COUNCIL MEETING

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

June 21 and 25, 1937
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel
New York City
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COUNCIL MEETING

Monday Morning, June 21, 1937

The first Council Meeting of the Fifty-ninth Annual Conference of the American Library Association was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, June 21, 1937. The meeting was called to order at ten-twenty o'clock, Mr. Malcom G. Wyer, Public Library, Denver, Colorado, the President, presiding.

PRESIDENT WYER: The Council will please come to order.

The first item for consideration on the Council's program this morning is a report from the Committee on Federal Relations, Dr. Carleton B. Joeckel.

DR. JOECKEL: Mr. President and Members of the Council. This report will be brief; it will be oral, and it will be entirely factual.

The Committee on Federal Relations has been weak enough to make a few statements in enthusiastic moments at various times which it has later regretted. I, particularly, as Chairman of the Committee, wrote what I thought was a very fine page for the A.L.A. bulletin, entitled, "The New Federal Library Agency." That was printed about one year ago in the bulletin, and, as you all know, the Federal Library
Agency is not yet operating. Therefore, I shall confine myself wholly to a plain statement of a few simple facts.

In the first place, with regard to the Federal Library Agency, I think most of you know the official title, catalog entry, perhaps, of that Federal Agency is the Library Service Division of the Office of Education. An appropriation of $25,000 was made for the operation of that activity for the fiscal year 1936-37. A similar appropriation for a similar amount is contained in the Department of Interior appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1937-38. That bill has passed the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate, and it contains the agency item. We hope (and I hereby knock on wood) that the bill will pass without any difficulty. Ordinarily, it is said, the House is most severe on appropriations; therefore, we anticipate that the appropriation will be made.

Pending the appointment of a staff—and that has been pending for practically one year—certain temporary activities have been carried on by the new Library Service Division, notably an effort to compile a uniform statistical blank which may be used by the office of education, the library agencies of the several states, and the American Library Association, an attempt to make a three-in-one
collection of certain basic library statistics.

Mr. Clift, of the A.L.A. Headquarters Staff, has been on duty in the office of Education, working on this uniform blank, and he has been directed and advised by the competent committee headed by Mr. Ralph Dunbar, and aided by Mr. Noon, of Ohio, on behalf of the League of Library Commissions. I mention this because it seems to me important that all librarians cooperate in that statistical effort, because it will mean the basis, I think, of much of our program for Federal aid for libraries and Federal relations to libraries in general.

The personnel of the new Library Service Division is to be appointed under Civil Service rules, and the Civil Service Commission has still not announced the examination for those positions. I had hoped that there might even this morning be some word from the Civil Service Commission on that point. They are apparently on the point of promulgating the printed examination, which will follow substantially the recommendations made by the American Library Association.

One other matter which should be reported on at this time very briefly, it seems to me, is something of unusual importance. You may have read of the appointment by President Roosevelt of an Advisory Committee on Vocational Education.
That Committee, under the chairmanship of Professor Reeves of the University of Chicago, has now been made an Advisory Committee on Education, embracing the whole scope of Federal relations to education, and it is charged with making a report to the Administration later this fall. That Committee has appointed a number of specialists in various fields, and a number of subordinate committees to report on activities in connection with education.

The important announcement that I have to make is that this Committee, through the connivance of Dr. Wilson of the University of Chicago, has asked the American Library Association to appoint a committee of its own to consider the general subject of Referal relations to libraries. This, it seems to me, for the first time opens the door wide to a general presentation of the educational interests of libraries to the National Government, and it will include, I hope, a general view of all aspects of Federal relations to libraries, including the activities of the Library Service Division, including the Library services of the Federal Government, including the general question of Federal aid, and including, also, a consideration of the proposal for national and regional libraries as embodied in the Collins Bill.

The opportunity, it seems to me, is before us, and
this committee, which is composed of a representative of the Library Extension Board, Dr. Wilson, a representative of the Library Resources Board, Mr. Lydenberg, a representative of the Documents Committee, Mr. Wilcox, and myself as a representative of the Federal Relations Committee, is charged with the general formulation of this statement on behalf of libraries. If this were a religious organization instead of a library organization, I would ask, Mr. President, for a moment of silent prayer that the ability of the Committee may be commensurate with its opportunity.

Thank you! (Applause)

PRESIDENT WYER: Does anyone wish to ask Dr. Jaeckel any questions in regard to the Federal relations matters? If not, we will proceed to the next item of business, which is a report from the Committee on Salaries, Staff, and Service. Mr. Paul North Rice!

MR. PAUL NORTH RICE: Mr. President and Members of the Council: The A.L.A. Committee on Salaries, Staff, and Service believes that for the following reasons it would be able to accomplish its work more successfully if it were constituted as a board rather than as a committee, and it suggests the name Board on Salaries, Staff and Opinion.

That request was made to the Committee on Committees,
and Mr. Lester, the Chairman of that Committee, wrote to Mr. Milam, saying that the Committee on Committees had voted to recommend that the Committee on Salaries, Staff, and Service be made a board.

President Wyer just gave me Item 6 of the Executive Board action yesterday: "Voted that the Executive Board approve the recommendation of the Committee on Committees that the Committee on Salaries, Staff and Service be made a board, and that the President state to the Council that the Executive Board thinks that there should not be more boards appointed until the Activities Committee has an opportunity to report, and that this approval goes forward because of the undoubted permanence of the function to this particular committee."

On behalf of the Committee, I will say we are very grateful that we are the last committee to get under the rope.

There are a number of reasons why we felt we could perform our duties better if we were a board. In the first place, membership on boards is for a five-year period. Two of the five members of the Committee this year, including the Chairman, are new, and we realize, to our chagrin, that our work has not been as effective as it would have been had we known more about the work of the Committee at the
beginning.

Still more important, perhaps, a board can lay out a long-time program, and it is difficult for a committee to do that. We feel that a number of the things that have been referred to us by the Executive Board are matters involving a long-time program, and yet at our meeting yesterday we hesitated very much to dictate to next year's committee, which might be an entirely different committee, what they should do, and we failed to carry out all the suggestions that were made by last year's committee.

Those are the two most important reasons. Less important, but still important, is that a board year is continuous. After the annual meeting of the A.L.A., until the committee has been re-appointed, most committees are pretty inactive, because they don't know whether they are the next year's committee or not. A board, of course, carries right on and doesn't lose two or three months out of every calendar year.

Then the last reason, perhaps less important than any of the others, but one that we would like to mention, is the added prestige of a board. We feel that among some of the A.L.A. members there has been criticism that the American Library Association was not doing enough welfare work for its
members, that it was not doing enough to raise salaries, and
the mere fact that the Executive Board and the Council deemed
salaries an important point, sufficient to put it in the hands
of a board rather than a committee, means that they are going
to take more care in the appointment of the board than they
have hitherto of a committee, and will give those people
who feel that the A.L.A. is not taking an active enough part,
the satisfaction of feeling that it at least is in the hands
of a board with the prestige of a board.

A slight change, substituting tenure for service,
we suggest, because this year matters of tenure have been
definitely referred to the committee by the Executive Board,
and we felt a little embarrassment in writing letters about
tenure and signing them, "Salaries, Staff and Service."
To some people that would not indicate sufficient reason
for the committee handling matters of tenure. If we are
going to handle matters of tenure, we believe it should be in
the name.

Mr. President, I hope that the Council will agree
with the Committee on Committees and the Executive Board in
the wish of our Committee to become a board.

PRESIDENT WYER: Mr. Rice has presented such
convincing arguments, that if it were not for the warning voice
by the Executive Board resolution, I am sure that the chairmen of most committees would rush forward and try to become boards.

Is there a motion in regard to this recommendation from the Committee on Committees?

MR. COMPTON: I move that the recommendation be approved.

MR. DICKERSON: I second the motion.

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

PRESIDENT WYER: Mr. Rice, there is another item of business from your Committee.

MR. RICE: Mr. President and Members of the Council:

The Committee would like to present to the Council some of its difficulties in handling the matter of tenure that was this fall referred to the Committee by the Executive Board.

In the first place, the Committee would like to go on record as definitely believing that the American Library Association should have some committee to handle matters of tenure, and that the American Library Association should take a definite position about some matters of discharge without due cause, and even more, of appointment without due cause.

The Committee has had great difficulty in a proper investigation of some of the cases that have come up this
year. It welcomes this opportunity to mention two of the cases to the Council and to state that in both cases the Committee took action without the matter being brought to them by the people concerned.

The first case which you all have heard something about, I am sure, is the case of Mr. Keeney, the librarian at the University of Montana, who, after serving six years with the status of full professor, was told that he would not be hired for a seventh year, in spite of the fact that the education law read that full professors serving more than three years were to be regarded as holding indefinite tenure.

The other case was the case of the Iowa State Library. After the death of Mr. Brigham, a librarian was appointed who had not had library training or library experience. In that case, the Committee did telegraph the Governor, emphasizing the importance of appointing trained people in a library such as the State Library of Iowa, and the calamity to the State and the Nation if appointment should be political rather than for fitness.

We had great difficulty in ascertaining as much as we should before we were vocal in our opinion on these two cases. We investigated how other bodies handled matters of tenure, particularly the American Association of University
Professors and the National Education Association. One thing we found was true of those two organizations, and of all the other organizations that handled tenure, and that was that they were very cautious about publicity until they had made a full investigation, that is, that the investigating committee did not burst into print until they were sure of their facts. That will explain, perhaps, why we have not had more publicity on these and other cases that we have attempted to investigate.

Another thing we found was that these associations that really did something along the lines of tenure had considerable funds for investigation. The National Education Association, for instance, has $10,000; the A.A.U.P. has five or six thousand dollars a year. Another thing we found out, which was rather to our surprise, was that they investigated actually very few cases in any one year, an extremely small percentage of the cases that might have been investigated.

In trying to make up our minds what should be the goal, we felt that one of these associations (I think it was the National Education Association) had put it so well that we would like to quote it to you as the Committee's idea of what it should work for in these matters of tenure, a reasonable degree of security and legal tenure conditioned on
professional improvement.

We believe that it is even more important to exert our influence to have proper appointments made than it is to speak in defense of people who have lost their positions, but while we think that the first is the more important, we do believe that a professional organization should be able to speak in defense of people who have lost their positions without due cause.

There is great difference of opinion on the part of the A.L.A. members as to what a tenure committee should do. One influential member wrote as follows:

"I think the A. L. A. cannot be too careful in mixing in affairs of this kind. Things within a state must concern that state, and progress from outside is quite beside the point. No professional organization can afford to take up the cudgels for dismissals throughout the nation."

That represents a point of view with which we do not agree, but we would like to know whether it is the point of view of the majority of the Council. We believe that after sufficient investigation the A.L.A. should take up the cudgels for dismissals throughout the nation.

Another thing, however, that we believe, and that
shows we are not in entire disagreement with this opinion, is that a great deal of work along the lines of tenure could be done very much more efficiently by state committees than they could by a national committee. We would like to see every state library association have some kind of a personnel committee that would themselves investigate tenure within the state and would cooperate with the national committee in their investigations.

Mr. President, we are very anxious for free discussion. The Committee would ask you, if you are willing, to limit the discussion to general principles, and not to allow discussion of the two particular cases that I have mentioned, or any other specific case. I think most of you will agree that in a public meeting of this sort, you will get nowhere with a discussion about an individual case. What the Committee would like from the Council is an expression of opinion about many things, specifically three, whether you agree with the Committee in accepting as a goal the quotation I read from the N.E.A. report, reasonable degree of security in legal tenure conditioned on professional improvement; whether you believe that it is possible for any committee handling matters of tenure to make real investigations when they have absolutely no funds for travel expenses for anyone to go to the spot
and make an investigation, or whether you would recommend that in spite of all the demand on the Executive Board, our Committee attempt to secure some funds another year so that more effective investigations could be made, and in the third place, whether you do not agree with us that state committees' personnel would be in many cases very much more effective than any national committee could be, and that they would help very much in any investigation that a national committee might make.

Those three points the Committee would be very glad to be enlightened on as far as the opinion of the Council is concerned.

I would emphasize again, Mr. President, the hope of the Committee that the discussion be limited to such general points rather than a discussion of individual cases of discharge or appointment.

PRESIDENT WYER: The subject is now open for discussion. I, too, wish to emphasize the point brought out by the Committee, that this discussion should center on the principles involved, rather than individual cases.

MR. UTLEY: I should like to move that it is the sense of the Council that we give, as the Council, our approval to the three measures brought out by the Chairman of the
Committee asking the opinion of the Council.

... The motion was seconded ...

PRESIDENT WYER: It is now open for discussion.

MISS RATHBONE: I would like to suggest that the A.L.A. Committee act on appeal from local committees, rather than take the initiative; that they devote their energies in the beginning to securing the appointment of local committees by the different state organizations, state associations throughout the country, and then that the A.L.A. should serve as the court of appeals in case the local committee is unable to handle the situation.

MR. KUHLMAN: I think the Iowa situation is an exceedingly instructive one. One question I would like to raise is whether the new Board shouldn't be concerned with formulating something in the form of personnel policy. If in the Iowa situation over a period of years there had been an integration of a state program with local needs and local problems, and if there had been a forward looking policy to build up an understudy and an organization that could have carried forward, in fact, if some attention had been paid to the Brookings survey of 1934, I think what happened might not have happened.

It seems to me there is little point in having an
outside agency coming in and concerning itself with appointments when the local organization has given no thought about the future and has not built up a personnel that could carry forward the functions and the leadership in the situation according to the standards that the A.L.A. would like to stand for.

MISS WINSLOW: I am wondering if as a general policy we wish to endorse the recommendation that we leave to state committees to take the initiative in following up matters of dismissal, in view of the fact that at least in certain of our states we have a definite trend toward dictatorship? I wonder if an investigation from a national association might not in those cases at least carry a great deal more weight than a state committee which would be more or less dismissed as of no moment at the time.

PRESIDENT WYER: Is there any further discussion? If not, I would put the motion to a vote. All in favor of the motion approving the report of the Committee, will please stand. All opposed please stand. (One) The motion is carried.

The next item is a report from the Committee on Committees. The Chairman of the Committee is not present. I will ask Mr. Butler to read the report for Mr. Lester.
... Mr. Butler read the report ...

PRESIDENT WYER: Do you wish to vote on these recommendations singly, or as a whole?

MR. DICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I move that the report be approved as a whole, as read.

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

PRESIDENT WYER: Committee on Chapters and Sections, Mr. James I. Wyer, Chairman.

... Mr. Wyer read the first paragraph of his report ...

MR. JAMES I. WYER: Action by the Executive Board at the mid-winter meeting granted the request.

... Mr. Wyer read the rest of his report ...

PRESIDENT WYER: Is there a motion to approve the recommendation of this Committee in regard to the Maritime Library Institute being made a section?

... A motion was so made, seconded, voted upon and carried ...

PRESIDENT WYER: There always are matters of business coming up during the week of the conference which require attention of the Council later in the week; therefore, we will adjourn the meeting today and take up the other items on the program at a meeting on Friday Afternoon.
The meeting adjourned at eleven o'clock...
COUNCIL MEETING

Friday Afternoon, June 25, 1937

The meeting was called to order in the Grand Ballroom at two-forty o'clock by Mr. Malcom G. Wyer, the President.

PRESIDENT WYER: The meeting of the Council will come to order.

The first item of business is the report of the Public Documents Committee, Mr. Jerome K. Wilcox, Chairman.

MR. WILCOX: While en route to the Conference, I stopped in Washington to find out the status of House Bill 5471, and I was able to see the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, as well as the Superintendent of Documents, and the Secretary of the Joint Committee on Printing.

They suggested certain modifications to that particular bill, and I think as it stands, with the modifications, it will probably go through all right.

The modifications are briefly these: Before they distribute any further documents, they want to find out, through the Superintendent of Documents, what libraries actually want the material indicated in the bill. The Superintendent of Documents definitely does not want the distribution in his hands, but would rather have the distribution direct from the agencies, at his request. In other words, any library could
get that material from the issuing agency direct upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Documents.

As an outgrowth of that something else developed, which is simply this: The Joint Committee on Printing suggested that it would be wise for the Association to make a survey of all depository libraries, and as the result of that survey to rewrite the Federal Depository Distribution Law.

That is quite an undertaking, but I feel very definitely it is something we should do, because we have now been placed in the ideal situation of being asked by the Joint Committee on Printing, and the Superintendent of Documents, to conduct this survey and also possibly to rewrite the Distribution Law which, of course, is greatly needed.

I wish, therefore, to present this following recommendation: That the American Library Association, through its Committee on Public Documents, make a survey of all Federal depository libraries, such survey having been requested by the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing of the United States Congress, and the Superintendent of Documents.

It is further recommended that this be a field survey, and if funds are unavailable from the Association's budget for this survey, that the Secretary, or the Officers of the A.L.A. attempt to secure funds from outside sources.
It is further recommended that as a result of this survey, the Federal Depository Distribution Law be rewritten by the Committee on Public Documents in accordance with the findings of the survey, and then be submitted to Congress for action.

I wish to move that this be referred to the Executive Board for further action.

DR. JOECKEL: Second the motion.

... The motion was put to a vote and carried ...

PRESIDENT WYER: The next report is from the Committee on Fire Insurance, Mr. Harold T. Dougherty.

MR. DOUGHERTY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council: The instructions which the Committee on Fire Insurance received from the Council were as follows:

"To consider the equalization of rates in the different cities and sections of the country, and the compilation of a standard clause satisfactory both to libraries and the National Association of Underwriters which can be added to policies on libraries, and which will cover valuation of the property to be insured, and modes of arriving at the amount of reinvestments to be made to the policyholders in cases where losses occur."

The first part of those instructions were reported

The second part, that concerning the form, is what we bring before you today. We have made, as a Committee, a rather thorough study of what has been done regarding various types of special forms for fire insurance, and we found there was one special form that was issued some nine or ten years ago by the Merrimac Insurance Company, and was used for a number of years, but not in use at the present time.

We then made a study of special forms which are used for churches, thinking that they might help us in a determination of what should be included in our form for libraries.

We were fortunate in having on our Committee Mr. Charles M. Cartwright, of Chicago, an insurance man, who led us to the right source for our insurance information, that being an introduction to the Insurance Executives Association in New York City, with Paul L. Haid, its President, and J. D. Erskine, its Secretary.

We have had a number of conferences, especially with Mr. Erskine. They were most considerate of their time in helping us with this particular form. They brought in also for assistance and advice, Mr. David Hinckley, of the Eastern Underwriters Association. We feel that, at least among those
in the East, we have had the best available sources of information.

We found it was most difficult to draw up a specific form which would be a standard to meet all conditions throughout the country, and it seemed best in doing this to keep the form as simple as possible, reducing the language to a minimum so that there would be no question regarding what we intended to include. It is better, we think, to do that than to particularize because then, if you make an omission, it is very outstanding that something has been omitted.

A year ago, in May, 1936, we published in the A.L.A. Bulletin this provisional form. You members of the Council have it before you as it appeared at that time. There were one or two inconsequential changes made in it. The chief change is the omission of the clause regarding the valuation of books and of card catalogs.

In that report of a year ago we included as a condition of this policy that "the amount of loss on card indices shall be limited to the cost of labor and material for reproducing such indices, but in no case to exceed (blank) loss per card."

Then, also, there was to be included, perhaps, a loss valuation regarding books. It was the idea then that it
would be a more or less simple phrase which would read something to the effect that "in case of loss, the value of no books should exceed the value of $1.00." Of course, that applied simply to total losses. For losses in particular collections, the values might be included which helped to make up your average value of your collection.

It seemed, as we went ahead, that the omission of those two would make us better off. For instance, in the book valuation, from a library point of view, I would prefer to have the clause read as follows: "In the event of loss, the value should be not less than $1.00 per volume," or whatever amount you may see fit to include. Of course, the insurance people wanted "not more than $1.00."

Leaving those out, we bring the form to you practically as it was printed.

As I stated, we made this form as simple as possible. Those in the East, perhaps, would not need a form any more extended than this is. But, I was talking with a man the other day, and he thought we ought to include windstorm or tornado on insurance here in the East; and certainly in California you would need to include earthquake, also.

I would move, Mr. President, that the Committee on Fire Insurance be empowered to present this form, this tentative
form, to the insurance interests of the country for their
approval, and that said form, with such amendments as may be
necessary, be later submitted to the Council for adoption.

PRESIDENT WYER: Is the motion seconded?

... The motion was seconded by Mr. Cannon ...

PRESIDENT WYER: Is there any discussion in regard
to this?

MR. BRIGHAM: May I ask if the Committee has given
consideration to the so-called supplemental contract, which
seems to be advocated now, covering protection against damage
by explosion, airplane accidents, and things of that sort? They
are making a great deal of it down our way.

MR. DOUGHERTY: I can't say that we have, because
our instructions were on fire insurance.

PRESIDENT WYER: Any further questions or discussion?

MR. VITZ: Has the question been gone into whether
more desirable rates can be secured if there is a small amount
of injury omitted from payment by the insurance company, say,
damage up to $500 or $1000?

MR. DOUGHERTY: I think we did not consider that.

We have considered the broad question of fire insurance
without particularizing too much.

PRESIDENT WYER: It might be a point to make note
of and inquire from some of the fire insurance people and the
underwriters as to that point.

Any further discussion? All in favor of the motion signify by saying "aye"; opposed "no." The motion is carried.

Last spring there was held a Documentation Conference in Washington, and a Committee was appointed to represent the A.L.A. at that Conference. A short time ago the officers of the organization formed at that time suggested to the A.L.A. that they would like some action from the A.L.A. and the Executive Board in considering this voted this recommendation to the Council: The nomination of a representative of the A.L.A. on the Documentation Institute, without financial responsibility.

Mr. Craver was the Chairman of the Committee representing the A.L.A. at that Institute Conference, and he will make a report to the Council at the present time.

Mr. CRAVER: Mr. Wyer has told you the background of the Conference.

The Conference was called by a group of gentlemen in Washington who were interested in research in one way or another, and who thought it desirable that a documentation organization of some kind be created. As a result of that Conference, which was attended by representatives of some twenty or thirty learned societies, libraries, and other people
who work in the field of documentation, it was decided to form a corporation known as the American Documentation Institute.

Since that meeting, such an organization has been formed, operating under a Delaware charter as an institution not for profit and without stock ownership.

The incorporators were a number of men, principally around Washington, but representing learned societies and libraries, who consider themselves merely temporary trustees until a national organization can be formed.

Their idea on the formation of the Institute, the composition of it, is to invite the learned and scientific societies of the United States to appoint each a single representative who will be a member of the American Documentation Institute, and those members, meeting annually, will elect the trustees who become the executive and administrative department of the organization.

This charter gives them very broad powers, so broad that I am not going to attempt to give them in detail here. But, it will permit them to publish, duplicate material of scientific interest, to carry on almost any kind of bibliographic work, to arrange for the formation of enterprises intended to promote the access of a scholar to printed material.
Those of you who are familiar with the work that Mr. Watson Davis has been carrying on and arguing for in the Science Service will have some ideas of the kind of thing it is intended to do, although the scope is much broader than anything that has been done there. Science Service has already turned over to the Documentation Institute the microfilming service it has been running. The corporation can acquire and hold property and funds to be used for these purposes.

Since the formation of the Institute, they have, as President Wyer has said, approached us with a request that we become one of the affiliated bodies, who will really be the Institute. The work, of course, is one that is very close to the kind of thing that we are all doing, and that we are all interested in. The new organization, I think, deserves our support. I hardly see how it can exist without our support. I think we can with great propriety become one of the cooperating bodies. I can't name the list of members, but they include (of course, one always is more familiar with his own folk) such organizations as the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Physical Society, the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science. I don't want you to think from my predilections that it is entirely a scientific group, because the American
Historical Society, and the others in the cultural field, are also being invited to participate.

I should like, Mr. Chairman, to make a motion that the Council accept this invitation and empower the Executive Board to take the necessary steps in the way of appointing a representative, with the distinct understanding, of course, that the Association take no financial responsibility; in other words, that the American Documentation Institute will have to stand on its own legs as an independent corporation in that respect.

... The motion was seconded by Mr. Danton ...

PRESIDENT WYER: Is there discussion, or are there questions?

MR. CANNON: Mr. Carver spoke about the reproduction of printed material. I was wondering whether it was limited to printed materials, or whether it included manuscripts as well?

MR. CARVER: If there is anything that that charter doesn't empower this Institute to do, after a rather careful reading of it, I don't know what it is. They can do everything except sell chewing gum and automatic machines.

PRESIDENT WYER: Any other questions? If not, all in favor of this motion signify by saying "aye"; opposed "no."
The motion is carried.
An award was offered a short time ago to the American Library Association under certain conditions, and with the approval of the Executive Board, I appointed a Committee to consider it. The Committee has been appointed only a few days, and it has not had time to give thorough consideration to all the things involved. But the Chairman, Mr. Danton, will speak in regard to this award which has been offered.

MR. DANTON: Mr. President and Members of the Council: It was suggested that I, on behalf of the Committee, report at this time, simply for your information, what has happened up to the present time, primarily because we would like the Council to know about it; and perhaps secondarily, because presumably the Council will be asked to give its approval or to give its disapproval later on.

On April 16th there was written to the Secretary of the Association this letter--the signer's name will be disclosed at the end of the story:

... Mr. Danton read the letter from Mr. Lippincott...

The Executive Board considered Mr. Lippincott's proposal and adopted the following resolution:

... Mr. Danton read the resolution ...

The members of that Committee are: Chalmers Hadley, Aubry Lee Hill, Grace Rose, Althea Warren, and the speaker as Chairman.
The Committee has met once and has been interested, among other things, to find that the problem of deciding what kind of an award there should be, if there is an award, is a great deal more complicated than it appears at first sight to be. The Committee will have another meeting this afternoon, and hopes to have some kind of a final report, or a tentative recommendation, at least, to present to the Executive Board at the mid-winter meeting this coming December.

In the meantime, this is simply a report for your information; a request, if you like, also, that any of you who have any ideas as to the nature of an award for librarians, if such an award be set up, send such ideas to any member of the Committee.

I am not sure that the Committee is in a position to answer very many questions at the present time. But, if there are questions that can be answered, I should be very glad to try to do so.

PRESIDENT WYER: Are there any questions? I hope that you will follow the suggestion of the Chairman, and as you think over the things that may be involved in such an award, send any ideas which you have, either favorable or unfavorable, to the Chairman so that these points may come before the Committee in its discussions.
MR. CANNON: In Mr. Lippincott's letter, he mentions similar awards in other professions. I wonder if Mr. Danton can tell us about any of those awards?

MR. DANTON: I am very glad indeed to speak to that question.

There have been awards in most of the organizations which can be called learned or professional societies. It so happens, if I may report a little earlier history, that when I was assistant to Mr. Wilam in Chicago, I became interested in this subject long before this particular opportunity arose, and the firm which was trying to sell us the die for a medal gave me a great deal of information. We found about twenty-three learned societies (as I remember, double column about half a page) which did give awards of one kind or another—mostly a medal, sometimes a gold, silver and bronze medal, sometimes a gold medal every other year either with or without a cash award, often set up by the societies, sometimes by a generous benefactor, as in this instance that we have before us.

Coming more specifically to your question, Mr. Cannon, the American Geographical Society has such an award; several of the engineering societies have them. Mr. Craver, who sat in on our first and thus far only meeting, reported
that such achievements in the field of engineering, if I am not mistaken, as the Holland Tunnel, the George Washington Bridge and the Empire State Building had received awards. The American Nursing Association, if that is the exact name of the organization, has an award for outstanding achievement in nursing. The American Chemical Society has an award. I don't know, as a matter of fact, of any professional or learned society which does not have an award.

I might report, also, that Mr. Milam paid the taxi fare for two hours of a member of the Committee to trot around New York City.

SECRETARY MILAM: It wasn't necessary; she walked.

MR. DANTON: He offered to do it, which indicates the interest of an officer of the Association in this matter, to get information from other learned societies as to their set-ups, the type of things for which awards were made, how the awards were made, the way judges were selected, and so on, not that we intend to pattern ourselves after any one or all of them, but because it seemed to us rather important that we profit in so far as we could from the experience of other organizations.

MR. BRIGHAM: May I ask Mr. Danton to suggest two or three of the outstanding reasons pro or con that would help
us to think the thing through, if you want suggestions?

MR. DANTON: I don't know of any real reason one
I can think of a number of rather intangible reasons pro.

At the Committee meeting the other day the instance
I used was the Newberry Award. That receives a great deal of
publicity. It has made the Section for Library Work with
Children known perhaps as much as any part of the Association,
and it has redounded, I think, to the good of the Association
as a whole, though there may be those who disagree with
particular awards. But no award that has ever been made, I
imagine, receives the 100 per cent support of those who know
anything about it.

We think, aside from that question of publicity, (and
I hope I use the word in the very nicest and most dignified
sense) also that it will provide two things, both related; an
incentive to achievement in the field, not that we feel that
librarians don't work enough; second, we feel that—perhaps I
should say I feel, (I am not speaking officially for the
Committee at this point) and at least one other Committee
member feels, that the tangible rewards of the library pro-
fession are rather few, and that anything which can be done in
a dignified and wholly unobjectionable fashion to recognize
in some tangible way outstanding achievement is desirable.
I think that those are the two or three principal points of view that I have in mind.

If I may take another minute, since I believe this matter is of a considerable amount of potential significance to the Association, I would like to indicate very briefly some of the difficulties which the Committee faces, and I shall not mention more than two or three and in just two or three minutes.

One difficulty which we face is a decision as to whether every kind of achievement which can properly be considered under the broad field of librarianship should be eligible to such an award. Shall we compare, as Mr. Milam pointed out in the Committee meeting, apples with oranges and eggs to the extent of including a demonstration project, a bibliography, an entirely new kind of library building which might completely revolutionize library service, the Union Catalog in Philadelphia, the printing of the Library of Congress Catalog, supposing somebody practically put it through single-handed, or a magnificent piece of publicity of some sort which brought a given library, or a given city, or a given state up to the forefront of library service? All those things properly fall under librarianship. If the field is not delimited, it will be very, very difficult for the Committee to make its decision in any one year.
We are also uncertain at the moment whether the award should be annual or biennial or triennial or perhaps quadrennial; or whether we should possibly divide the library field into four or five major groups, and each year consider that we will give an award only in that group. Then, anything coming in the next two or three years—suppose this is the year for the field in which publicity would fall—in the way of publicity would be eligible for the award three or four or two or three years hence when the publicity field comes up again.

Those are some of the questions. I shall not take any more time. We would be extremely grateful for any help which any of you would like to give us on desirable solutions to those questions.

PRESIDENT WYER: This is just a report for information and not for action at this time.

Is there any other business that any member of the Council would like to present today? Mr. Milam, do you have anything?

SECRETARY MILAM: No.

PRESIDENT WYER: Then, we have reached the conclusion of the business items before the Council, and a motion to adjourn would be in order.
MR. BRIGHAM: I so move.

... The motion was seconded by Mr. Cannon, put to a vote and carried ...

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