

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC LIBRARIES DIVISION

Formalized Minutes

Meeting of Board of Directors, AIA Midwinter Meeting
Chicago, 1956

Wednesday, February 1, 1956, 8:30 p.m.
Presiding, Mildred W. Sandoe, President

PRESENT Board Members: Mildred W. Sandoe, John T. Eastlick, S. Janice Kee,
Harold W. Tucker, Ruth W. Gregory, Nell Scott, Helen
E. Fry, Gordon Bennett, Mildred Stewart, Edith Foster,
Mildred A. Hammond, Verna Nistendirk, Dorothy Truesdale

Councilors: Helen Norris, Donna Dorothy Finger, Dorothy F. Deininger,
Regular Irving Lieberman, Ruth Hyatt, Harold J. Baily (part time),
Ruth Shapiro

Substitutes Helen M. Clark for Nettie B. Taylor, June Bayless for
John E. Smith, Muriel Perry for Miriam Putnam and
Elizabeth Hughey for Margaret Johnston

Committee Phyllis Maggeroli, Elections Committee
Chairmen: Mary L. Huber, Nominating Committee
Mrs. Florence S. Craig, Notable Books Council
Mrs. Orrilla T. Blackshear, Publications Committee

Substitute Alice M. Cahill for Mrs. V. Genevieve Galick, Revision
of State Grants to Public Libraries, 1942

Also present: Mrs. Helen Gilbert, Member of Federal Relations Committee
Helen Ridgway, Member of Council Steering Committee on
Implementation of the Management Survey
Dorothy K. Smith, PLD Office

INTRODUCTIONS: Jean Jordan, secretary to Miss Kee was introduced, along with
the identification of all those present.

MAIL VOTE: Miss Kee reported the Board's approval of: (1) minutes of three
meetings in Philadelphia, (2) the proposed budget for 1955-56, (3) change in
financial policy, substituting \$2,500.00 for \$5,000.00 as a minimum amount
the Division's reserve fund, (4) change in function of the Division Organization
Committee, giving it specific responsibilities in the task of implementing the
recommendations of the AIA Management Survey, and (5) the preliminary statement
(in principle) of objectives and field of interest of the proposed Public
Library Association, as prepared by the Division Organization Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Harold W. Tucker gave a brief explanation of the 1955-56
budget. He pointed out that the Division's income is not increasing rapidly
enough to carry on the current program more than one more year.

MEMBERSHIP: Miss Kee stated the PLD membership had grown steadily from
5,509 in 1953 to 5,624 in 1954 and to 5,825 in 1955.

SUPPORT OF WASHINGTON OFFICE:

Mrs. Helen Gilbert, member ALA Federal Relations Committee, asked the Division to consider making a contribution to the support of the activities of the Washington Office, in the interest of passage of the Library Services Bill. The Board, and others present, reviewed the poor financial status of the Division. Action on this request was deferred until the next meeting.

THE PLD REPORTER: Mrs. Dorothy K. Smith summarized a written progress report, copies of which had been distributed to the Board. This report indicated that four issues have been published and a fifth was in process; that the ALA comptroller had recommended an adjustment upward in the price which was effected with issue number four; and there were 621 series orders on file.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES: The proposal to change the title and function of the Business Manager of Public Libraries to Advertising Manager was presented by Mrs. Smith. She explained that in this plan, the PLD Office would be responsible for circulation matters (i.e., paid subscriptions, replacement of missing copies and sale of extra copies) and the Advertising Manager would concentrate efforts on obtaining advertising. The desirability of having an assistant to the Advertising Manager, located in the New York area, was discussed and approved. It was V O T E D to change the title of Business Manager to Advertising Manager, and the appointment of Francis Stark, Queens Borough Public Library, as assistant Advertising Manager in the New York area, was approved.

TIME STUDY: Upon the suggestion of the PLD Executive Committee, Mrs. Smith (assistant to the Executive Secretary) conducted a simple time study covering a 3½ month period (September 12 through December 31) to find that her time was spent approximately as follows: 64.5% on general PLD Office activities, 21% on The PLD Reporter, and 14.5% on Public Libraries. The period seemed typical because one each of The PLD Reporter and Public Libraries was issued, and the Executive Secretary was absent from the office for 27 days.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Ruth W. Gregory, Past-President, Chairman. Upon the recommendation of this Committee, the Board V O T E D to accept a revision of the policies on subscriptions and sale of back issues as follows: Subscription to Public Libraries is included in the PLD membership fee. This publication is not available on subscription to non-members of the Division. Back issues may be purchased at 50 cents each.

The Committee recommended further study of the proposal for a unified journal for AIA. Miss Gregory suggested that an AIA Committee, made up of Division representatives, might more effectively study this proposal. President Sandoe instructed the Executive Secretary to transmit this suggestion to the president of AIA.

FOREIGN BOOK SELECTION COMMITTEE:

Richard Malone, Chairman. Miss Kee reported for Mr. Malone. She mentioned the favorable response to the lists printed in the Booklist, and presented the chairman's recommendation that the function of the Committee be extended. The Board V O T E D to enlarge the function of the Committee, removing its limitation to the listing of books in eastern European languages. The Committee may now list books of a general and popular nature in any foreign language.

COMMITTEE ON REVISION
OF STATE GRANTS:

Mrs. V. Genevieve Galick, Chairman. Alice M. Cahill, Editor-compiler, made a brief progress report, indicating her hope that the project could be completed before the end of the fiscal year. She said a questionnaire, which had been tested by Committee members, would be mailed to all state agencies in February.

MIAMI BEACH CONFERENCE: President Sandoe announced Dr. Frank Sessa's willingness to serve as PLD's special representative on the Miami local conference committee. She said, also, that books would be emphasized in the Division's program and activities, first, by focusing on Notable Books in the co-sponsored AIA general session; second, by having a "book conversation" party, and lastly, by cooperating with the sponsors of the Adult Education Workshop. Miss Sandoe briefly described the plans for the general session program; Miss Kee explained the plans for the "party" and Miss Foster (for AES) and Miss Nistendirik (For LES) spoke of the Sections' plan to have programs within the framework of the Adult Education Workshop. Miss Truesdale said the Reference Section would plan a program on the results of their current survey.

DIVISION ORGANIZATION

COMMITTEE:

Ruth W. Gregory, Chairman. At the time of this meeting, the PLD membership, in session on January 31, had approved the work of the Division Organization Committee as presented in A Preliminary Statement of Objectives and Field of Interest and the ten Primary Interests of the Proposed Public Library Association. Miss Gregory reminded the Board of the several concerns expressed in the Membership meeting (see Minutes of Membership Meeting). She said she thought the next job for the Division would be to translate the fields-of-interest statement into a statement of field of responsibility. Discussion was invited.

Helen A. Ridgway, member, AIA Steering Committee, was present and upon being questioned, said the Division would assume responsibility for those things for which the Division would give time, money and professional support. Miss Gregory made a statement in favor of the Division's assuming responsibility for the future development of libraries in the broadest sense. Miss Ridgway said she did not anticipate any change in the Steering Committee's explanation of the areas of responsibility of type-of-library Divisions. The question of a time schedule for reconciling overlapping and differences in the field-of-interest statement was raised, but Miss Ridgway could not definitely answer this for the Committee. She did say the various Divisions could be established before their responsibilities were "assigned to them."

Mr. Lieberman made a plea for a terminal organization of those interested in audio-visual materials. Miss Ridgway said all types of organizations had been considered for the group by the Steering Committee, but all had been rejected. Mr. Lieberman received approval of the Board to present his case to the AIA Council.

Miss Hammond reported for the Armed Forces Section, saying this group had decided to remain a section of the public libraries organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.