

ALA PUBLIC LIBRARIES DIVISION

Meeting of Board of Directors, February 4, 1953, 2:30 p.m.

Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago

PRESENT WERE: Ruth Rutzen, President, presiding
Jack B. Spear, Vice President and President-Elect
S. Janice Kee, Executive Secretary
Violet Myer, President, Adult Education Section
Thomas H. McKaig, Chairman, Trustees Section, and ALA Councilor
Perrie Jones, ALA Councilor
Ruth Gregory, ALA Councilor, and Chairman, Archives Committee
Siri M. Andrews, ALA Councilor
Roberta Bowler, ALA Councilor
Clara E. Breed, ALA Councilor
L. Marion Moshier, ALA Councilor
Joyce Nienstedt, ALA Councilor
Lucile Nix, ALA Councilor
Mildred Stewart, ALA Councilor
Margaret Goodrich, representing Frances M. O'Halloran, ALA Councilor,
and Agnes Crawford, President, Armed Forces
Librarians Section
Mary Kent, member of Readers' Guide Committee
Howard Haycraft, President, H. W. Wilson Co.
Raymond Mahoney, Chairman, Public Relations Committee.

READERS' GUIDE COMMITTEE. Miss Kent presented the report of this committee, as prepared by Pearl Day, Chairman. She discussed the Committee's problem of having a definite firm policy regarding selection of titles for inclusion in Readers' Guide, and the difficulty of working with one Wilson index completely separate from the others. The Committee recommended (1) that the scope of the committee be enlarged to include other Wilson indexes, (2) that both ACRL and PLD committees on the Wilson indexes be continued, and (3) that there be some carry-over between the present committee and other committees because of the necessity of having a continuing policy. There was discussion regarding the continuation of this committee and the representation of large libraries on it. Mr. Haycraft mentioned three projects for the next year: (1) that the work of the AASL on the Abridged Readers Guide be checked by PLD, (2) that a subject study of the International Index be made jointly by expanded ACRL and PLD committees, (3) that the present PLD committee be enlarged to include representatives of larger libraries: a) one half working with school librarians, b) half working with ACRL, c) full committee working with Book Review Digest. Miss Rutzen stated that the Board would act on these recommendations and take immediate steps to enlarge the Committee.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT. Miss Kee presented her report mentioning that she had now been PLD Executive Secretary a full year. She stated that the PLD was not full grown; that the Division was still dealing with problems of amalgamation. She reported that as of December 31, 1952 the PLD had 5057 members; 1334 members in Library Extension; 716 members in Trustees Section; and 286 members in the Armed Forces Librarians Section. Miss Kee pointed out that with the new Adult Education and Reference Sections within the Division, the more prominent group interests are now represented. She mentioned the plans of the PLD Membership Committee to supply the ALA Committee with promotional literature re ALA membership. She discussed the growing need of integration of committee functions within the Division and Sections; ALA-Division relationships; and the area of responsibility of each organization within ALA. She believed that the most important task now is the working out of the Division relationship problem so that the Division will find itself in the place in which it can serve ALA best. (Her full report will be published in Publis Libraries, February 1953)

PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Miss Rutzen briefly discussed the history of the new editorial staff for Public Libraries, stating that Donald Kohlstedt and Marian McFadden had been appointed as the nucleus of a larger staff. She announced that the Executive Committee would be responsible for getting out the next issue because Miss McFadden had resigned as Editor because of illness, and Mr. Kohlstedt had secured several advertisements for the next issue. She said the issue would contain the Notable Books list, news from the Midwinter Meeting, the Nominating Committee reports from the Division and Sections, if possible. The Los Angeles program will be highlighted in the May issue. There was discussion concerning the difficulties of production. It was suggested that the Editor be present at Board meetings to become familiar with policies. Also, that the membership be asked what they would like to have included in Public Libraries.

WORKING PAPERS. Miss Rutzen discussed the need for this project, to provide really practical aids to the membership in a variety of ways. It was felt that there were needs that were fairly general and that the Division had the resources in terms of people who could supply the answers to some of these needs. These "Working Papers" would be similar to ACRL's Monograph series. It was suggested, as an example, that the Architecture Committee might do a paper on the features of modern buildings. Discussion followed. It was VOTED that the President be authorized to go ahead with steps to develop this project. Discussion followed on the method of publication and distribution, but no definite decisions were made.

FOREIGN BOOK SELECTION COMMITTEE. Miss Rutzen discussed the need for a device to bring together a suggestive list of foreign books that are readily available for libraries interested in obtaining foreign language books. There was some discussion as to whether this was a valid project for PLD. Means of distributing these lists were discussed, and The Booklist was a suggested possibility. It was VOTED that the President be authorized to set up a Foreign Book Selection Committee with a membership from larger libraries who would set up whatever procedures they felt necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT. Miss Rutzen presented her report mentioning that she had now been PLD Executive Secretary a full year. She stated that the PLD was not full grown that the Division was still dealing with problem of organization. She reported that as of December 31, 1952 the PLD had 207 members; 133 members in Library Extension; 74 members in Trustees Section; and 200 members in the Adult Forces Library Section. Miss Rutzen pointed out that with the new Adult Extension and Reference Sections within the Division, the new program group always has new representation. She mentioned the plans of the PLD membership committee to apply the ALA Constitution with procedural literature to ALA membership. She discussed the growing need of integration of committee functions within the Division and Section; ALA-division relationships; and the area of responsibility of each organization within ALA. She believed that the most important task now is the working out of the Division relationship program so that the Division will find itself in the place in which it can serve ALA best. (Her Fall report will be published in Public Libraries, February 1953)