

PROCEEDINGS  
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL SESSIONS

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October 16-21, 1933

Stevens Hotel

Chicago

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MONDAY EVENING SESSION

October 16, 1933

The First General Session of the Fifty-Fifth Annual Convention of the American Library Association, held at the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, October 16-21, 1933, convened at nine o'clock, Mr. Harry Miller Lydenberg, President of the Association, presiding.

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: Let me ask that the first General Session of the American Library Association come to order.

It is our good fortune this evening to have our program begin by some words of welcome from Dr. Walter Dill Scott, of Northwestern University. Dr. Scott. (Applause)

DR. WALTER DILL SCOTT: Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is my privilege to greet you and it is not your misfortune to listen to an address. Friday night, last, I looked into the faces of a group in this room identical in size with this, and I realized that as a professional group of experts it was the best paid group in America. It is my privilege now to look into your faces and realize that as a group of experts, expert professional technicians, you are the worst paid in America. (Applause)

I wonder why you came to Chicago. I have heard that in other cities there are libraries with better mural paintings, with more books, with greater facilities for service. Am

I right in assuming that you weren't in any way influenced to come to Chicago because of the fact that the library in this city was to be honored as no other library was honored by a city in modern times? His Honor, William Hale Thompson, Mayor of the City of Chicago, proposed to take the books of the public library out to the lake front and have a great pageant and a bonfire to please the entire community. Why would you librarians come to such a city?

The presiding officer said, in introducing me, that I came from Northwestern University. I was a student at Northwestern University when you met here in 1893. I never called for so many books any place that I couldn't get, for so many books that were there and couldn't be had. They were in storage, having no shelving.

Chicago is not a city of the greatest libraries, and Northwestern University is not a university that has done credit to itself because of its libraries. I think that if it were as bad as I could have painted it, you never would have come to Chicago and I wouldn't have been asked to welcome you.

The City of Chicago believes in libraries; and there is no other politician in America who sealed his doom by proposing to interfere with the activities of the library. Mayor Thompson never had a chance after he had proposed to burn the books of the public library.

The progress in the development of libraries in

this city is very great. You can't notice it from one day to another, but take the expanse since you last met here and tonight--forty years. Think of it in periods of forty years, and it is quite remarkable. Eighty years ago there were being established in this city several significant libraries. The shelves were narrow, but the ambitions were high, and after forty years, when you assembled here, you were shown these libraries that had only forty years of growth.

I think that the interesting thing is this, that when you were here forty years ago, several of the individual libraries contained more books and were compelled to give more service than all the libraries of Chicago forty years before. Well, you may say, "You can double a small thing and you haven't got much anyhow." Now, think of the libraries that you saw forty years ago. There are in this city tonight several libraries that, individually, have more volumes than all the libraries in Chicago had forty years ago. This seems to be repeating itself every forty years. A library develops, and in forty years it will have as many books as all the libraries had forty years before.

I welcome you. I had an attitude of mind toward you. When I go into a broker's office and strike great affability, I wonder what is the matter, if they think that I have some money. When I go into a library and affability is shown, as it always is, I suspect that they know that I have ignorance that

they want to cure, and it is an utterly unselfish devotion to a cause.

I like to go to a library. I like the atmosphere. I went this morning, not that I might tell about it tonight, but I went and walked around the library and saw the attendance there, and it was a pleasure--the most unselfish service we have.

I am much pleased to have 3,000 of you here, because I think you can do a lot for Chicago, and I trust that you will inspire confidence in libraries so that when you come back in forty years you will say that in this city there are as many books in individual libraries as there were in all the libraries in Chicago in 1933.

We welcome you because of your personalities. We welcome you because of your influence. If there is anything we can do to help you, we want to do it. (Applause)

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: From the North (I will not say from the frozen North) to the South come words of welcome. Vice-President Frederic Woodward, of the University of Chicago, is to express the welcome on the part of the sister institution. (Applause)

MR. WOODWARD: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: I am very happy to join with my friend, President Scott, in a hearty welcome to the members of the Association, and particularly to the extraordinary group of distinguished guests

from abroad. It is unfortunate for you that President Hutchins could not be present on this occasion. He sends to you his cordial greetings and his best wishes for the success of this great conference.

I am glad to be his substitute, for I feel a strong tie of brotherhood with librarians which takes me way back to the days of my youth when, as a humble member of the library staff of the public library of my native town I did more systematic general reading on rainy evenings than I have done in all the rest of the days of my life. It was one of the most delightful, and certainly one of the most profitable, periods of my life, and I love to recall it.

It is suggestive, I think, that those who arranged your program invited the two sister universities of this city, by their representatives, to extend a welcome to you tonight. It is a recognition, as I see it, not only of the vital interest which universities must take in the library profession, and in library problems, but also of the close relationship which exists between librarians and the faculties of educational institutions. Perhaps there are no two professions which are more closely allied; and by the same token they have many problems in common.

Take, for example, that old, old problem which will not down, the problem that we in the universities call that of academic freedom. The principle which underlies this problem

is one which certainly has its application to the administration of a library as well as to that of a university. The librarians should occupy, like the university professors, a position of such dignity and economic independence in the community as to enable them to exercise an untrammelled judgment in the performance of their duties; and, more than that, to express freely and fearlessly their opinions on any subject in which, as citizens of the community, they choose to be interested. (Applause)

Freedom of speech is not so popular in the world today as it was before the war. In many of the great nations of the earth it has been seriously curtailed, and there are many prominent persons in America who, while paying lip service to the principle, do not hesitate to suggest its violation when their own interests or their own prejudices are at stake, which means, it seems to me, that we who are interested in the education of our people, young and old, must be on our guard to resist every assault upon our freedom to express our opinions, to criticize others in accordance with the dictates of our judgment and our conscience.

And analagous to this duty of defending the freedom of our professions is that of defending the institutions which we serve. What with the rapidly increasing leisure of the great masses of our people and the rapidly increasing importance of an intelligent understanding by our people of the complex social and political problems which confront us, the library, I

submit, has greater potential usefulness today than it has ever had in the past, and it seems to me that whether its potentialities are to be realized in actual service depends in large measure upon the attitude of those who are responsible for its administration.

Economies must, of course, be effected in these times; and it goes without saying that the librarian will heartily cooperate with every honest endeavor to reduce expenditures. But it seems to me that it is equally imperative in these times that the librarian should never fail, should never permit the budget-making authorities or anybody else to overlook the indispensable character of the library service, and should resist every attempt from whatever quarter to sacrifice the library to other less useful services and, in particular, to the greed of political office holders and politicians. (Applause)

But, my friends, we can not be content with the defense of the library as it exists today. This is the time for us to give greater attention than we ever have in the past to the improvement of its service. I mean that we must make, I think, a more serious and a more scientific endeavor to ascertain, so far as facilities permit, and to serve, the whole need of our constituencies. What may be called the pioneering stage of library development in America, to which President Scott has so happily referred, a stage of rapid and in some cases indiscriminate development, is a thing of the past. The task of the

day is one of consolidation and of improvement, and to these ends, it seems to me, we must know more than we do now of the capacity and of the habits of readers of the constituencies of the libraries.

We must discover, if we can, the most advantageous relationship between the library, the public library, and the municipal government. If possible, we must establish standards of measurement which will enable us to give the best possible service to a constituency of a given size and character. Problems such as these--and there are many of them--are of a nature which involves patient and thorough and scientific and disinterested research on the part of qualified experts in many fields.

The solution of these problems will require the cooperation of librarians everywhere, and I will conclude by saying that I am happy to bespeak the deep interest of the University of Chicago in the study of all of these important problems and its eager desire to cooperate in every way with the Association of Librarians and with the great profession which it represents. (Applause)

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: It is our pleasure this evening--an unusual pleasure for our gatherings of American librarians--to have with us delegates from abroad, representatives of sister institutions, representatives of the International Federation of Library Associations. We count ourselves

fortunate in having them present on the platform this evening. I am sure you will all want to know who they are, and extend a word of greeting and evidence of welcome to them. I will call their names and, rather than have you applaud as each one rises, I will ask you to wait until they all have been announced, and then show your feeling by a rising vote of welcome.

... The following were introduced:

T. P. Sevensma, Librarian, League of Nations Library, Geneva, and Secretary, International Federation of Library Associations.

A. C. Breycha-Vauthier, Law Librarian, League of Nations Library, Geneva, and Joint Secretary, International Federation of Library Associations.

A. Vincent, Librarian, Royal Library, Brussels.

A. Kaiming Chiu, Librarian, Chinese-Japanese Library, Harvard University.

Arundell Esdaile, Secretary, British Museum, London, and Vice-President, International Federation of Library Associations.

John D. Cowley, Librarian, Lancashire County Library, Preston.

Angus Fletcher, British Library of Information.

Léon Bultingaire, Librarian, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

E. Wickersheimer, Administrator, National Library

of the University of Strasbourg.

Hugo A. Krüss, Director-general, Prussian State Library, Berlin.

Dr. S. S. Nejal, India.

Luigi de Gregori, Librarian, Biblioteca Casanatense, Rome.

Rinshiro Ishikawa, Tokyo Science and Literature University, Tokyo.

Rafael Aguilar y Santillán, Perpetual Secretary, Sociedad Científica "Antonio Alzate," Mexico City.

Juana Manrique de Lara, Supervisor of Libraries, Department of Libraries, Mexico City.

Ernest J. Bell, Librarian, Canterbury Public Library, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Wilhelm Munthe, Director, Royal University Library, Oslo.

Jan Muszkowski, Director, Biblioteka i Muzeum Ordynacji Krasinskiach, Warsaw.

Jordi Rubió, Librarian, Biblioteca de Catalunya, Barcelona.

Isak G. A. Collijn, Director, Royal Library, Stockholm, and Honorary President, International Federation of Library Associations.

Marcel Godet, Director, National Library, Berne, and Vice-President, International Federation of Library As-

sociations.

Eugéne Tisserant, Acting Librarian, Vatican  
Library. ...

DR. COLLIJN: Mr. President and Fellow Librarians:  
Our friends on this side of the water have already done so much  
to assure us of our welcome here that they feel it needs only a  
few words from me to express, on behalf of my colleagues of the  
International Federation of Library Associations, our gratifica-  
tion at meeting with the American Library Association, and our  
appreciation of the many friendly courtesies already shown us.  
We thank you most cordially and extend our best wishes for a  
successful conference. (Applause)

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: Besides a greeting from the  
friends in Poland we have cables from the Czechoslovak Library  
Association and from other associations abroad. I want to read,  
in addition, this word of greeting that came today from Stock-  
bridge, Massachusetts:

It is with great regret that we realize that Mr.  
Bowker can not be with us this evening. It is with equally  
great regret that he determined that it would be inadvisable for  
him to come. He did send this message: "'I bid the sword pass  
before the reaper's scythe,' sings Whittier. It is not often  
vouchsafed that a generation which sows the seed may witness the  
growth and good works of two generations, as with us of '76. My  
homage to my senior in years and service, Charles Evans. May he

complete more volumes of his magnum opus. My benediction to Miss Chandler and all the A. L. A. clans, present and future. Semper fidelis. R. R. Bowker." (Applause)

Let me ask you to go back with me to July, 1893, just forty years ago, and the American Library Association, in its fourteenth session in this city of Chicago, then, as now, part of an international gathering of librarians. It was a year much like the four we have just lived through. Financial crises and panics in this country, in India, England, and Australia; staggering and rocking the economic and industrial world. Failures and receiverships for banks and railroads so common as to cause little more than passing mention. Unemployment then, as now, of vital and pressing importance.

The library world was talking about the new building for the Chicago Public Library, one cornerstone of which had just been laid in May, with the other to be laid in November; about the final settlement of the litigation connected with the John Crerar will; about the bequest for the Rosenberg Library, in Galveston; about the establishment of the Arizona Territorial Library and Territorial Museum; about the purchase of the Copping collection of Bibles for the General Theological Seminary in New York City. It was still an era of printed catalogs for such institutions as could afford them.

The Cutter expansive classification and the Dewey decimal system had gradually worn down their competitors

ans were now settling into the final rounds of their duel. In the minds of many the Rudolph Indexer at the Newberry Library was destined ultimately to replace all printed and all card catalogs.

And here I suppose I should pause to permit someone to rise and remind me that when Dr. Dewey opened that 1893 session of the A. L. A. in this city just forty years ago he announced he would make no formal report and would defer any extended remarks. That worthy precedent has not been followed consistently since then, but I shall do my best this evening to keep close to his commendable example.

It is not unfitting, however, that on such an occasion as this, in such a city, we should recall that that 1893 meeting of the A. L. A. just forty years from us stood, in its turn, just forty years from the first general gathering of librarians in this country, in New York City in 1853.

It is not unfitting that on such an occasion as this we should pause long enough to survey the ground we just have passed and to study carefully the paths that lie before us and indicate in general, in indefinite fashion, some of those pleasant meadows we hope to traverse soon, and point out some of those perilous peaks and difficult crevasses, those bogs and swamps, that cause somewhat stout hearts among us to look with apprehension to the future.

I am sure that when the storm broke just four years ago this month every one of us realized that in some way we were

certain to be affected. I doubt if many had any idea that the flood would soon ravage our shores with the biting fierceness these years have shown. Few thought the whirl and swirl of the market place would sweep into our reading rooms, to fill them with unaccustomed readers and to drag from them some we had come to count as intimate partners of our daily life.

As librarians our life is an integral part of the life around us. As librarians our life is completely separated from the life around us. Phrase it as you will. Either is true; neither is true alone.

All this storm and stress gave us one more opportunity for study, fruitful study, of the closeness of connection between our work and that of our neighbors and fellow-citizens. But, whether we are detached observers, swung high aloft in the crow's nest, or a part of the crew laboring at the pumps and sweeps, none can deny or doubt that the economic and industrial upheaval has had a lasting effect on our present and our future fortune.

What kind of effect has it had? Well, for one thing it has shown us just what kind of part the library plays in this world. Some of us have had the instructive experience of standing before those in control of the public purse and presenting our appeal for funds for the library, an experience as chastening as instructive. We show by diagrams and tables, by word of mouth and written and printed support, how the use of the library has grown, how responsive the library has to be

to these increased demands, how sympathetic and helpful it has worked with its public, how it has sought to anticipate those needs. We build up what seems to us a convincing case, the accuracy and strength demonstrated beyond cavil and doubt. Yes, and we have seen that eloquent and moving plea met with devastating thunder and conviction: "The library is a luxury, and in times like these, the library must go first of all, must be cut deepest. Do you realize that so-and-so many thousands of dollars in unpaid taxes have yet to be collected? Do you really want us to spend more money for books when so-and-so many families lack coal in their coal bins? Do you really want us to take public money to buy books for your readers while such distress is but a few hundred yards from us calling to the high heavens for help? Why, you will be asking us to supply picture puzzles next."

When we hear honest, public-spirited men, your friends, your neighbors and mine, saying such things, what can we reply? We insist that the library is no luxury, that it is an essential part of the life of every citizen and every community to treat the mind above body. Man shall not live by bread alone is just as true today as when the Teacher quoted it 1900 years ago.

Ah, yes, my friends. It is easy to say such things here before a friendly and understanding audience. No matter, however, whether it is easy or it is difficult to say them before a hostile audience, it is the duty of each of us who

cares for more than the next fleeting moment to ask why it is that honest, intelligent men speak and feel this way about libraries. We certainly have failed to convince them that our work is as essential and as fundamental, as necessary, as worth while, as we so fondly and honestly believe it to be.

Would it be necessary if we had shown them, as youths, what books could do, if we had proven to them that books can be free from the stigma of text-books and the hateful memories of instruments thrust upon them in the school room? What have we done to show the youngster how to read? Given him stories, I admit. Yes, and provided carefully graded lists for this age and that. But if men with a semblance of education answer our pleas with such replies, tell me how to rate our efforts to demonstrate that books are vital and essential. May our future efforts be more potent and more successful than those we look back on in the immediate past!

What are the achievements the Association can set to its credit this year just passing? What are the problems facing us? For one thing, I rank high the efforts to keep our profession young. It is difficult to speak too strongly of the work of the Committee on Pensions and Annuities. I am sure I voice the feeling of every member of the Association and every well wisher of library work in this country when I congratulate the Association on the results of this work and that Committee for its happy solution of the problem.

Closely akin to this in spirit has been the way the new members, the younger folk, have been recognized these past few years. Every one of us wants to give this new blood a chance to strengthen and enliven our fellowship, to give these new brooms a chance to demonstrate that they can sweep effectively whenever and wherever their elders have failed.

We all rejoice that the first payment, half the total expected, has been made by the Carnegie Corporation on account of the million increase in endowment secured as a result of the constant, persistent, unceasing labors of the Special Membership Committee, but the income of that half million, some \$20,000, will not set us free from thought and care.

The year for the Association began with a deficit and our activities have been hampered by the necessity of first making good on that deficit; and second, adjusting ourselves to decreased income. A salary cut of fourteen per cent applied to the Headquarters Staff is a demonstration of our earnest determination to live within our income. The spirit with which this was met by the devoted band in the Secretary's office redounds emphatically to their credit. Let me remind you, also, that Headquarters Staff ranks among the first to join the annuity plan announced early this year.

We all hope, I am sure, that in the not too distant future the Association may be able to change this arrangement from the employe-pay-all plan to the plan whereby employer

and employe share equally.

Something like three-fifths of our income--sixty per cent of our annual receipts--comes from membership dues, conference registration, and sales of publications, the whole making a factor closely controlled by you, me, each one of us. One new member brought in by each one now enrolled will double our income. Responsibility for the future progress of the Association rests squarely on our own shoulders.

I want to call attention, also, to the part we have played in the movement for adult education. Steady, constant thought and effort prove that we unquestionably see an advance here as compared with our position a year ago. We have been more concerned with studies, experimentation, investigation, thought, than with promulgation or propaganda. The next major step may perhaps be an examination of the library implications of the numerous adult education experiments now under way.

For library extension the year has been marked rather by emphasis on fundamentals, on foundation work, than by startling expansion. Revision of public library standards by a special committee, beginning of the study of public administration aspects, aspects of public library service, a notable meeting at the University of North Carolina, continuation of the original field work in the Southeast, a demonstration from the Knoxville Library covering ten counties in the Tennessee Valley area, the survey of libraries in Canada, and the grants

to Canadian college libraries by the Carnegie Corporation, parallel to those great helps made in this country a year or so ago--these stand up as some of the things to remember in this field.

The most serious setback came in the State Library extension work, which suffered distressingly at the hands of the state legislatures. It is a satisfaction to recall that the Library of Congress has found itself able to take over the task of the supplying of D. O. numbers on the printed cards.

Another advance, not spectacular but none the less beneficial, has been the establishment of a scheme of co-operative cataloging destined, undoubtedly, to decrease administrative costs for each of us, and to increase the help we can give scholarship and research when they turn to us.

There is less satisfaction in recalling that we still have vacant the post of Assistant at Headquarters charged with the supervision of our work in the field of adult education, that the statistical service and the School Library Department, and the College Library Advisory Service, are all likewise deferred.

So much for the immediate past. What about tomorrow? Next year? The next decade?

Let me mention a few of the problems that face us. What part are we librarians to play in control of this new leisure voluntarily sought or involuntarily thrust upon this

new world? What are we to say to the next generation of librarians? What are we to do about new phases of book production? What do we know about the cost of storage of books, the cost of supplying books to readers? How are we to justify the cost of our work to the community that supports us? What are we doing to adapt our administrative problems to the new conditions that face us? How shall the work of libraries, adult education, reference works, circulation work, be revamped to meet the needs of the new social order and to fit the new philosophy of education, with its renewal of emphasis on independent study? How soon shall we be able to tell the new generation of librarians just what qualifications we feel the library schools should set before them as preliminary to their decision about joining our ranks? Have we, in the past, emphasized too much the material rewards when we set before them the task of recruiting for librarianship?

Much of the success that crowns the next generation will depend on the way we, today, insure the ease of access of those fitted for our work and help to other careers those who there will be happier and more successful. Mass production has swept into the world of books. The output of the typewriter, machine compositor, high speed presses, has increased prodigiously the production of books. The reading public is larger, though perhaps not proportionately increased. The space for shelving and the capacity for digesting, absorbing, using this gargantuan

mass, lag far behind. The same specialization that besets us in our industrial or professional life demands observance in the book life. Are economic and book world alike condemned to this welter of uncertainty until they develop and apply proper controls? If so, it certainly behooves us, as librarians, to ponder our responsibility and our fate.

I sometimes wonder if we, today, are witnessing a change in book making as far reaching and as portentous as that in Mainz when Johannes Gutenberg produced a book mechanically, without the slightest use of a pen, as some of his followers described it. Certainly the mechanical production of books has far surpassed in speed and quantity any forecasts the previous generation might have dreamed of voicing in its most daring moods.

And now, when the camera, the offset process, the rubber blanket, the film slide, the phonograph record, to say nothing about radio broadcasting, television, sound pictures are so emphatically at our elbow, what can we, as librarians, do but ask, earnestly, thoughtfully, where we may find a man with vision extensive enough and accurate enough to picture exactly whither we go and what we are to encounter. We certainly shall be unfaithful to our trust, unappreciative of our opportunities, if we fail to realize that such a change is imminent--nay, is on us.

Our scientific friends have come to feel, recently,

that storage of books in our modern cities is dangerous, the polluted air of urban environment doing irreparable damage to paper and leather there subjected to its ravages, while the purer air of the country, less beridden with noxious gasses, offers a more welcoming haven to paper and binding. Does this look toward the removal of the bulk of our books to storage warehouses far out in the country, with daily shipments to reading rooms located in the midst of busy city life and strife? For the study of these storage conditions we ought certainly to pause long enough to pay tribute to the Carnegie Corporation, which made possible the long, thorough examination of methods of caring for books, carried on for several years by the Bureau of Standards in Washington for the National Research Council. To the Corporation, the Council, the Bureau, should go our thanks as librarians and, within the family circle, let me ask if you feel it is to the credit of this Association of Librarians that such an investigation should have been made on behalf of another organization than our own. Never a word of appreciation or approval from the American Library Association!

Now and then we hear a protest against the size and growth and vastness of our modern museums, hospitals, and other typical institutions, suggesting that better results would follow if these huge plants were broken up into smaller ones, highly specialized, located at strategically convenient points. To be sure, the voice of the market place is by no means unan-

imous, but the mere raising of the question is significant.

I sometimes wonder if our library schools and centers of research and investigation might find it profitable to devote the time and effort of competent students to determine when the weight of library administrative machinery requires more energy than can profitably be devoted to such a purpose.

I can not solve these problems, but I do not fear to set them before you for consideration, for thought, for pondering. Every one of us will say without qualification that we want to simplify our life, to lessen the complications that beset us on every side, to define the fundamentals and to relegate the less important to the sidelines. No difficulty in stating the premises, but application of the general principle is not so simple when it comes to applying them to surrounding conditions.

And now, friends, what is the substance of the whole matter? Which of these questions must be faced and answered today? Which of them answer themselves? This is neither the time nor the place to decide whether an era has passed and we are entering a new world, or whether there has been no essential change beyond a shrinking in paper values. A change certainly has come, a new vision has been seen, but, interpret and explain it as you will, never do you find a prophet who dreams of a world without books, without contact with those records of what has been said and done and thought in the past, those inspirations and stimulations for new visions in the future.

It is a new world, with a new emphasis on the machine; but it is also an old world, with the simple moral and spiritual values still the motivating forces behind the processes of reconstruction. It is certainly a better world in which to do library work. No need for us to seek a rating for our achievements as compared with the physician struggling with physical ills, the lawyer righting social wrongs, the clergyman calling to right living. We know how we help the community.

We live daily with the inspiration of tendering satisfaction to the reader's desire. We see over and over again what books can do for the material, the physical, the intellectual life of their readers. But an integral and a vital part of all that, far transcendent to any single element in its meaning and result, is the conviction and the assurance that the message of the book, the mission of those who spread that message abroad, is a lasting and a penetrating part of the spiritual life of the community.

I do not mean to preach. I do mean to remind us, one and all, of the privilege granted us by this opportunity of working with books; with no desire to lessen the importance of study of the technic of the use and care of books, I do want to urge the duty, the privilege, the responsibility, the lasting reward, connected with this interpretation of the message, the value, the power, the essence of this world of books, this realm granted to us librarians for cultivation.

We have little to do with the seed as it is sown. We have much to do with the fate of the plant as it struggles through the soil and raises toward harvest. The fruit itself, and the service it renders others, are affected in large measure by the spirit and the skill of the librarian who cares for it. Appreciation of that duty and that reward is safely left in your hands.

Many of our questions undoubtedly will long remain unanswered, but there never has been, nor ever will be, any question that books, and those that deal with books, will constantly bear a larger part in this new world opening around us. (Applause)

... Announcements ...

... The meeting adjourned at ten-fifteen  
o'clock ...

## WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION

October 18, 1933

The second General Session of the American Library Association convened at ten o'clock, Mr. Harry M. Lydenberg, President of the Association, presiding.

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: Let me call to order this second General Session of this convention.

It is our good fortune this morning to go through an unusual experience so far as the American Library Association is concerned, a joint meeting with the International Federation of Library Associations. Within a few moments I will turn the chair over to Dr. Bishop, president of that Association. Before that, however, we will ask your indulgence and your patience to conclude a few pieces of routine business.

Our first order of business is the presentation of annual reports. I will ask Mr. Milam, the Secretary, to speak on that.

SECRETARY MILAM: Mr. President, I present by title the annual reports, including the financial report, which have been printed and distributed to all members.

MR. HERMAN H. B. MEYER (Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.): I move their adoption.

... The motion was seconded, voted upon and carried ...

SECRETARY MILAM: Those of you who were present at the Council Meeting remember the report of the Special Com-

mittee, suggesting: first, lines of policy to be followed by the Association in the matter of election of Honorary Members; and second, nominations of some friends of library work in this country who in their opinion were fitting candidates for honorary membership.

The recommendations were adopted without question by the Council. It now comes before the Association for action. Miss Rathbone.

MISS JOSEPHINE A. RATHBONE (Pratt Institute School of Library Science, Brooklyn, New York) As Chairman of the Committee, I move its adoption. Unfortunately, I have not the list with me, and would be glad if the Secretary would read it before the vote is taken.

... Secretary Milam read the recommendations, original copy of which was retained by him ...

SECRETARY MILAM: You have heard the motion. Do I hear a second?

MR. MEYER: I second the motion.

... The motion was voted upon and carried ...

SECRETARY MILAM: We next have the report of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws. It will be presented by the Chairman, Mr. Sherman.

MR. C. E. SHERMAN (Public Library, Providence, R.I.): Several matters have been referred to this Committee this year, the first of which concerns Section 24 of the Constitution, "Endowment Funds". The Constitution now provides

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that one member of that Committee shall be nominated annually in the regular way that the other officers are provided for. This schedule was awkward to the Nominating Committee, and the Constitution and By-Laws Committee have prepared an amendment, which we believe will make it much easier to obtain a resident of Chicago or nearby to this city, and one who is acceptable to the Association in this very important work. And so we present the following recommendation, that Section 24 be amended in the fourth sentence by striking out the words "by ballot, at each regular meeting", and inserting, "By the Executive Board annually", so that the section will read as follows: "All endowment funds shall, subject to conditions legally incident thereto, be in the custody of three trustees, one of whom shall be elected by the Executive Board annually to hold office for three years from the date of his election and until his successor shall be elected."

In presenting this proposal, I move its adoption.

... The motion was seconded, voted upon and carried ...

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. President, it should be added that this being an amendment to the Constitution, it cannot become a part of our organic structure until acted upon at a successive meeting of this body, which would be the next annual meeting.

Our attention was drawn to the fact, by the Membership Committee of the Association, that a considerable number

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of members of long standing, by retirement, voluntary or otherwise, find it difficult to retain their membership; and it seemed, if for no other reasons than sentimental reasons, rather desirable that a way should be opened to them to retain their membership, if at the same time the Association is not duly affected financially. So, we propose for your consideration, that Section 1 of the By-Laws affecting dues be amended by the introduction of a new Section 1, to read as follows:

"After twenty-five years of membership, a member if permanently retired, may, upon written application to, and by vote of the Executive Board, retain membership for life without further payment of dues. Such members shall not receive the 'Bulletin'."

I move the adoption of this amendment.

MR. MEYER: I second the motion.

... The motion was voted upon and carried ...

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. President, the fiscal year of the Association is now the calendar year, and yet we are all easily aware of the fact that that does not conform with our administrative year.. In other words, our officers usually take office in May or June, and yet they operate under a budget for a financial year that does not conform with the year they serve. For many reasons which could be discussed at length, it seemed desirable to the Executive Board and to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws that Section 7 of the By-Laws affecting the fiscal year be amended by striking out the words "the

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calendar year", and inserting "ended August 31 for all purposes <sup>accept</sup> of membership which shall be for the calendar year." Thus, it shall read as follows:

"The fiscal year of the Association shall be ended August 31 for all purposes <sup>accept</sup> of membership which shall be for the calendar year."

I move the adoption of the amendment.

... The motion was seconded, voted upon, and carried ...

MR. SHERMAN: In considering the omission of the mid-winter meeting this winter, the Executive Board thought it desirable to cancel the conflict of statement between Section 22 of the Constitution and Section 12 of the By-Laws. In one place we find that the Council is required to have at least one meeting a year; and the other, under the section applying to "State Representation in Council", it would appear that two Council meetings must be held a year. The amendment would consist of striking out, in Section 12 of the By-Laws, the words "two meetings", and inserting "one meeting."

I move the adoption of the amendment.

MR. MEYER: I second the motion.

... The motion was voted upon and carried ...

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: Permit me to announce that to our surprise, and our gratified surprise, we have with us today Mr. James King Steele, representing the Governor of the Philippine Islands. I will ask Mr. Steele to rise, and I will assure

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Mr. Steele of the pleasure all of us have in getting him here.

(Applause)

This year has given us many unusual experiences. I am sure not a single one of them so far has surpassed, and few have equalled the pleasure that all of us feel in knowing we can meet today with this Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations. It gives us great pleasure to welcome as the presiding officer, Dr. William Warner Bishop, so well known to us in many phases of library work here, and now appearing before us in a new capacity as President of this International Federation. (Applause)

... Dr. Bishop assumed the chair ...

CHAIRMAN BISHOP: It is very strange for me to appear before the American Library Association in any other capacity than as a member of this body. It is as your representative in the International Federation of Library Associations and as a member of the International Committee, that I am present this morning.

Under the gracious and kindly permission of the President of the Association, who retires as far as possible from presiding at these meetings which he dignifies by his presence and manner, some of us have been given functions which we would not shirk, but which belong more properly to him.

I might say to those who are not familiar with the International Association of Library Federations, that this

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organization was formed in Edinburgh in 1927, as a direct result of the attendance of numerous friends engaged in library work in various parts of the Old World at the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of this Association at Atlantic City and Philadelphia in 1926.

The organization begun at Edinburgh in 1927, in which our organization has taken a conspicuous part, has been continued. In 1928, there was held in Rome the International Congress of Librarians and Bibliographers, under the auspices of this Federation. At this Congress, a distinguished and numerous representation from the United States was present and participated.

Meetings of the International Library Committee have been held annually in 1928 and 1929 and every year since, the last one having been held at the Swiss National Library in Berne, in June 1932, and the present meeting concluded last Saturday here at Chicago.

There will be another International Congress held by this Association, and a vote was taken Saturday to have the 1935 place of meeting determined. It has not yet been determined, but I earnestly advise you to save up your money for a trip to Europe in 1935. Let us hope you will have more money to save than some of us have had in the last few months and years.

I mentioned this because I don't want anyone to say we spr<sup>ang</sup> this invitation too late for them to prepare.

We have a very distinguished group here. They were presented very briefly by name on Monday night, and you had an opportunity to see them. At this time, you are to have an opportunity to hear three of them only, three whom we are very happy to present to you. I bespeak your very kindly and patient attention. Two of these gentlemen are making speeches in a language which is not native to them, and I can imagine what your own feelings would be if you were called upon to address an audience of this size in French, or German, or Italian or Swedish.

I don't think they feel any trepidation, but at the same time, I beg you to listen carefully, for, after all, the task of speaking through a microphone to a large group of this sort is one of difficulty.

The first speaker on our program will speak directly on the major topic of the day. Every once in a while it is necessary for us to stop, to take account of stock and of our primary purpose. We are so engaged in the details of our rapidly growing profession; we are so engaged with the meetings of societies, of committees (I seem, myself, to have been going from one committee meeting to another ever since last Friday noon); and we get so busy in what we are doing, that we fail to see the woods for the trees. We fail to realize what is after all the basic purpose of all this work in its multiform and various divisions and activities.

We have a mission, and a very high mission of

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conscience, but which does not always loom as prominently in our discussions as it might, even though we have it in the back of our mind all the time.

So, we have dedicated this meeting of the International Federation and the American Library Association to the topic of "Society's Interest in the Preservation and Use of Books and Libraries." The emphasis in the speeches will be on both preservation and use, the two different phases of our common task.

The first speaker is charged with the subject, "What the Preservation of the Records of Scholarship Means to Changing Civilizations", by Monsignor Eugene Tisserant, director, Vatican Library, Vatican City, Italy. He is a man known personally to very many of you, a man whom I count it a privilege to know, a man whose contributions in the field of Oriental language (I marvel that he only recently published a catalog on Armenian manuscript) are unsurpassed, but whose business acumen has enabled him to transform into a most modern up to date and efficient working library, the most ancient, perhaps, of the libraries represented here, founded in the year 1450 by Pope Nicholas V.

I sometimes wonder whether the weight of this burden is not onerous, but Monsignor Tisserant bears it with gaiety and skill, so that the performance of intricate and difficult tasks seems to be not only a pleasure, but almost a

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diversion. I take great pleasure in presenting to this audience  
Monsignor Tisserant of the Vatican Library.

... Monsignor Tisserant read his paper, copy of  
which was retained by publicity department ... (Applause)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I have never heard the subject  
of an entire course, which I give through a semester, summarized  
in half an hour before in such a masterly manner. Only one who  
has himself attempted to dig out and set before students these  
and other related facts, can realize what a marvel of conden-  
sation this address has been.

The next speaker is well known to many in this  
audience. He is well known in many capacities because he is a  
many sided man. He edits the Library Association Record. He  
takes a very active part in the Library Association, which in  
Great Britain is assuming, yearly, an increasingly important  
role. He has a very difficult task as Secretary of the British  
Museum. He finds time, however, as most very busy people do  
find time, for some indulgences in writing poetry and gardening,  
and various other proclivities.

I know perfectly well that sometime during the  
year I am going to have come to me a set of limericks or dogger-  
el verse from my friend Esdaile. I wish I had brought with me  
the postcard he sent me last winter when he was having the  
flu with remarks that his medical man had it too, and that his  
wife had been swallowed up by a nursing home, and that things  
were very dismal, particularly as I sent him a postcard from

Southern Florida. That postcard seems to have been the last straw. Mr. Esdaile, the Secretary of the British Museum, will now speak to us on the "Social Responsibility of the Modern Library". (Applause)

MR. ESDAILE: Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: After the fullness of Monsignor Tisserant's paper, I find mine must be like the tinkling of cymbals. Though I come from a historial library, I have confined myself to the more modern aspects of the situation.

... Mr. Esdaile read his paper, copy of which was retained by publicity department ... (Applause)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP: Mr. Esdaile has spoken to you on the social responsibility of the library. Our next speaker will reverse this topic and speak upon society's responsibility to the library. The next speaker is perhaps less well known to you by his writing than Mr. Esdaile, but he is none the less well known in Europe. He is the librarian of the Royal Library of Stockholm, in Sweden, the editor of numerous publications, including a "Review of Librarianship and Bibliography". He has occupied distinguished offices in his own land. He was the first President of the International Federation of Library Associations, and is now its Honorary President. I take great pleasure in presenting to you Dr. Isak Collijn of Stockholm. (Applause)

... Dr. Collijn read his paper, copy of which

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was retained by the publicity department ... (Applause)

CHAIRMAN BISHOP: On your behalf, I take great pleasure in extending the thanks of this audience to these distinguished guests who have so kindly spoken to us, and I beg your careful consideration of their interesting and valuable speeches and addresses. We have received very many letters and telegrams of greeting and congratulation from librarians in other countries and from societies of librarians who are members of the International Federation. I will not weary you by reading them, but I should not let the occasion pass without mentioning the fact that numerous greetings of this sort have been received, and will unquestionably be mentioned in the proceedings of this meeting.

I will now declare the meeting adjourned.

... The meeting adjourned at eleven-thirty  
o'clock ...

## FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

October 20, 1933

The Third General Session of the American Library Association convened at ten o'clock, Miss Julia Ideson, First Vice President of the Association, presiding.

CHAIRMAN IDESON: Friends and Members of the American Library Association: We are now opening the third general session of our meeting. Before we proceed with our regular program, there are some announcements of interest to make. I would like to call on the Chairman of the Membership Committee, Miss Maria V. Leavitt, to announce the membership awards that have been planned under her administration.

MISS LEAVITT (Gift Section, New York Public Library, New York City): Madame Chairman and Members of the American Library Association: It gives me great pleasure to announce the awards that the Membership Committee is giving this year. There are five: first, the highest percentage award; second, the highest net gain; and the other three were considered as honorable mention.

The highest award this year goes to Canada. I have great pleasure in announcing the winner as Miss Estelle M. A. Vaughan, Librarian and Secretary-Treasurer of the Free Public Library, St. John, New Brunswick. She represents the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

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Because we are book people, I have been asked to announce what the awards are. This is the first edition of Walter de la Mare's "Down-A-Down Derry," and is being received by Nora Bateson. While she is here I am going to ask her to receive the award which she should receive for the Province of Quebec, "Suspense", by Joseph Conrad. It is also a first edition.

For the highest net gain, the award goes to Miss Pearl Hinesley, Librarian of the Public Library of Roanoke, Virginia. This is the first edition of Thomas Hardy's, "Time's Laughing Stock."

For the states of Arkansas and New Mexico, Miss Christine Sanders will receive both these awards, for the representative of New Mexico, Miss Wilma Loy Shelton, is not with us today. To Miss Christine Sanders, the first edition of Willa Cather's "The Lost Lady"; for Miss Shelton, the first edition of "Sally Dows", by Bret Harte.

CHAIRMAN IDESON: Mr. Harold F. Brigham will make a brief announcement in regard to annuities.

MR. HAROLD F. BRIGHAM (Free Public Library, Louisville, Kentucky): I have been asked to make this announcement for the benefit of those who did not attend the Council Meeting on Monday. It is that the A.L.A. retirement plan is an accomplished fact. It is now completely in force. It is already serving about ninety libraries of all types, including librarians of all classes. We have this important announcement to make

to all members of the Association, that no sooner than we had succeeded in putting into operation the retirement plan, we were surprised and pleased to find that all other annuity rates were increased by the large insurance companies; whereas, our rate in the retirement plan remains unchanged. Therefore, the A.L.A. retirement plan is distinctly more advantageous than it was when it originated.

The advantage, as compared with a retiring annuity which a librarian could buy individually, averages around 25 per cent. It runs from about 8 per cent for the older librarians, to even more than forty per cent for the youngest librarians. In view of this financial advantage, and in view of the fact that the investment is as safe and conservative an investment as we could make, we call attention of all the members to the opportunity of considering the A.L.A. retirement plan. Even though there may be some salary cuts that stand in the way, we feel the advantages are more important.

The Committee on Annuities and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company are maintaining a booth in the Exhibition Room downstairs. We will be delighted to discuss the problems incident to this plan in libraries.

CHAIRMAN IDESON: The Boy Scout Reading program will be presented in a five minute talk by the Deputy Regional Scout Executive, Mr. C. M. Finnell.

MR. C. M. FINNELL (Chicago, Ill.) Mr. Chairman,

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Ladies and Gentlemen: It gives me great pleasure to extend the greetings of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America to this annual convention of the American Library Association. It would be amiss if I did not at the same time pay tribute to that splendid cooperation which has, during the entire life of the Boy Scouts of America, been given by the libraries, by this Association, and by individual librarians toward helping make the reading program of the Boy Scouts of America a vital factor in the character building program.

We have a beautiful understanding and goal with this Association, that the written word is very vital to the boy in bringing to him portraits and pictures of scenes and places where he can never go, and bringing him face to face with the inner life of great heroes, both dead and alive, whom he could not otherwise meet.

The Boy Scouts of America at the beginning of this year launched into a tremendous program whose goal is at the end of ten years. It will have so geared its organization and machinery that ten years from now it will reach and recruit practically one half of all available twelve-year-old boys for scouting each year, and it will retain one half or one fourth of all available boys for scouting each year through a four year term.

We can not accomplish that program by ourselves. It means that in 1947, many of the male voters who step to the

polls will have been Boy Scouts trained in four years of Scout training. We are going to have the cooperation of every wholesome organization in the United States who believes that that is a valuable contribution to America, that a boy trained to love his country, and trained to a love of citizenship and character building, can become an intelligent voter.

Our reading program is one of the most vital parts of our move. In 1930 we instituted a new merit badge in the reading program. It requires that a boy read one book a month for a year, after which he becomes a second class Scout. It requires that he interest other boys in reading, and that three of those books be on Boy Scout subjects. In 1930, 1600 boys qualified for that merit badge; in 1931, 6000 boys qualified; in 1932, 9,600.

What a valuable contribution, if you, as individual librarians, would interest yourselves in the local Scout Council to the extent where you might come in contact with and get the names of all second class Scouts, and through some kind of contact with the local office, influence those boys to begin to read their one book a month.

Myron A. Stern made a survey in 1930 which analyzed ten thousand questionnaires taken from junior and senior high schools. The gist of that analysis revealed that through the United States, the average time spent by boys in reading is one hour a day, outside of school work. Think of it. The

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average boy reading one hour a day. What a vital thing that is in the life of a boy. Contrary to the popular opinion, the things they read are worthwhile things, and not trashy things.

Finally, in our 554 Scout Councils that cover the entire United States, each of those councils has a reading program committee of laymen interested in cooperating with the libraries and schools in interesting Boy Scouts through valuable helps and plans that they can make and contact with the groups in home and school, to read valuable and worthwhile things.

We feel that is one of the most valuable contributions that we are making to the life of the boy. Our magazine, "Boy's Life Magazine", which has a net circulation of 225,000, and is a monthly issue, is read by practically every one of the 650,000 registered Boy Scouts of America. You have it in your libraries. The Boy Scout has it in his Troop libraries and his home.

So, we hope to have the continuance of that splendid and fine support in carrying out this ten year program of reaching the boy and helping us to make the contact for the reading and building of good character. Thank you. (Applause)

CHAIRMAN IDESON: We now proceed with our program. I went to the headquarters office for advice, as librarians are wont to do, as to ways and means by which I might introduce our distinguished speakers this morning. I was handed three typewritten manuscripts from "Who's Who", but I am not going to read you that, for I know you are all familiar with

what "Who's Who" has to say. I am simply going to tell Commissioner Zook with what pleasure and satisfaction the A.L.A. welcomes him to this program.

... Mr. George F. Zook, U.S. Commissioner of Education, Washington, D.C., read his paper entitled "A New Trend in Education", and made the following interpolations:

No. 1, preceding the words, "There is another great opportunity for adult education now being conducted by the federal government," Mr. Zook said: " I am tempted at this point to speak to you informally about this emergency program. To a considerable extent, I presume, this program is due to a conference which was held under the auspices of the United States Office of Education early in August. The purpose of that conference was to bring to the attention of the Emergency Relief Administration the extremely distressing situation that faced a large per cent of persons who had been engaged in educational work of one kind or another, and who, for months, had been out of employment.

"Another purpose was to bring to the attention of the Emergency Relief Administration the fact that a very large group of men and women through the country could profit by the establishment of these classes. They had profited through the experiment that had been tried in New York City.

"Out of this conference grew these two orders on the part of Mr. Hopkins for the use of federal funds for an

educational relief program. The office of Education continues to advise the Emergency Relief Administration concerning policies on this matter. We have found it necessary to think of this program as a state and local program.

"It is not the desire of the Office of Education or the Emergency Relief Administration in Washington to administer either the state or local program of educational work relief. I do not need to tell you that there is perhaps in no state in the United States a single, comprehensive educational administrative authority. There are state departments of education; there are state institutions of higher education; there are local public school systems, and other agencies, some of which do not have a direct legal relation to the state department of education. But we found it necessary to select one state agency to carry on this work.

"We have, however, advised the state departments of education to consult other state agencies that are interested in adult education, and other local agencies that are interested in the promotion of adult education, in the preparation of a comprehensive state plan for the purpose of this educational work relief program.

"We hope, in this way, to give an opportunity to that rather large number of persons who in many instances will almost submit to starvation before they will allow themselves to go on to the relief rolls. We believe that this

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will enable state and local authorities to set up an informal program of adult education which may ultimately have a great deal of significance in this total adult education program.

I am hoping that the libraries, both state and local, will endeavor to find a proper place in this program, and that you will through local educational authorities and the State Department of Education, attempt to fit into this educational work relief program.

"May I issue just one word of caution relative to the whole business? I have seen fit to advise the Emergency Relief Administration that this work relief program in education should not duplicate or take the place of regular educational facilities. It has seemed to me that this might, in the long run, do more damage to the educational system than it would do good in a temporary way. So that I suggest to the libraries that they attempt other forms of library service through the use of these funds than those which are now regarded as a part of your direct responsibility. This is a principle which I believe will help us all to do a great deal of good without in any way injuring the regular educational system, and without taking away from the local community and the state, the responsibility which they should continue to bear for the proper support of these facilities. "

CHAIRMAN IDESON: While Mr. Zook might find some who will wish to argue with him as to the relation of libraries

and schools, I am sure I express the opinion of all those here, that we have heard a most interesting and illuminating address. It is thrilling to us to hear the plans of the Department of Education and the Emergency Relief Program so clearly set forth by the head of that department.

Our next speaker is a man who is very familiar to us through his radio broadcasting, his writing, his teaching. He has become well known, not only in this country, but on the other side of the water. I take great pleasure in introducing Mr. Howard Mumford Jones, who will speak on "The Place of Books and Reading in Modern Society."

... Mr. Jones read his prepared paper (Paper Marked No. 1) entitled, "The Place of Books and Reading in Modern Society." ... (Applause)

CHAIRMAN IDESON: We thank Mr. Jones for so delightfully showing us ourselves as others see us. And we thank him still more for re-affirming so beautifully our faith in books.

Our next speaker is the author of several books, poetry, and notably, biography. But he is especially notable for the authorship of that long, long novel that has shown us that people are willing to read long novels if they are interesting enough. Mr. Hervey Allen, author of "Anthony Adverse", who will speak on "The Library as an Author Sees It."

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MR. HERVEY ALLEN: I have had the pleasant opportunity of expressing my own gratification at being present at several of your group meetings, and I should like at this time to reinforce what I have said in that respect. As an author I regard it as a privilege to be here today, even if I don't say anything, just to look at you and to feel that thrill of general unity in all of us who are interested in books, whether in their writing, their distribution or what will you.

I wish at this time to make a few personal remarks which perhaps are not quite as personal as they may seem. I wish to express my own feeling of gratitude for the facilities of research that one finds in the United States. I have worked in foreign libraries and I feel grateful to them too, but I always return to libraries in the United States with a feeling of relief for (what lately some have had the tendency to laugh at) the magnificent mechanical facilities enabling us to find books readily, and also our wonderful card catalogs. If one who must work in a library has to spend a year learning about the library before he can find a book, he appreciates what has been done in that respect in the United States.

First, of course, I speak of that great library at Washington. I know of no better place to work in for any kind of idea than the Congressional Library at Washington. (Applause) We all know, of course, how that organization has extended to libraries of other countries the facilities of its

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great indices and facilities for the distribution of books and pamphlets and all that that has meant.

I would like, however, to emphasize what has always interested me greatly at the Library of Congress, and that is the immense quiet and efficient courtesy of all the human beings engaged in the great work that is going on there, from the splendid librarian serving at the head to the very youngest pages, or attendants, who deliver the books. They bring you the right books, bring them quickly, and deliver them to where you are working.

I have been in libraries where those three desirable things did not exist. One finds that the same thing is true in the great New York Library. This year when they have been struggling with such a tremendous problem, one wonders how they still maintain their fine courtesy and appear to be genuinely glad to see you and try to do all they can to help you. I think that is a remarkable test of any organization, in view of the trials that the New York Library has had because of the immense number of people who have been suddenly flooding it with all kinds of demands. Despite all that, they do not seem to be in a crisis.

Another library I wish to mention is the great Widener Library at Harvard where all its facilities are available to any scholar who desires to use them. I may contradict myself. So far, I have been praising (and I meant every word)

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the facilities for research in our libraries. At the same time, I want to turn around now and with an apparent inconsistency -- but not a real one -- attack that idea of research a little bit. Again I am going to speak in personal terms.

It has been rather amusing to me to see my recent novel, with which most of you seem to be acquainted, spoken of as a magnificent piece of research. That is very flattering, and very pleasing indeed to the author, but unfortunately not true. I "remembered" the book. I didn't go deliberately and do an enormous amount of research. I didn't approach it with the scientific attitude that here was a vast amount of material and I was going to see what was in it, and find out what was wrong, and what was right. Not at all. During my life I have read one or two books; I have visited a number of libraries; I have seen a number of people, and out of that I put together what I have remembered. I sat down and wrote it, and then I went to libraries to check up on some of the things which I thought might possibly be wrong.

I looked at my dates; and in a good many cases I made errors and mistakes, and that, after all, seems to me to be something we forget about in the process of making a picture. The Greeks had an old saying that the Muses are the daughters of memory. I think, perhaps, we have forgotten the reality of this, that memory is essentially the act of the creative process. that one writes what one remembers, and not what one

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researches. The research has gone before that if possible.

We have heard today two or three speakers emphasizing the coming age of leisure. I want to speak about that, but I am only going to take one or two minutes. I should like to emphasize, even more strongly, that the age of leisure seems to be upon us, and I believe that we are going to have to cope with that to a greater extent that any one of us realizes. I should put it this way, I should say that America is going to have to learn to eat the bread of idleness with good conscience. And I think that goes a great deal deeper into our national philosophy, which has hitherto been a work philosophy, than we realize. Our philosophy goes back only a few years to the frontiers where the idle person was a danger, where, in a few more years, machines were built up and a few years later we found we were among a group which was more or less looking toward the millenium, which was to be the outcome of the dynamo, to use a swift symbol of speech. It was the philosophy of work that was to be performed, of things that were to be done. So, we went through the frontier age, the age of doing, then through the age of having and, I believe, firmly, that we are entering, perhaps through years of confusion, perhaps through a long era of confusion, into the age of being. In the age of living for being, doing and having are going to be incidental to being.

In such an age as this, whatever form literature may take, whether it may be phonographic, whether it may be

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phonographic, whether it may be from records, whether the ideas may be carried from moving pictures, or what not, it doesn't seem to me to matter very greatly, because that is merely a difference in form. I still believe that we are going to have a greatly increased opportunity for the things of the mind and the things of the spirit, which are only carried, so far as we know, by the printed word -- which are best carried so far by the printed word. We must remember that after all in the printed word is held the memory of the past, that is what our civilization depends on mostly -- looking back and remembering something that has gone on in the past.

One of our modern superstitions has been this: we like to say that we are very modern, that we are very different. We are that in our outward form, but I doubt very much whether any person or people are any different now from what they have been. Another one of our superstitions has been that we are a very snappy people, that we have very little time, that we must do everything in a hurry -- that sentences must be shorter, that books must be shorter, that everything must be shortened, that we must live in a perpetual Western Union style.

As a matter of fact, if one looks through American history, or looks at the history that is now being made and does not believe what he is told, he sees that we are really a rather leisurely people. The tendency is rather to take one's time about things, except among a very small class of snappy,

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Arrow-Collar fellows, or people who live in pent-houses, who are a very small number of people compared to the nation at large.

People who live in apartments and who are constantly at the telephone have in some way or other become the symbol of all Americans, yet they are only a small part. They perhaps are hurried, and live up to this, but the rest of America doesn't.

If you do not believe this, take an automobile sometime and go out on any of the roads, and do what one so seldom does, get out of the industrial area just a little, out on the side road, and see what is going on. Our greatest American types do not belong to his highly-strung, nervous type. Lincoln seems to have been, from all we can learn, one of the rural types, one of the rather slow thinking and correctly arriving-at-his-conclusion types. He took a long time to sell his story; he told them with a drawl. We know that Washington was not one who made a tremendous number of decisions in a very short time and was not a nervous type. Hamilton once described his headquarters as a mausoleum with a general on top. Yet something important was happening there. Why am I talking about it? I would like to make this point: That we are not so hurried as we like to think, and that if we are so hurried we should sit down and think about why we are so hurried. What really is happening at the present time is that there are more literary people with more idle time on their hands than there

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ever have been in the history of the world in any one nation before.

If one looks back a little bit (I am speaking from the author's standpoint now), one can select books that show what the American public likes and wants when it can get them. Instead, it has been handed psychological documents, interesting cases, various abnormal states, and I believe it is thoroughly fed up with this. I believe that in a certain way modernism, what we know as modernism in literature, has suddenly become quite old-fashioned.

I must not go on talking because I know you have been patient and that you have a great many things to do. Therefore I am going to stop, although I should like to go on.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN IDESON: I am sure you wish to join me in thanking these speakers for a most delightful and significant morning.

The meeting stands adjourned.

... The meeting adjourned at eleven-thirty o'clock ...

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

October 21, 1933

The Fourth General Session of the American Library Association convened at two thirty-five o'clock, Mr. Harry Miller Lydenberg, President of the Association, presiding.

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: Friends, let me call this last General Session of the 1933 Conference to order.

We have two or three bits of business to come before us, the first of which is the report of the Committee on Resolutions, to be presented by Mr. Sanderson.

MR. CHARLES R. SANDERSON: Mr. President, I shall make my job just as brief as it can be made, but this Association owes its very warmest and sincerest thanks to the many people, organizations and institutions which have helped us to have such a good time this past week, and, on behalf of the Committee on Resolutions, I would submit this motion for the adoption of this meeting:

"The American Library Association in open session assembled at the close of its Fifty-fifth Annual Conference, congratulates the chairman of the local committee, his colleagues, and the sub-committees, on the excellence of their arrangements, and it offers its gratitude for the welcome extended to it and for the generous provisions for its comfort and enjoyment.

"The Association records its sincerest apprecia-

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 tion of the publicity which it has received from the professional library journals, the daily press, the National Broadcasting Company, and the radio stations; and it expresses its warmest thanks to the many distinguished visitors for their presence, to the exhibitors for their displays, and to the headquarters staff for that able organization and untiring energy which have made this Conference such an outstanding success."

On behalf of the Committee on Resolutions, I submit that motion for the adoption of this meeting.

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: Thank you. I am sure that no formal vote is needed to express our appreciation and our hearty approval of this resolution. With your permission, I will ask the Secretary to include this report in the minutes of this meeting.

There is one more committee report, the report of the Committee on Nominations and Election of Officers. Mr. Spofford has that report.

MR. WALTER R. SPOFFORD: "Report of the Committee on Elections for 1933: On the basis of 5,101 ballots tabulated, the following officers were elected:

President -	Gratia A. Countryman
First Vice President -	Louis R. Wilson
Second Vice President -	Ralph Munn
Treasurer -	Matthew S. Dudgeon
Members of the Executive Board -	Milton J. Ferguson
	Chalmers Hadley
Trustee of Endowment Fund -	Charles R. Holden

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Members of the Council - Susan G. Akers  
Gerhard R. Lomer  
Harriet C. Long  
John A. Lowe  
Amy Winslow" (Applause)

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: It is not often that a presiding officer has a report that is accepted with such emphatic approval. There remains now little for me to do, in fact, nothing but to ask, if Miss Countryman happens to be in the room, that Miss Rathbone and Dr. Meyer escort her to the Chair and permit me to turn over to her the symbol of office.

... Miss Rathbone and Dr. Meyer escorted Miss Countryman to the Chair, and the audience rose in applause ...

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: Miss Countryman, it is my pleasant duty to report to you that the officers and members of this Association have unanimously elected you President for the ensuing year. It is now my pleasure to turn over to you this gavel, the symbol of this office. (Applause)

MISS GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN: Members of the American Library Association: I feel deeply the honor which you have conferred upon me and the trust which you have reposed in me in electing me to this high office. I accept it with a growing knowledge of its responsibilities.

No one could promise or prophesy what might be done in this coming year, in these days of cutting and rapid changes, when every plan of action is open to constant revision, but there are some things which are not changing. Human beings

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and human needs are not changing. The value of books and of knowledge is not changing. Our problem always has been, and I believe always will be, that of helping people to think more intelligently and to live more abundantly. That probably, I believe, will not be changed. It has only been intensified and emphasized and broadened.

We may be facing social changes, but if so, they are only a challenge to us and should find us looking forward. But while we are thinking, as we have been all week, seriously, of the tasks before us, may I not borrow an idea from Mr. Jones' speech of yesterday and apply to ourselves what he asked us to apply to our readers, that with all our seriousness, we also find it good fun? So we face this year, and I think we can do it in a spirit of joy as well as seriousness. Again I want to thank you for the privilege of working with you. (Applause)

I would ask you, Mr. Lydenberg, to please assume the Chair for the rest of this meeting.

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: Miss Countryman, I am sure everyone present agrees with me that it would be more fitting for you to preside, but just to show you that we are all your obedient, humble, grateful servants, I will take you at your word and preside for you. (Applause)

MISS COUNTRYMAN: Thank you, Mr. Lydenberg.

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: The remaining task before me is simple; is delightful. It is that of introducing Dr.

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Keppel. If this were a time and place and occasion for public nomination, I suppose it would be quite in order for me step by step to describe the qualifications of the next speaker, and then, as the flower blossomed, present him to you. However, there is no need of that with Dr. Keppel, one of our keenest critics, our severest critics, our most profitable critic, our kindest friend. Dr. Keppel, it is a pleasure to welcome you here. (Applause)

... Dr. Frederick P. Keppel, president, Carnegie Corporation of New York, New York City, presented his prepared paper, "The Responsibility of Writers, Publishers, and Librarians in Promoting International Understanding" ...  
(Applause)

PRESIDENT LYDENBERG: Dr. Keppel, you have added one more to the many reasons for gratitude that the American Librarians have for you. Thank you.

I now declare this meeting adjourned.

... The meeting adjourned at three-fifteen o'clock ...