

# WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

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## CONFERENCE AT INSTITUTE

The W. V. L. A. meeting of 1951 was held at Institute on the occasion of the dedication of W. Va. State college Library, October 19, 1951. The academic gathering at 10 A. M. was addressed by Luther H. Evans, the Librarian of Congress.

Dr. Evans stressed that librarians should be willing to weed their collections of books and discard materials no longer pertinent. Secondly, he warned against following elaborate procedures of cataloging when they serve no useful purpose, and pointed out that the Library of Congress rules and practices are good only when they make sense in a particular library. The rules are not a higher law; smaller libraries require less complicated practices. His remarks were witty telling to those in the profession, and encouraging to those of the general public who heard them. Lastly, he pleaded for the continuance of the strong library tradition of freedom of access to information. He expressed his conviction that people have a right to truth and that the sources of information will be cut off only if people are cowards.

The procession moved to the new library where the doors were opened and the inspection tours started. After lunch, symposiums of the faculty and guests took place simultaneously with library association section meetings. Tea for the librarians and guests provided a restful hour in the attractive faculty lounge of the library.

The dinner meeting of the W.V.L.A. was held that evening, in Glasscock Hall. Members of the Association and the faculty of the College heard Dr. Errett W. McDiarmid, Dean of the Colleges of Art, Science and Literature of the University of Minnesota, and formerly librarian there.

Before the speech of the evening a birthday cake with ten candles was

presented to the West Virginia Library Commission. It was accepted by Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary, and cut and distributed by Mrs. Oliver Shurtleff, Chairman of the Commission.

After Miss Mary Wattles, President of W. V. L. A. had introduced the people at the speaker's table, Dr. McDiarmid gave a thoughtful discussion of the American heritage. Three characteristics received his attention: the healthy conflict of ideas, the importance of the individual, and the importance of education. All three have been and are fostered by libraries. The meeting closed with a stirring demand by Dr. John W. Davis, President of W. Va. State, that librarians meet their responsibilities to provide free access to truth.

Saturday morning a board meeting was followed by a general meeting and the election of officers. The adoption of the Library Bill of Rights as the Association's own, climaxed two days of meetings where the individual's right to information became the repeated subject of serious consideration. (The Library Bill of rights was originally published in the ALA Bulletin 42:285 (Jl-Ag 1948). Copies may be obtained from Robert North, Jr., Kanawha County Public Library, Charleston 1.

The Association is indeed sensible of its indebtedness to W. Va. State for being host to the conference. The cordiality of faculty and students made the meeting a delight.

Officers elected October 20, 1951 are: President, Mr. Robert North, Jr.; Vice President, Mr. E. Hugh Bohymer.; Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Quarrier; Treasurer, Miss Rosa Oliver.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION

The Public Library Section of W. V. L. A. in a brief business meeting at 2:30 p. m. Friday afternoon,

October 19, elected Miss Virginia Ebeling, Chairman for the year 1952. The Executive Secretary of the W. Va. Library Commission, Miss Dora Ruth Parks, asked for an expression of sentiment from the group regarding a possible library workshop to be sponsored by the Commission. The group present went on record endorsing the idea, and as being willing to encourage and promote such a training project.

At 3:00 p. m. the members separated into smaller round table groups. Mrs. Madalyn Bradford of the Huntington Public Library was chairman of the group discussing Technical Processes; Mrs. Lawrence Tatterson of the Kanawha County Public Library, chairman of the group on Special Services; Miss Wilma Brown of the Kanawha County Public Library, chairman of the group interested in work with children; and Mr. Harold Harlan, of the State Library Commission, chairman of the group discussing Extension Work.

At 4:15 p. m. all members of the section assembled for a panel discussion of Current Issues in Public Library Administration in W. Va., led by Miss Dora Ruth Parks. Other members of the panel were: Mrs. Madalyn Bradford, and Mr. Robert North, Jr. The chairman of the four round tables joined the panel, and preliminary to the more general discussion summarized the points brought out in their groups. Mrs. Lila Adams, new field worker with the commission, recorded the various points as they were made. Miss Parks and the members of the panel then brought out in their discussion the limitations placed upon libraries in their accomplishments in all these fields and others by the present state laws governing libraries in West Virginia.

#### COLLEGE LIBRARY SECTION

Mrs. Vivian Boughter presided over the group of twenty-seven members of the College Section of W. V. L. A. which met in the audio-visual rooms of W. Va. State Library, on October 19.

Committee discussions were held on: Faculty Status of College Library Staffs, Recruiting for Librarianship, and the Curriculum for Teacher-Librarians. The latter topic is to be discussed at the library section of the Association of Higher Education in the spring.

The secretary was directed to collect the college library statistics and to mail them to the office of the Clerk of the Senate for publication in The W. Va. Blue Book.

Officers elected for 1952 by acclamation were Mrs. Margaret Bobbitt, Marshall College, chairman; and Virgil Wynne, W. Va. Institute of Technology, secretary.

After the election of officers, Mrs. Boughter introduced the first speaker, Mr. Walter C. Felty, Audio-Visual Director of Marshall College, who discussed the subject of the afternoon: "The College Audio-Visual Program as an independent department."

Mr. Felty stated very clearly why many directors of audio-visual education preferred to be independent of the library. He raised many thought provoking questions such as the financing of the program by the library, with an already overburdened budget and also the trained personnel needed for such specialized service.

Mr. York, Director of the Audio-Visual department of W. Va. University Library, was introduced as the next speaker to discuss the "College Audio-Visual Program: in the library", from the point of view of the Librarian. He pointed out that librarians were well qualified to service audio-visual aids because of the similarity to library reference work. He explained that the evaluating and selecting of audio-visual materials for circulation and the classifying and housing of these materials is very similar to the methods used for other library materials.

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES

We plan shortly to publish a membership list, either as a number of W. Va. Libraries, or separately, as a means of keeping the library interests

