

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday Afternoon, January 1, 1930

A meeting of the Executive Board of the American Library Association was held at two-thirty o'clock, Wednesday, January 1, at the Hotel Drake, Chicago, President Andrew Keogh presiding.

Present:

Andrew Keogh  
M. S. Dudgeon  
Jennie M. Flexner  
Theresa Hitchler  
H. M. Lydenberg  
Everett R. Perry  
Elva S. Smith  
Joseph L. Wheeler  
C. C. Williamson  
Charles H. Compton

Carl H. Milam  
Sarah C. N. Bogle  
R. E. Dooley

It was voted that the minutes of the meetings of May 13, 14 and 18, 1929, be approved.

The correspondence votes were approved. (Motion by Mr. Lydenberg.)

Editorial Committee Recommendations.

(a) Foreign Books for American Children's Rooms. It was voted, on motion of Mr. Wheeler, to approve the recommendation of the Editorial Committee "that Foreign Books for American Children's Rooms be accepted for publication by the A. L. A., and that the printing be done at the New York

Public Library." Miss Smith stated that the lists were prepared by the Committee on the Production of Children's Books and not by Miss Davis alone.

(b) Graded List of Books for Children. On motion of Mr. Lydenberg, it was voted to approve the recommendation of the Editorial Committee "that the Graded List of Books for Children be accepted for A. L. A. publication when it has been endorsed by the committee on the Graded List of Books for Children."

(c) Illustrated Editions of High School Classics. The recommendation of the Editorial Committee, "that Illustrated Editions of High School Classics be accepted for A. L. A. publication," was approved, on motion of Mr. Wheeler.

(d) Index to Plays for Children. It was voted, on motion of Mr. Lydenberg, that the Index to Plays for Children be accepted for A. L. A. publication.

(e) American Library Laws were approved for A. L. A. publication, on motion of Mr. Lydenberg.

(f) Book Selection and Acquisition. It was voted, on motion of Mr. Wheeler, that the resolution of the Editorial Committee, "that the manuscript, Book Selection and Acquisition, be accepted for A. L. A. publication if, after final reading, it proves satisfactory to the headquarters staff," be adopted and the interpretation be left to the headquarters staff. Suggestions were that it be printed in two volumes, that

attention be given to methods of evaluating titles in different subjects, that certain portions be expanded, and that "reference books" is preferable to "textbooks".

Budgets. Mr. Dooley presented the budgets. It was voted that a committee of two, composed of Mr. Dudgeon and Mr. Craver, be appointed to go over the budget in detail when the actual balances are known and when criticisms of the various boards and the members of the Executive Board have been received, and to submit their recommendations for vote by correspondence.

In the discussion of budget items, Mr. Wheeler offered the suggestion that the covers of the Reading with a Purpose booklets might be made "overly dignified," of uniform design.

It was agreed that the request for an appropriation for printing the report of the Committee on Institution Libraries and for printing prison library book lists be approved.

It was voted to underwrite the payment of \$500 for D. C. numbers on L. C. cards, and that the item be taken care of as a separate item inside the total budget but outside the amount set up for this. (Motion by Mr. Wheeler.)

The Board authorized the Secretary and the Treasurer to fill in the bank forms and open a minor checking account for operating expenses at the Lake Shore Trust & Savings

Bank. (Motion by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Dudgeon.)

Endowment and Special Memberships. Mrs. Dixon presented a report of the progress to date.

Request budget sent to Carnegie Endowment.  
Mr. Milam read the correspondence between Mr. Bishop and Dr. Butler and Mr. Haskell regarding an appropriation of \$13,000 for international activities. There were no suggestions or recommendations from the members of the Board.

Statistical Bureau at Headquarters. It was voted, on motion of Mr. Wheeler, that the President be authorized to appoint a special committee to consider the establishment of such a bureau, its functions, and the method of financing, and that the committee consist of representatives from several library groups which will presumably use the statistical information.

<sup>Miss</sup> Miss Smith felt that there was a growing feeling among libraries that the burden of reporting statistical information and answering questionnaires was becoming too great.

Hospital Library Project, providing for a study of the use of books and reading as a therapeutic agent in hospitals. The project was approved, and an appropriation of \$1000 for the purpose of making the study was authorized by the Board, on motion of Mr. Dudgeon.

Department of Library Work with Children.



Miss Bogle reported on the prospect of obtaining funds for a department of library work with children. It was voted to approve the project for the establishment of such a department and to endeavor to procure the funds.

Department of School Library Work at Headquarters. Mr. Wheeler was of the opinion that this project would be a very effective part of a presentation, through Mr. Milam, in connection with the activities of the National Office of Specification at Washington, and that in addition to anything of that sort, during the current year an effort be made to interest some of the foundations that are financing studies in the field of education, to interest the General Education Board, and to have the National Council for the Study of Education present it as one of their projects. A motion was offered by Mr. Dudgeon, and carried, that the Board at this time recognizes the rapidly growing importance of this field of work and reiterates its interest and endorsement; that in view of the necessity of immediate action and since the Board considers this the important thing for 1930, presentations to the various foundations be made very forceful.

Work with the Blind, which was docketed, was passed because of Council action.

College and University Libraries.

(a) Recommendation from College and Reference Section.

DR. WILLIAMSON: I think perhaps the feeling of importance and emergency in this connection grows out of the criticism of the neglect of university work on the part of A. L. A. Headquarters. I have heard that off and on from time to time, but after all, I think there are perhaps only two concrete things: One is not financing right away a project for cooperative cataloging. It certainly was approved promptly enough. It is like a lot of other things -- there isn't any money, and what are you going to do about it? The other concrete thing that seems to cause irritation in some lines is lack of appropriations for bibliographical work. Perhaps it would be well to ask first whether anybody knows of any other definite criticisms or suggestions of things that ought to be done that are not done.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I think the sense of the meeting was that A. L. A. Headquarters does not give sufficient amount of time and energy and attention to the more scholarly aspects of the profession, that is to things of special interest to colleges and universities in reference work; that their attention is devoted, not, of course, wholly, but largely, to public libraries and to work with children and with the blind and with the foreign born and to other work of that sort rather than to helping the colleges and universities of the country.

I said at that meeting that that was to be expected to some extent, that there were 12,000 members of the

A. L. A., most of whom were not connected with colleges at all, and it was only proper that the chief attention of A. L. A. Headquarters should be to the needs and interests of the greatest number of the organization. I thoroughly believe that. That apparently was not sufficient. They still seemed to think that the interests of the College and Reference Section did not receive an appropriate proportionate amount of attention.

I don't think there were sufficient specific matters brought out that need to be repeated here, but there was a strong feeling, whether based on proper evidence or not, that they were being comparatively neglected. In fact, not only at that meeting, but at other meetings, I have heard it proposed that the College and Reference Section secede from the A. L. A. and establish itself as an independent organization. I said at that last meeting that the fact that the A. L. A. this year had appointed a college librarian as its President would show that it was not impossible to get the A. L. A. to recognize college librarians at least occasionally. At least that secession would not take place while a college librarian was President.

I am not sure that I want to say anything more except to express the feeling that there is widespread feeling that the interests of the College and Reference Section are not receiving due attention.

MR. PERRY: What specifically do they want?

DR. WILLIAMSON: Bibliography is the only thing I think you can pin anybody down to.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I asked at that meeting that they name instances where they had applied for aid to A. L. A. Headquarters and had tried to interest them and had received no aid or had been cold-shouldered, and in a good many cases I was able to show without further investigation that there was nothing that the A. L. A. Headquarters could have done, and in others that it was not possible for A. L. A. Headquarters to do it. I have not myself found that attitude at Headquarters whenever I have had occasion to deal with it, and that does not mean that I have noticed any change in the last six months since I became President, but that I had never found that attitude at any time at Headquarters. Whether they made an exception in my case I don't know, but I have no reason to believe there was any exception in my case.

I am inclined to think that we need not pay very much attention to it. I think the Secretary is going out of his way to do anything that he can be expected to do that will meet the demands of the members.

MR. PERRY: All these troubles go back to lack of money. If you had money enough you could attend to them all.

MR. LYDENBERG: I think it is useless to waste three words on this. I think we could talk on things of very much greater importance.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I tried to point this out to the disaffected: that in a great many cases when A. L. A. Headquarters or the Executive Board appropriated money for something which did not interest the College and Reference Section, it was not because the Board preferred in every case that particular activity, but because the money was given to the A. L. A. to carry out a certain project and that the money could not be used for another project.

MR. PERRY: Is it feasible to determine what the amount of dues is from college and university librarians and see to it that they get service in that value?

SECRETARY MILAM: No, there is not much relation between dues and service.

DR. WILLIAMSON: We might attempt to make a list of present A. L. A. activities that are of some value to college and university libraries. There are a good many things that don't appear very specifically in the budget. I am inclined to agree with Mr. Lydenberg that we waste our breath even trying to placate these people and we ought not spend very much time discussing remedies.

I should like to mention one remedy, and that is it is in the hands of the people themselves in the Section. I don't think effective use has been made of the Section. It may be due to improper organization, I don't know what it is due to, but the effectiveness is not comparable to that of some

other sections. If they take hold of this machinery and use it to the best possible advantage and find they can't get what they want, then it is time enough to talk about seceding and setting up a separate organization. There is not the proper kind of interest, it has seemed to me, in the activities of this Section on the part of the Section itself. I don't know how the paid memberships compare with those of other Sections, and that perhaps is the test of their interest in it and their willingness to work for it. I don't think it is a very serious matter.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: There was a request made for a grant for cooperative cataloging.

DR. WILLIAMSON: As I remember, the original proposal was \$1200 to make an investigation, and while it was discussed, it seems it was not approved as a project. I think the Secretary told the group that the Board was sympathetic but felt it was not worth while to go to a foundation for an amount as small as \$1200.

SECRETARY MILAM: Not quite that. The Board formally approved it, with the same formula which it used for others being approved at the same time, asking the officers of the Association to seek the funds wherever they might be found. In correspondence with the chairman of the group, certain suggestions were made, for example that we go to the Carnegie Corporation. I myself took the responsibility of saying that

I didn't think we ought to go to Dr. Keppel for that under the present circumstances of the relationship I had with him at that time.

DR. WILLIAMSON: That idea that they were discouraged from appealing for a small appropriation has been magnified in the minds of the Cataloging Section, I think. They have now a project for \$100,000, \$20,000 a year for five years. They have an elaborate program.

The one important thing, I think, is the cooperative cataloging, foreign books and books that are difficult and expensive to catalog and that are not taken care of at present.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: It might make the work of Dr. Williamson and myself easier if this Executive Board would go on record again as approving the application for this grant.

DR. WILLIAMSON: Would it be desirable to ask the Board whether they would approve applying for the money and letting the Rockefeller Foundation decide whether they would make the appropriation to the Library of Congress? Wasn't there some suggestion that that might appeal to the Board rather more strongly than making the appropriation to A. L. A.?

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I rather understood it the other way, that they preferred not to give money to institutions. I know the Yale University Library was refused money for a project as a library, but I got the money by putting it through

another committee for endowment for research.

I think the renewed approval of this Executive Board toward the application would be well.

DR. WILLIAMSON: I am quite ready to approve a \$100,000 request to the Rockefeller Foundation, but I assume that you are not.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: No, I am not.

SECRETARY MILAM: May I make a counter-suggestion, namely, that the Board give its endorsement and encouragement to the preparation and submission of a plan approximately in line with what has been described by Mr. Keogh and Dr. Williamson this afternoon.

MR. LYDENBERG: Do you want to put as preliminary, hearty endorsement of the commendable efforts of the Section?

DR. WILLIAMSON: To go back to the general subject, A. L. A. activities for college and university libraries, there is a proposal somewhere that there be a specialist at Headquarters on college and university library matters. Personally I think that is uncalled for, a relatively unimportant thing. I don't see the necessity, certainly no compelling necessity, for it.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: I should have no thought of proposing it.

SECRETARY MILAM: I have one specific proposal

from the round table on public library reference problems of the College and Reference Section. It was voted that the Section recommend to the proper authorities of the A. L. A. the advisability of creating at Headquarters a sort of clearing house for bibliographies and research lists compiled by various libraries, and such office would be a central place of deposit for such lists, and available bibliographies could be copied or duplicated for libraries at a minimum cost. The elimination of much duplication of effort and much useless expense were mentioned as reasons for the establishment of such a clearing house, as well as greater effectiveness of reference work in all libraries.

DR. WILLIAMSON: There is no homogeneity in the libraries that are supposed to belong to this Section. You have at least three pretty distinct types of library work. That may be one reason this Section is ineffective. It may be if we had a section on university libraries, one on college libraries, and one on reference work of a public library, putting large reference libraries like the New York Public with university libraries as distinctly research units, we might get somewhere.

Certainly this clearing house that is proposed is of no use at all to university libraries. It may be of some use to college libraries or to the small public library that wants to exchange information.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Is any action proposed on this recommendation?

SECRETARY MILAM: I have no recommendation.

MR. LYDENBERG: I offered in seriousness that we express approval of the ideals of the Section and approval in principle of an effort to secure cooperative cataloging. I so move.

... The motion was seconded and carried ...

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Do you want to take any action on this clearing house thing?

SECRETARY MILAM: I don't know what it involves or how we could do it. If we had a well organized library we would be doing most of that.

MR. LYDENBERG: If a professor wants a reference on geology of Timbuctu, he wants to know if anybody has worked up African geology.

DR. WILLIAMSON: I don't think that should come to A. L. A. Headquarters at all.

If they would just get to work and organize their existing agencies for doing that sort of thing, they would not need to set up another which is largely duplicative.

MR. LYDENBERG: Another phase they want to cover is to take care of project bibliographies, investigations under way, things that people are working on that are not yet completed, so as to steer somebody else off the same field.

PRESIDENT KEOGH: Do we want to approve this?

MR. LYDENBERG: I move we lay it on the table.

... The motion was seconded and unanimously carried ...

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A. L. A. Conference 1933. It was voted that the Secretary's recommendation, "that the Executive Board select Chicago as the A. L. A. meeting place for 1933 and that a special committee, consisting of Mr. Roden, Mr. Utley, and the Secretary, be appointed to make investigations concerning hotel and other local arrangements and to make recommendations to the Executive Board," be approved.

President Keogh announced that invitations would be forthcoming to hold the 1931 convention in New Haven, preferably about June 18 or during the last two weeks of June. New Haven was approved by the Board as the 1931 meeting place. Mr. Keogh asked that publication of this decision be deferred until he provides official invitations.

It was the sentiment of the Board that meeting places should be determined four or five years in advance, subject to emergency revisions, and that the 1932 convention should be held in the South. A suggestion was made that at the next Board meeting the Secretary submit a list of proposed meeting places.

Inter-American Conference on Bibliography. It was voted, on motion of Mr. Dudgeon, that the Executive Board instruct the officers and the Chairman of the Committee on Hispanic Relations to make every reasonable effort to have someone at the Havana meeting who can adequately represent the American Library Association.

It was voted, on motion of Mr. Lydenberg, to convey to the Pan-American Bibliographical Conference the hope that it will hold its second meeting in 1933 in Chicago.

Committees.

(a) The appointment of Mr. L. L. Dickerson to fill the vacancy for the term expiring 1934 on the Board on the Library and Adult Education, caused by the death of W. O. Carson, was approved.

(b) Editorial Board for Journal of Discussion. Dr. Williamson stated that a meeting had been held and it seemed to be the unanimous opinion of the four persons present that the Graduate Library School at the University of Chicago or the authorities in the University of Chicago in filling vacancies in the directorship should be urged to look upon at least the editing of such a Journal as one of the legitimate and important functions of an officer of the Graduate Library School.

There was no recommendation or action.

(c) Recommendation to change name of

Committee on Visual Aids to Committee on Motion Pictures and Other Visual Aids. A motion to this effect was made, but was lost for want of a second.

Communications.

(a) Mr. Milam presented the suggestion from Mrs. Julia G. Babcock, of the Kern County Free Library, Bakersfield, California, that the A. L. A. take up the matter of a request to President Hoover to include library buildings in his increased building program. No recommendation or action.

(b) It was voted that in response to an invitation from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers to send two delegates to the Fiftieth Anniversary of their Society, Dr. Williamson and Mr. Anderson be appointed.

(c) Mr. Milam announced that the Rockefeller Foundation had voted \$2500, at the request of Mr. Bishop, to make possible a visit of the Architect of the League of Nations to this country to inspect American libraries, the grant being made to the A. L. A. for disbursement.

(d) Miss Bogle read a communication from A. B. McDaniels, Secretary of The Research Service, soliciting cooperation from the American Library Association in a program of research that would take up the various elements of type faces, spacing, margins, etc., in an endeavor to ascertain those relationships that would produce the maximum legibility. No recommendation was made; no action taken.

Fire Insurance. It was voted, upon motion of Mr. Dudgeon, that the President appoint the joint committee with the Fire Underwriters' Association which was authorized by the Council. In an investigation of fire insurance just completed in Los Angeles, a pamphlet on Municipal Insurance, published by the University of Kansas, was found particularly valuable, Mr. Perry said.

Federal Farm Board. Mr. Milam read the request from the Committee on Library Extension that the Executive Board authorize the Secretary to initiate a conference with the Federal Farm Board in the hope of enlisting its interests in the county library movement. It was voted, on motion of Mr. Dudgeon, that the Secretary and the President be authorized to make such contact with the Federal Farm Board in this way or in such other ways as upon investigation may seem wise.

Committee on A. L. A. Participation in the Chicago Centennial Exposition. It was voted to increase the membership of this committee from nine to fifteen by adding: Miss Etheldred Abbot, Miss Mary B. Day, William Teal, Miss Winifred Ver Nooy, Charles H. Brown, Miss Pearl I. Field, Miss Bess McCrea.

Subscription Books Bulletin. A vote of appreciation for the very extensive work done was unanimously adopted, but because the members of the Board felt they were

not sufficiently informed, it was voted, on motion of Mr. Perry, that the Secretary be requested to send out information, and possibly a copy of the report on this subject, to the Executive Board members, with the idea of obtaining a vote by mail. There was some question as to whether the Board had approved the project. Another point in question was the issuance as a monthly or quarterly bulletin.

Midwinter Meetings in Cities other than Chicago. The Council's recommendation that this be considered was postponed for consideration at another meeting, for lack of time.

Upon motion regularly made, seconded and carried, the Board adjourned at seven-fifteen o'clock.