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## CONTENTS

INDEXING WEST VIRGINIANA--A PROGRESS REPORT . . . . .	2
By Robert Munn	
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK . . . . .	3
SPECIAL EDITIONS OF WEST VIRGINIA NEWSPAPERS . . . . .	4
NEWS FROM THE FIELD . . . . .	6
1955/56 MEMBERSHIP . . . . .	8

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# INDEXING WEST VIRGINIANA--A PROGRESS REPORT

By  
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The indexing of West Virginia periodicals has been a matter of great concern to State librarians for many years. We have long been acutely conscious of the time wasted in exasperating and all too often fruitless searches for information buried in unindexed journals. The present combination of staff shortages and increased demands for service has made the indexing of these journals seem especially urgent.

The West Virginia Library Association has taken official cognizance of this problem by the appointment of a permanent committee on indexing. This Committee has been most active during the past year or so. Much has been done. The following progress can be reported since the last report on indexing West Virginia periodicals appeared in the December 1954 issue of this journal.

The card index to the West Virginia Review has been completed. This journal covers the period 1923 to 1948. It contains material on all aspects of West Virginia--political and economic history, biography, social conditions and literature. Also completed are indexes to the following journals:

Illustrated Monthly West Virginian  
vl-2:7 1907--Ap 1909//

Transallegheny Historical Magazine  
vl-2 0 1901--0 1902//

West Virginia Historical Magazine  
vl-5:2 Ja 1901--Ap 1905//

West Virginia Historical Society.  
Proceedings.  
vl 1871//

Index cards for all the journals listed above are interfiled to form a real index to West Virginia. This index is, as might be imagined, of some size; it takes up about three regular sized catalog trays.

The very size and scope of this index--while its chief virtue--presents a major problem. We refer, of course, to the cost of publishing. A study of the matter is now under way and it is hoped that a relatively inexpensive method of publication can be found.

The past year has also seen the completion of an author and subject index to the West Virginia Educational Bulletin vl-20. The value of this index is obvious to all who have tried to locate information on the history of any aspect of education in the State. This index is of considerable size, and once again the cost of publication is a matter for concern. There is some hope that Dr. Trent will agree to publish the index as a special issue of the Bulletin.

In addition to the completed indexes listed above, the Reference Department of the University Library is indexing on a continuing basis the following currently-issued periodicals:

West Virginia Conservation

West Virginia Municipality

West Virginia State Magazine

All this indexing is being done on standard 3 x 5 cards. Every effort is being made to conform to established

(Continued on page 5)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It is with regret I announce Mr. Jerome Foley's resignation as First Vice-President and President-Elect. Mr. Foley leaves this month to become order librarian at General Electric in Cincinnati. We are sorry to have such a competent librarian and willing Association worker leave the state, but we wish him luck.

All members of the Executive Board were present on February 17 for the second meeting of the year. A 31 item business agenda was completed. Each of us left the meeting exhausted but with a satisfied feeling of accomplishment. The number of items on the agenda reflect the spirit of the Association and the varied activities at which the membership is working.

The Annual meeting was set for Charleston on November 2-3. The W.V. E.A. will be meeting in Huntington on November 1-2. Executive Board believes this will give school librarians opportunity to attend the Library Association meeting. Hence convention attendance this year may be expected to be double that of previous years.

The Extension Committee's support of the West Virginia Library Commission budget in the State Legislature was successful. Working together, the Committee and the Commission convincingly showed the Legislature the need for granting the Commission's requested budget. We of the library profession should publicly express our gratitude to legislative members for their action. The Commission received \$86,200. This enables West Virginia to qualify for the Library Services Bill, which is pending in the House of Representatives. Miss Parks reports that county contributions may enable the Commission to be eligible for the maximum distribution of Federal Funds.

The Executive Board voted a donation of \$25.00 to support the A.L.A. Washington Office.

Mr. Bacon, our A.L.A. Councilor, announced that the Association was accepted as a Chapter of A.L.A. at Midwinter meeting. Only 28 other State Associations were accepted. At midwinter he also discovered that West Virginia is one of five states prepared with a plan to execute the provisions of the Library Services Bill, when it becomes effective.

Miss Julia Bennett, Director of the A.L.A. Washington Office, requests all librarians to be alert for action on the Library Services Bill. It may come before the House during March. Mr. John Bennett, our Federal Coordinator, will notify each of us when this occurs. At that time immediately write, telephone, or telegram your Congressman. By our united action we can make the Library Services Bill a reality.

Indexing of the West Virginia Review and the West Virginia Educational Bulletin has been completed. The problem now is publication. The Publications and Indexing Committee is studying ways and means for making the indexes available.

West Virginia Library Association membership continues to grow. At this time there are 151 individual and 25 institutional members.

Executive Board decided to sponsor Mrs. Otis G. Wilson for an A. L. A. Trustee Award. As most of us know Mrs. Wilson is responsible for much of the development of library service in West Virginia. About her a former West Virginia librarian declares "I doubt if there is a single West Virginian

(continued on p. 7)