here is classed material such as Henry's "New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest," which contains much on the author's adventures among the Indians. This is the type of historical material which is important to the student of ethnology, but is classed in F, as it is chiefly historical in content.

F1000-4000 deals with the local history of America exclusive of the United States. In the sections on Mexico, Central and South America, there is much for the anthropologist on the history of ancient civilizations. We class here such titles as Means' new book on "Ancient Civilizations of the Andes," which includes much on the Incas of Peru.

CLASS G. GEOGRAPHY, ANTHROPOLOGY, FOLK-LORE, MANNERS AND CUSTOMS, SPORTS AND GAMES

This schedule contains more for the anthropologist than any other, as it is here that anthropology, ethnology, and prehistoric archaeology are all treated in detail in the GN schedule. The sections of the G class which precede GN have little anthropology in them. The first division, G, is the place for books on general and special voyages and travels, including arctic and antarctic explorations and voyages. GF, the section on anthropogeography, is arranged geographically by continent and country. This section, the place for books treating of the actual distribution of the varieties of the human race, is little used as yet by classifiers. Libraries seem to have little on the subject, and what they do have may be classed in GN, anthropology.

GN, anthropology, is taken up in detail in this division. It is here that we find concentrated the great bulk of our material. GN1-49 is given over to the regular form divisions, *i.e.* periodicals, collections, general works, study and teaching, museums and exhibitions, in the field of anthropology. In GN1 are classed periodicals dealing wholly with anthropology such as the "American anthropologist." In GN2 come society and museum publications such as the *Memoirs of the American Anthropological Association*. In GN4 go collections and in GN11 go dictionaries and encyclopedias such as Leyburn's "Handbook of Ethnography." GN23-32 are the numbers for general works of various kinds, treatises, essays, etc. GN33-49 cover the various phases of study and teaching in anthropology, including material such as the *Guides of the Field Museum, Department of Anthropology*.

Somatology, GN50-299, is the second large group in the GN division. It includes the following topics: anthropometry, physical anthropology, osteology, craniology, physiological anthropology, and psychological anthropology. In the somatology group we find specific numbers for books on the skin, hair, teeth, sexual organs, and sense organs, as well as several numbers assigned to the nervous system. GN220-260, with the heading physiological anthropology, is given over to bodily traits such as strength, expression of emotions, sexual functions, inbreeding, hereditary functions. GN260-299, psychological anthropology, takes up special senses such as hearing, vision, etc.

The third important group in the GN schedule is the one dealing with ethnology and ethnography (GN300-700). Special ethnologic groups such as tribes of the plains and fishing tribes are

classed in this group, as are books on primitive customs and institutions. The material life and the psychic life of primitive peoples are taken up here. In GN500-699 special races are classed by geographical division. Here we find Fay Cooper Cole's book, "The Wild Tribes of Davao District, Mindanao."

The fourth and last large group in this schedule deals with prehistoric archaeology. The arrangement is chronological. Tertiary man is followed by quaternary man, and then come the stone age, copper and bronze age, cave dwellers, lake dwellings, kitchen-middens, etc.

The rest of the G class is devoted to subjects closely allied to anthropology. Following GN comes GR, which is devoted to folk-lore, including such topics as demonology and cosmic phenomena. The next division, GT, on manners and customs, overlaps much that we have found in other schedules. The chief reason for a division on manners and customs is perhaps to provide a place for general works, histories and comparative treatises on the subject, and for an expansive treatment of a few special manners and customs. The D, E, and F schedules are the proper places for material on the manners and customs of special countries, along with the history of the country. "Works dealing with special aspects of subjects provided for in other classes are to be classified with those subjects," *i.e.* manners and customs relating to archaeology should be classed with archaeology in CC. In the GT division manners and customs relating both to public and private life are arranged geographically.

GV, sports and games, physical training, amusements and recreation is the final division of the G schedule and has little to do with anthropology. There is a place for this type of material in the anthropology class under customs and institutions (primitive) in GN454-57. Occasionally the anthropologist may find something which bears on his subject under history of sports and games divided according to country in GV15-35 and in GV571-688.

#### CLASS H. SOCIAL SCIENCES

The anthropologist finds much material on his subject classed as social science. The H class is divided into three main divisions. The first on general science and statistics, and the second on economics, have little for us. The third group, on sociology, contains a wealth of material especially in the HQ division under the heading Social Groups: the family, marriage. Many of the titles which are classed in this group might well be classed in GN or GT under manners and customs. The type of material found in HQ differs from that in GT not so much in subject matter as in

treatment. The subject of family life and marriage is treated historically in GT and sociologically in HQ. Frequently it is difficult to decide which is the better place, GT or HQ. The Library of Congress classes Malinowski's recent book, "The Sexual Life of Savages in Northwestern Melanesia," in HQ504 under the heading Family, primitive. This title might appropriately go in GN478 or 479 under primitive customs and institutions, family life.

The subject of eugenics comes under HQ. Here in HQ750 is classed "Eugenical news; current record of race hygiene," which is important to the anthropologist. Also in HQ various phases of marriage, divorce and polygamy are taken up.

The HT division is the last important one in the H schedule for the anthropologist. It is called "Other social groups: communities, classes, races," and deals with classes of people as social groups. Slavery, race conflicts, the protection and development of lower races are taken up here. From the anthropological point of view much of this type of material goes preferably in GN as ethnology.

#### CLASS N. FINE ARTS

In the first division of this schedule the anthropologist will find a list of Art museums and galleries arranged alphabetically by city with individual numbers for many of the special museums. Following this list comes the history of fine arts, beginning with prehistoric art, followed by ancient art and artistic archaeology. It is here that the anthropologist finds more material than elsewhere in the N schedule. The succeeding divisions on architecture, sculpture, graphic arts in general, drawing and design, painting, and engraving all deal rather indirectly with anthropology. Their relationship to our subject is brought out in the GN schedule under the section "Primitive customs and institutions."

#### CLASS P. LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

In this class the anthropologist turns at once to the PM group, as it is here that the languages of the American Indian are dealt with. There is an alphabetical list of the special languages such as PM2076 for Onondaga and PM2006-9 for Navaho. The second half of the P class is given over to American and English literature, and here we find works of fiction on the American Indian.

#### CLASS Q. SCIENCE

In the Q class we find much anthropology in the publications of the great scientific societies and institutions such as the Smithsonian Institution and the U. S. National Museum. The Smithsonian Institution's series, "Explorations and field work," form an important part of anthro-

pological literature. Scientific expeditions such as the Canadian Arctic Expedition 1913-18 are classed in Q and contain accounts of anthropological and ethnological investigations.

#### CLASS Z. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

In the Z class there is a section called subject bibliography and it is here that we class our bibliographical works in anthropology. The Library of Congress has been criticized for adopting a separate class for bibliography. Much may be said in favor of having subject bibliographies classed with the subject, which would bring our bibliographies of anthropology in GN instead of in Z5111-5119.

#### CONCLUSION

From this brief survey we discover that eleven classes in the Library of Congress classification system contain anthropological material. This diversification makes the problem of anthropological classification a difficult one. The logical solution for the special library in anthropology may be drawn from this report. Classes A, C, D, H, N, P, Q, and Z may be eliminated and all anthropological, archaeological, and ethnological material may be brought together in E, F, or G. Class G might well be changed to exclude geography, oceanography, and sports and games. It might well include sections on bibliography, scientific expeditions, philology, and fine arts.

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

THE fact that this is a special number devoted to, and planned by the Museum Group is interesting for many reasons. First, of course, as proof of how firmly entrenched library service is in this important field, and secondly, as a demonstration of the vitality of the Groups within S. L. A. The Museum Group, formed in 1929, is the youngest in our Association, but it already has a membership of about eighty people. It has been handicapped somewhat in its organization because practically its whole life has been spent during the Depression. It was not able to hold a meeting with us during either the 1930 or the 1932 Convention, but, in spite of difficulties, it has come to mean much to S. L. A. and has achieved lasting results.

The formation of the Museum Group within S. L. A. involved a professional problem which I think is worth remembering and emphasizing from time to time. This principle affects the growth both of S. L. A. and of individual special librarians. Before affiliating with us, museum librarians considered whether they might not work more effectively as a section of the American Association of Museums. As a part of that important Association they would have been surrounded by persons who are specialists in their subject but who have no professional interest in methods and problems common to librarians. Our Newspaper Group faced a similar situation in relation to the American Newspaper Publishers Association, but I believe they are now thoroughly agreed that they have accomplished far more within S. L. A. In fact, I have been glad to hear them say that they have become increas-

ingly important in the eyes of their own papers and of newspaper men in general because of the S. L. A. Newspaper Group. If we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that librarians need the prestige which a national Association of our own gives. Working together we can impress a given industry or field of endeavor with the importance of our library profession, but it is not easy for a small, isolated group to do so.

If the special library profession is to make progress, the fact that we are librarians is really more important than that we are specialists in a given subject. Does it not broaden our prestige as well as our opportunities to let it be known that library work can be applied in so many fields—that financial librarians can organize advertising research departments, and museum librarians may direct newspaper, municipal reference or any type of special libraries? The great value of being able to use library training in different fields has been proved during this Depression. No good librarian need ever get into a rut or feel that the maximum in salary or in interest has been reached if he is keeping in touch with his profession and its broader opportunities. Obviously, the way to keep in touch is through an S. L. A.

But to return to our Groups. In S. L. A. each Group is of equal importance. I say this knowing full well that some members have sometimes felt this not to be the case, claiming that the national organization gave greater support to some Groups than to others. I believe that there has been greater emphasis on certain subjects only when there are more members interested in, and willing to work on a given project. In a purely

voluntary Association such as ours, the push and pull must come from the members themselves. Unless a Group gets together and decides what they need and then all work toward it, there is very little that the national Association can do. It is only natural that business and allied interests, finance, insurance, et cetera, have received considerable attention in S. L. A. because about one-half our members are in those fields and those members have been far-seeing and energetic, bringing with them not only a project but a market.

We all recognize the pride that S. L. A. feels in its Groups. They demonstrate to the outside

world the scope and variety of the library profession. They focus the interest of members on problems common to special types of libraries, and make it possible for us to increase our membership. It is due to Groups that we have been able to publish the reference tools that are such a credit to the Association. If anything, we need more Groups with corresponding activities and membership. May we not receive suggestions from the membership on the formation of new sections and on projects that need to be done by them?

MARY LOUISE ALEXANDER

## S. L. A. Plans a Convention with Curtain Raiser

CHICAGO

THINGS are moving right along toward our Annual Convention to be held in Chicago, October 16th-18th. An especially strong committee is taking shape. Edith B. Mattson, librarian of the Commonwealth Edison Company, has accepted the chairmanship of the Program Committee, with Ruth Nichols and Marion Rowls as first lieutenants. Carrie M. Jones is chairman of the Travel Committee, Mildred Burke, Chairman of Publicity, and Marion Mead, the indefatigable, has a finger in many, many pies. Other sub-committees are being appointed, plans are taking shape, and the interest and excitement runs high. It will be a fine meeting.

It is none too soon for chapters to begin to discuss this at their Local meetings and for all members to include it in their vacation plans. Booklets on the Century of Progress Exposition are ready for distribution. Travel costs are being lined up, and will be furnished to local chapters very soon. Will the old knapsack be ready?

M. L. A.

### A REGIONAL MEETING

IT MUST be that our President is staging a dress rehearsal for the October Convention, because she is urging all "specials" within hailing distance of New York City to put a ring around the date of June 17th. We quote:

*"We are planning for a one-day regional meeting of S. L. A. to be held in connection with the New York State Library Association convention at Briarcliff Manor, New York, June 12th-17th. As a curtain-raiser to our October program, we believe that there will be many members who would enjoy such an occasion. There are some of our members who have never attended a Convention, especially those valiant assistants who often stay at home to let librarians-in-charge go. So we hope to have representatives from Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Philadelphia and other points in Pennsylvania, as well as from all parts of New York State."*

New York City librarians with cars are already making up parties to drive out to Briarcliff. Gertrude Peterkin is so accustomed to supplying travel information to all her friends that she has been drafted to supervise transportation plans for the Westchester parkways.

Details concerning the program will be released later.



## EDITORIAL BOARD

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## Membership Campaign Notes

**M**EMBERS are responding valiantly to the letter sent out to each one by the Membership Chairman. One has brought in two Active members and three Associates through special effort. Another reports three Active members and one Associate; another reports one Associate; and another, one Institutional member. Others have many such delicate negotiations under way.

Letters are coming from the various chapters showing special effort. All in all, the campaign shows the strong loyalty given the Association, notwithstanding heavy financial burdens borne by every member, present or prospective.

MARIAN C. MANLEY  
*Chairman*

## SNIPS and SNIPES

*Inspiration.* . . . As a preliminary to writing this monthly mountain of mirth, we've done everything possible to put off the actual moment of settling down to work. To shame our procrastination, we got out Tennyson and read Ulysses, but no blush mantled our cheek. We need sterner stuff and try Service only to be lead astray by "The woman that kissed him — and pinched his poke — was the lady that's known as Lou," which as our most light-minded reader will agree is far removed from libraries and librarians; even from Special I's and I's. . . .

*Museum piece.* . . . Isn't this issue of SPECIAL LIBRARIES a worthy product of our "youngest, smallest and most widely scattered group"? . . . We hear that the New York Museum Group found the new building of the French Institute a charming place. Under their chairman, Vera Louise Dodge of the Museum of Science and In-

dustry, they held a meeting at the Institute, 22 East 60th Street, on April 17. The French Institute furthers knowledge of French art and literature by holding exhibitions, permanent and loan, by lectures, and through a library which contains a splendid collection especially of complete files of French magazines. . . .

*Département de Vers Libres.* . . . We filched this bit of pure free verse from Florence Bradley's desk where she masqueraded it as an overdue notice:

Why do you keep  
 Mr. Stuart Chase  
 So long. . . .  
 Don't you know  
 Everyone  
 Is wanting a New Deal —  
 And you  
 Are interfering with Progress. . . .

*Book Selectors.* . . . We are much impressed by the way the Insurance Group has taken President Alexander and Chairman K. Dorothy Ferguson at their word and come out with —  
Insurance Book Reviews.

Bulletin No. I.

(May we ask, ever so humbly, the significance of the headpiece — a jester in cap and bells and a monk with a quill?). . . .

*Research.* . . . The collapsible cup for the month's nicest piece of research goes to Katherine D. Frankenstein of Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn. The other day she ran down just the information she needed in a learned article written in German by a Herr doctor at the University of Jurjew. Where was Jurjew? No such place could she find in any atlas, encyclopaedia or list of foreign universities. Finally by one of those blind flashes of inspiration, she discovered that Jurjew transliterated from Russian into English is Yurev, Yuryev, or, if you prefer, Yuriev. From then on it was plain sailing. Jurjew is really Yurev, and Yurev is now called Tartu, and Tartu is a city of Estonia, formerly known by its German name, Dorpat, and in Tartu there is a University. . . . And while we are on the subject of research, when you buy a packet of the new Standard Brands' dated potato chips you'll literally be putting your fingers into Florence Grant's bag of tricks. Her library pointed the ways and means for the nutritionists, chemists and researchers who felt that it was time the consumers got a break on potato chips as well as on coffee. . . .

*Snippets.* . . . Mary Parker of the New York Federal Reserve Bank is feeling much better, thank you, for a two weeks' visit to the Lenox Hill Hospital. . . . Rebecca Rankin helped get her sister, Josephine Rankin, married to Mr. Martin Fisher, a patent lawyer of Washington, D. C., and then drove herself, and three other librarians of the Lucky Dog class, south for a week's holiday. . . . All S. L. A. and particularly Boston, is proud because our Elinor Gregory is the new librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, that "gentlemen's library" where a hundred years ago Librarian Seth Bass said that even the presence of a woman "would occasion embarrassment to modest men." . . . Joseph F. Kwapil is going from his Philadelphia Public Ledger Library to speak at the University of Missouri on May 3rd. The occasion is Journalism week. The night before he addresses the Columbia, Mo., Library Club. . . . Isabella M. Cooper of the New York S. L. A. is conducting an "Institute" under the auspices of the New York Library Association and the Extension Division of the State Educa-

tion Department. The subject of the "Institute" is the Library Patron, and Miss Cooper will spend one week in each of the following cities: Poughkeepsie, Albany, Syracuse, Buffalo and Canton. . . . Ida B. Campbell, Reference Librarian of the Farm Loan Division of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, is going about the middle west reorganizing the files of the branch offices. She's already done Indianapolis, Peoria and Fort Dodge, and now she's off to Memphis. . . . Since February 5th, Leona Kohn of the Industrial Arts Index has been Mrs. Charles Milton. . . . And Margaret G. Johnson, Librarian of the Church Missions House Library, married Theodore Patton, but we don't know when. . . .

*Double, double toil and trouble.* . . . California feels it got dealt the joker in the recent new hand. Writes Thomas Cowles from Berkeley: "Calamities, indeed, seem to be the order of the day. The quake in Long Beach (of course you know we call 'em *tremblors* here!) was too far away to be felt locally, but there is enough unrest and uncertainty on every hand to drive one frantic," and from "K. D. F." in San Francisco we hear: "Sunday it rained, an aftermath of the Los Angeles earthquake; in fact it hailed and thundered. So we no longer talk about our climate. In fact I am quite certain the Iowans don't either. [Which is all to the good, say we.] I am glad the Bank holiday is over. Last week was a terrible one for work — everyone was so overworked — and towards the end it was hard to find out what they really wanted when they asked for information. And then came the earthquake; as if California had not had enough trouble. Newspapers have not exaggerated the damage". . . . But California wasn't the only place to suffer. Frances E. Curtiss, president of the Michigan chapter, says: "I assure you no city can tell Detroit anything about the depression or the bank holiday." A wryly amusing feature of the Detroit holiday was the fact that the February meeting of the local S. L. A. had been planned for the Union Guardian Trust Company the day it closed its door and brought the situation to a crisis. Another helpful touch was added by the fact that the chapter's money had just been deposited in the bank and it didn't even have pennies for postage. . . .

*Business girl.* . . . Helen Woodward has an article in the March Scribner's headed thus. In it she says, "I learned that the women who work for a living in the United States do not want to be considered either as 'working' or as 'women.' The day of 'ladies' has passed, and they know it, but for them the day of women has not yet arrived. What they'd like to be called is 'girls in



business." God forbid that a librarian ever speak of herself in that way!

*Correction.* . . . May we point out to our sprightly contemporary, the *New York S. L. A. News*, that June 17th, the day of the Briarcliff regional meeting, is not Midsummer's day, but that June 24th is? However, don't stay away from Briarcliff because it isn't Midsummer. If you want a holiday to celebrate, we'll tell you confidentially that the 17th is the birthday of two of our distinguished members . . . celebrated, we won't tell you, how many times at S. L. A.'s.

*Noseyparkerism.* . . . We know we ought to curb our tendency to get excited over names, but we just *must* ask if Harriet V. V. Van Wyck was named for "V. V.'s Eyes" . . .

*Free fun.* . . . If you missed an article in the *New York Evening Post* of some weeks ago on "Pleasures for the Penniless," turn to page 92 of the April 13 issue of *Printer's Week*. You'll find most of it reprinted there. If you're actually unemployed or technically unemployed (*s.e.* if

you have a job but no money) some of the ideas may be useful. . . .

*Our times.* . . . Like the Librarian-who-gets-about-abit, Mary Louise Alexander manages to Keep Up. This month she reports much stimulation from her extra-curriculum activity: One dinner to hear Frances Perkins, one World Affairs Institute meeting which meant for her mainly A. A. Berle; one attendance at the Metropolitan Opera House to hear George Bernard Shaw, One Dinner at Eight, one Strike me Pink, and one Design for Living. All of which rates her an "A."

*OPEN TELEGRAM.* . . . To Mildred Clapp, Newark. . . . Horribly sorry to have engaged you to wrong name stop. Please apologize to Mr. Ralph Chamberlain and extend congratulations stop.

Abjectly,

S AND S.

*Questionnaire.* . . . If you were to name two qualities, aside from the obvious ones, which a special librarian should have, what two would you choose? We check *Imagination and Intellectual Curiosity.* . . .

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

### CIVIC-SOCIAL

Editor: Ina Clement

A WORLD AFFAIRS INSTITUTE was recently sponsored by the American Woman's Association, New York City, with six other co-operating organizations. Of interest to the readers of this page is the fact that two of the organizations represented in the Civic-Social Group had exhibits there. The one for the Foreign Policy Association was under the direction of Frances Pratt and that of the Council on Foreign Relations, Inc., was directed by Ruth Savord.

\* \* \*

A state wide conference on the "Cause and Cure of War," under the auspices of twelve different organizations for women, was held in Princeton, New Jersey, April 19th and 20th. One of our Institutional members, Margery Quigley (Montclair Public Library), arranged the display of books, pamphlet material and bibliographies. Helen Baker, Librarian of the Industrial Relations Section, Princeton University, compiled a source list for the round table on the subject "International Action for the Alleviation of Unemployment," and gave a short talk. Copies of the list may be secured while they last, by addressing Miss Baker. The new Foreign Affairs bibliography published by Ruth Savord's Council had a prominent place in the book exhibit.

Using the Universities' Library for Central Europe as a central bureau, American and foreign institutions for the scientific study of international relations are planning for the regular exchange of surplus copies of books and documents among such institutions. It is hoped to dispatch lists of duplicates quarterly. If any American library in this field is interested in joining such an exchange, more definite information may be secured from Ruth Savord, Council on Foreign Relations, 45 East 65th Street, New York City.

\* \* \*

New York's sixth meeting of the year was planned by its Civic-Social Group. It was held at the Institute of Crippled and Disabled, April 20th. After Dr. John C. Faries' welcome to the Institute, Mr. Grover Clark gave a remarkable summary of the economic and political background of China and Japan as world powers from their beginnings to the present time in explanation of Japan's action in Manchuria. He drew attention to the amazing economic development of China, during the last ten years, from an importing non-manufacturing nation to an exporting and manufacturing nation competing directly with Japan. Professor Clyde Eagleton of New York University carried on the discussion explaining, in legal terms, the position of the Sino-

Japanese dispute as an undeclared war and the obligations of the western world under treaties involving the United States and the League of Nations covenant involving members of the League. Both speakers generously answered questions from the floor.

\* \* \*

*We often wish for personal news for this column which would keep you in touch with each other, but only one member of the Group has remembered the Editor and sent in a radio talk he had recently given. A good start, if others would follow. Why not tell something about your library, or how you plan to get to the S. L. A. regional meeting, or if you are interested in any phase of the Century of Progress and our October Convention? Your Editor is in a receptive mood.*

### COMMERCIAL-TECHNICAL

Editor: Miriam Zabriskie

#### BOOK REVIEWS

Lust, H. C., and Company. *COMMODITIES AND LOCALITIES IN THE DECISIONS OF THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION*. Chicago, 1933.

This index brings together in print for the first time all the commodities involved in the cases decided by the Commission from 1887 to date, Vol. 1 through Vol. 186. Some 60,000 commodities are arranged alphabetically, the decisions chronologically arranged under each item, with the localities from and to which the commodities were carried. It is not a classification, but might well be used as a fact-finding basis for a filing scheme or classification of commodities. May be valuable as a tool for searching out such information as definitions, shippers' and manufacturers' terminology, the constantly changing rules of classification in use by the railroads' Consolidated Classification Committee, whether products are scientifically or popularly named, whether they are raw materials or finished products, and even in some cases a history of the current processes of manufacture may be found. The intention is to keep the index down to date by supplemental editions on a yearly subscription basis.

Subjects:

Commodities.

Indexes.

Interstate Commerce Commission—Laws.

Railroads—Regulations.

O'Leary, Paul M. *CORPORATE ENTERPRISE IN MODERN ECONOMIC LIFE*. Harper's, 1933.

Reviews the part of "big business" in contributing to the virtual collapse of our financial system. This is the fourth of a series of small books on current economic problems.

*THE BANKRUPTCY ACT, WITH AMENDMENTS OF 1933, ANNOTATED*. Prentice-Hall.

Brings bankruptcy law up to date by incorporating the recent amendments.

*REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESTRICTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AT DECEMBER 5, 1932*. District Bank Limited.

Supplementary circular No. 1, bringing the original review forward.

*INDUSTRIAL PENSIONS IN THE U. S. AND CANADA*. Industrial Relations Counselors, Inc., New York City, 1933.

A study just completed dealing with the discontinuance and downward revision of 150 industrial pension plans in the two countries — affecting more than a million workers. Raises question whether pension experiment has been justified from an economic viewpoint.

### INSURANCE

Editor: Geraldine Rammer  
FROM INDIA

That it is the duty of every Insurance company to educate the public on the several advantages of possessing a Life policy was never so keenly felt as it is today. The reasons why several of our insurance companies do not thrive as prosperously as they deserve are two. First, the ignorance of a good many people on the several advantages of possessing a Life policy, and secondly, the negligence of the Insurance companies themselves in not sufficiently educating the public on these points. We admit that it is not possible for all classes of agents to be in possession of the technicalities of the insurance science, but we do believe that the field force of an insurance company can be easily armed with some working knowledge on which are based the principles of insurance business. For this, a training is required. Where can the workers get such a training? Examinations and certificates are the guinea's stamp, but the knowledge is the gold which is the primary consideration. If insurance business is to make satisfactory progress on scientific lines, the field workers must be properly equipped with necessary information on the subject. The need of special literature on insurance is keenly felt by the workers. If they get the necessary information regarding the literature on the subject from experts or from foreign insurance institutes, they can scarcely get hold of the literature here in any of the libraries. Very few books on the subject are available in the public libraries. Hence for the benefit of insurance workers a library consisting

of books on insurance organization and insurance science which can be read and utilized by average workers as well as by advanced students desirous of having a thorough knowledge of the subject must be started. Attempts in this direction cannot be made by any single company. Here also cooperation among the several Indian companies is required. They should put their heads together

and appoint an expert committee to draw up the scheme. The Indian Insurance Institute is doing a good deal in this respect. But why should the insurance companies fail to do what is legitimately expected of them? We draw the attention of the Indian insurance companies to this important problem awaiting an early solution.—  
From *The Insurance Herald*, January, 1933.

## EVENTS and PUBLICATIONS

A DESCRIPTIVE LIST of "Business Magazines: Classified By Subject," is now in its third edition since 1926. It deals with over 300 periodicals represented in the selective collection maintained at the Newark Business Branch, and covers over 100 subjects. In this guide is an alphabetical list giving name, address and subscription rate for each magazine, together with a concise note of the data it covers. Regular appearance of market quotations, commodity prices, trade association news, statistics and book reviews are noted. The alphabetical list is followed by a subject index, through which may be found the outstanding periodicals in many different fields. Such subjects as Market Prices, Exchange Quotations, Investment Quotations, Book Reviews, and other special topics common to many different fields are also indicated. There are many cross references. The price of Business Magazines is \$1.00, or it may be purchased with "Business Information and its Sources" for \$1.50.

\* \* \*

The *Annals* of the American Academy of Political and Social Science for March 1933 is devoted to "The International Labor Organization." Dr. Alice S. Cheyney of the Washington Branch describes "The character and accessibility of office research materials," which is in large measure their special library. All printed materials received by the International Labour Office go into its library, which now receives annually about 8,000 volumes and 11,000 brochures as well as some 16,000 publications in series. In making its studies the office not only assembles published information but by direct correspondence with governments and organizations has gotten together masses of interesting material, nowhere else available. Other statistical data than those regularly reported in the *International Labour Review* are collected by the office in the course of its inquiries and are frequently drawn on by correspondence, the office going to great trouble to supply data in response

to specific inquiries. These data apply to employment and living conditions, and economic situations affecting employment and working life.

\* \* \*

A directory of 252 periodicals printed in twenty languages, dealing with problems of special interest to the blind or those working to aid them, has been published by the American Foundation for the Blind, Inc. Over 200 of the periodicals are printed in embossed types making them available for the blind to read themselves. The directory was compiled by Helja Linda, a librarian and a member of Special Libraries Association.

\* \* \*

"Free trade in published information" is the way Mr. J. G. Pearce described the relationships between small, highly specialized centers of information such as make up the British A. S. L. I. B. and our own S. L. A. Mr. Pearce gives the *raison d'être* of a library conference or meeting in telling fashion — "The charm of an ASLIB conference arises from this, that really it is a revolt against specialisation. Men and women compelled to specialise find a remedy against specialisation in the contacts and the stimulus. I have always felt that the finest specialisation is like a pyramid or a cone — the broader the base the more stable the equilibrium. More accurately, I think no experience is ever wasted and in due season every extension of it will fuse and coalesce into that single wide interest, the mosaic of experience and knowledge.

"I hesitate to suggest ASLIB as a sort of glorified continuation school, but I think that is part of its attraction."

\* \* \*

Further A. S. L. I. B. news is the establishment of a panel of translators possessing proficiency in one or more languages and expert knowledge of one or more subjects. Those who are not members of the Association can make use of the service on payment of a fee.

Ralph R. Shaw of the Engineering Societies Library has compiled a useful list, "Engineering Books Available in America Prior to 1830," which is being printed in the *New York Public Library Bulletin*, January-March 1933.

\* \* \*

Moistureproof Cellophane has been adopted by a Detroit newspaper as a means of preserving back files. Each volume of the newspaper for sixty years back has been overwrapped in the material. The plan is to renew the cellophane wrapping every three years. It was adopted on the theory that the material would protect against molding and decay.

\* \* \*

The January 1933 issue of *Library Bulletin of Industrial Relations Counselors* includes a second part which is devoted to a Reference Library on Industrial Relations. A unique feature of this list is that the author's entry is followed by information about him in brackets establishing his authority to write on the subject. Annotations, though brief, are to the point and important. This list is very selected, only two or three items are given under each subject heading. The choice of broad divisions in the list is unusual: Practices and Methods, Factual Information, Background Information, Periodicals, and Organizations Active in Publication of Industrial Relations Literature.

Particularly valuable is the section under Factual Information on Statistical Analyses. If such a list as this were made by all our libraries and thrown into one alphabet, S L A would soon have an excellent list of our statistical resources.

\* \* \*

William Howard Hay, author of "Health via Food," is the subject of a report by the American Medical Association's Bureau of Investigation, which was published in the Association's *Journal* for February 25th.

\* \* \*

The Reference Staff of Washington Square Library, New York University, has prepared a selected bibliography on "Inter-Allied Debts." A limited number of copies are available for distribution. Arrangement is first by magazine references on the debt question in general, on cancellation, on the moratorium, and by country; a list of books makes up the second part.

\* \* \*

Number 4 of the Public Policy Pamphlets, being issued by the University of Chicago Press, is on "War Debts." It is by H. D. Gideonse.

An annotated bibliography on the history of agriculture in the United States has recently been prepared by Everett E. Edwards, Associate Agricultural Economist of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Washington.

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Accountancy was the subject most in demand at the Newark Business Branch in 1932, then investments, then advertising, according to a survey of the relative popularity of different types of books. Psychology and business law books showed the greatest percentage of use. In 1927 accountancy and investments also held first place, while insurance showed the greatest percentage of use.

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For some time past the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago has been conducting an international inquiry into reading interests. The procedure has been to prepare selected lists of topics likely to be of general interest and to secure from sample groups of people in different countries returns indicating which of these topics are "interesting," "indifferent," or "uninteresting" for reading purposes.

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Howard L. Stebbins of the Social Law Library of Boston sends us an interesting bulletin listing the principal books not of a routine nature added to the Library during the past few months. They include interesting or unusual statutory or documentary material, trials, and works of legal, historical and political literature.

\* \* \*

"5,000 New Answers to Questions" sounds as if it might answer a good many quick-fire reference questions; like these—

How much money is spent for advertising in this country?

What paper was the first to be sold on the streets in this country?

What newspaper in the U. S. first printed financial news?

When were editorials first printed in newspapers?

The book is being brought out by Fred J. Haskin, author and syndicator of 21st and C Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.

\* \* \*

"What the New Cannery Code Has Done for the Women Employed in New York Canneries" is the title of a pamphlet published by the Consumers' League of New York. The League has

also issued a little brochure on "Cut-rate Wages," which aims to present a true picture of what has happened to women's wages in New York City.

\* \* \*

The S. L. A. Committee on Cooperation in Business Library Service has many odd copies of the Official Gazette of the U. S. Patent Office which it will be glad to send to any library willing to pay transportation charges. Communicate

with Mildred C. Clapp, Chairman, at the Business Branch, 34 Commerce Street, Newark, N. J. In return, the Committee asks for any stray copies of the following Patent Office publications —

Official Gazette of the U. S. Patent Office, vol. 225 — October 8, 1916; Vol 258 — Jan. 1, 1919; and Vol 259 — Feb. 2, 8, 25, 1919.

Index of Patents, 1917 and 1918.

Index of Trade Marks, 1917 and 1918.

## "Recent Social Trends in the United States"

Report of the President's Research Committee on Social Trends

2 vols., McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York and London, 1933

**T**HIS work is a landmark in the history of the present generation. Called upon by the President of the United States, the authors have risen to the occasion. Eminent in their lines and rich in wisdom, they have produced a history of social trends, since 1900, that is an intellectual treat. Still the book is not for the pedant; although it rests upon a world of knowledge, it is easily comprehensible to any reader gifted with intellectual curiosity and a particular flair for the sociological history of mankind.

The skeleton of Recent Social Trends consists of two main parts: (1) a report of the findings of the President's Research Committee and (2) 17 Summary chapters prepared by its collaborators, upon which the findings are based. As stated in the Committee's findings, "the primary value of this report is to be found in the effort to inter-relate the disjointed factors and elements in the social life of America, in the attempt to view the situation as a whole rather than as a cluster of parts." The various chapters present records, not opinions, and provide "such substantial stuff as may serve as a basis for social action, rather than recommendations as to the form which action should take."

In general, the research has been limited to fields in which records are available, but for some of the chapters, such as that on Social attitudes and interest, extensive collections of new data were made. The ramifications of the study are many, but in general they group themselves about three classes of problems: (1) those of physical heritage, (2) those of biological heritage, and (3) those of social heritage.

Under the first type of problem, a particularly interesting analysis of Agricultural and Forest Land (by O. E. Baker) calls for a few remarks. The classical attacks on this subject — crop

areas, crop production, depletion of soil resources, agricultural land utilization, rural migration — are met with. But illuminating sidelights on the problem are found in a discussion of production *per worker* over the past 90 years, and in a new index of total agricultural production by years since 1905 as compared with Whelpton's annual estimates of population in the United States.

The subject of population itself is discussed from many angles, in a strikingly clear-cut fashion in Chapter I, *The Population of the Nation*, by Warren S. Thompson and P. K. Whelpton. From this point, the mind jumps to the new attack on the occupations of the population in *Shifting Occupational Patterns* (Ch. VI), by Messrs. Ralph G. Hurlin and Meredith B. Givens. There we are given an excellent perspective, for the period 1870-1930, of numerous aspects of the matter, particularly through the use of lucid diagrams.

Trends in Economic Organization (Ch. V), by Edwin F. Gay and Leo Wolman, is a liberal education on the subject in hand. It is saturated with the essence of deep thought.

The chapter on *Health and Medical Practice* (by Harry H. Moore) has particular interest for those who have kept in touch with the remarkable development of interest in health matters during recent years, and perhaps for those casual readers, also, whose curiosity was piqued by the newspaper discussions of the Report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care.

And so on through such a variety of topics as *Changing Social Attitudes and Interests*, the *Vitality of the American People*, the *Family and Its Functions*, and *Activities of Women Outside the Home*, the *People as Consumers*, *Recreation and Leisure Time Activities*, *Crime and Punish-*

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ment, Privately Supported Social Work, Taxation and Public Finance, Law and Legal Institutions, etc.

Because the data supporting the findings presented in this particular work are now being published in thirteen volumes, we must say that the statistical value of the present two volumes is negligible. But many of the chapters — for example, Chapter I on Population of the Nation, and Chapter VI on Shifting Occupational Patterns — are replete with useful and graphical material

In concluding, the President's Committee stresses the need for social thinking on problems posed by the study, and which can be solved only by further scientific discoveries and practical inventions. General methods of approach to these problems are laid down, and thus the reader is left with a constructive outlook toward the future.

This study is a boon to the forward planner, especially at the present time. Armed with the knowledge of its contents, leaders can place themselves in a position to set forth, if they will, on the right road for man's improvement during the next decades.

The style of writing is all that could be desired. In a few sections, such as that on Trends in Economic Organization, the swing of literature is felt. As to format, the make-up of these two volumes meets the critical test, *i. e.*, the text is easily read. Typographical errors are not evident.

ADA M. MATTHEWS  
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NOTE. — *For excellent and inexpensive summaries of these two-volume reports see The New York Times for Sunday, January 8th, which devoted much of Section 8 to this "survey of the nation's course," and reproduced many of the graphs. Also the U. S. Daily published a very full review of the findings as a supplement to its January 3rd issue. Another good summary was in the Informa-*

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## LIBRARIANS

■ *What old works on Bookkeeping have you for sale or exchange? A good price will be paid for books on Bookkeeping by American authors published in the United States between 1800 and 1900. R. S. LEONARD, Bentley School, 921 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.*

*tion Service of the Federal Council of Churches for February 11th and the February issue of the Monthly Labor Review of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics contained an 8-page abstract.*

### AMERICAN AND CANADIAN HOSPITALS

It is gratifying to all libraries to have the new publication of the American Hospital Association edited by James Clark Fifield "American and Canadian Hospitals." (Minneapolis: Mid-West Publishers Company, 1933. 1560 p. \$10.) This handbook of information contains comprehensive sketches of all approved hospitals and allied institutions in both countries; the personnel of each institution is supplied as well so it serves as a directory. The introductory pages give a history of all the national organizations in the hospital field, including that of Association of Record Librarians of North America. The Appendix contains histories of all the religious orders among hospitals, information about the important endowments and funds devoted to the progress of health. Within the covers of this one volume is gathered all the statistics, financial statements and general information about the American and Canadian Hospitals.

Pages 103-104 deleted, advertising.