The Special Libraries Association was formed in 1909 by librarians of business, professional, governmental and industrial organizations to promote the collection, organization and dissemination of information in specialized fields and to improve the usefulness of special libraries and information services. Its program includes an Annual Convention for the discussion of common problems by experts in various fields of activity; Consultant Services on the organization and administration of special libraries; publication of professional and bibliographical tools; and a Placement Service for members and employers. Chapters established on a geographical basis and Divisions organized in accordance with subject interests of members implement this program.

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Special Libraries Association—Its First Fifty Years
1909-1959

EDITED BY
Alma Clairvor Mitchell
Foreword

This year, the Special Libraries Association has reached the half-century mark, with 50 years of outstanding achievement. Within these pages will be found historical highlights of the Association's accomplishments over this period. Many of those responsible for SLA's early growth are no longer with us—many have retired or died—but their work and inspiration lives on, and the Association today is a fitting memorial to their untried efforts and foresight.

When preparing data pertinent in preparing the histories of Chapters and Divisions, the Committee had planned to include the names of charter members, bulletin editors and officers in the Association, Chapters and Divisions. Unfortunately, many records were found to be sketchy and incomplete. In order that all histories be as uniform as possible, it was decided to omit these lists and names of these individuals appearing in the text of the histories. The Committee deeply regrets this decision, especially since many historians had spent considerable time in securing this information. However, all material received will be filed at SLA Headquarters for future reference. If there are any corrections or additions to these histories as they now appear, the Committee will most appreciate having them called to its attention, so that when the 75th Anniversary history is written, it will be complete in every respect.

All affiliations and titles of members are those which were in effect at the time of the activity mentioned.

A debt of gratitude is owed Mary Allison, SLA editor, for the excellent work she has done on the final editing, to Elizabeth Ferguson, Convention Publicity Chairman, for her painstaking preparation of the "Association Highlights" and "Chronology" and to all the historians and archivists who participated in the compilation of the Chapter and Division histories. This compilation required much time and effort since it involved not only the first compilation requested in the summer of 1957 but also the bringing of material up-to-date as of January 1959.

Alma Clairvon Mitchell
Historian, SLA 50th Anniversary

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