Heart of America Chapter

The Heart of America Chapter of SLA, formerly called the Kansas City Chapter, was installed January 17, 1948, at Linda Hall Library. About 35 people were present. Harry Brinton, acting librarian, Kansas City Public Library, presided until turning the meeting over to the SLA President, Mrs. Irene Stribley, for the official installation. Mrs. Elizabeth Owens, SLA Membership Chairman, was also present. Martha Hershey, Midwest Research Institute, was the Chapter’s first president.

The Chapter meets six times a year, usually in Kansas City, Missouri, although meetings have been held in Wichita, Topeka and other nearby cities. The K.C.-SLA Newsletter was first issued in January 1948 and is published ten times a year. In 1953 the newsletter changed its name to the Heart of America. Richard C. Greening was the newsletter’s first editor.

Joint meetings have been held with the Missouri Library Association, Kansas Library Association and the SLA Greater St. Louis Chapter.

A Directory of Libraries and Librarians in the Area was published in 1949, later revised in 1955. Thirty-four librarians participated in the compilation in 1949 of A Union List of Serials for Greater Kansas City and Sections of Missouri. A new edition is in process. No publication date has been set.

On February 22, 1949, the Chapter journeyed to St. Louis to compete with that Chapter in a radio program, “Quiz of Two Cities.” The contest resulted in a tie. The Chapter gave a grant, to be used at Western Reserve University’s Library School during 1948-49, to one of its members, Mary Pink.

Inez Smith

Illinois

On September 1, 1945, right after the end of World War II, the Illinois Chapter of SLA was formed. The Chapter was formed by three men who were represented by proxy, not at the Chicago Public Utilities Institute to form a western Chapter of SLA. “Such chapters had been formed in the east,” they said, and even though some objected on the grounds that it might overlap the activities of the ALA and the Chicago Library Club and impinge upon their loyalty to those organizations, others felt that it was time to give special attention to special libraries. “The others” prevailed.

Applying for a charter was routine since federal laws were passed on election day the meeting had foreseen that they would be most welcome. The Illinois Chapter was formed, and Pyrrha Sheffield of Universal Portland Cement Company became the first president.

The young Chapter did not flourish immediately but falttered and had its difficulties. In a letter to the president, the program chairman related that only four members showed up at the meeting of February 8, 1945, causing her great embarrassment because not only a speaker, but also refreshments had been provided. There were 17 baking institute students there to swell the number but that did not lessen her chagrin. She suggested further that the Chapter be disbanded if the members were not interested enough to attend the meetings; however, no such drastic action was taken.

In 34 years the Chapter has grown in membership from the original 24 to 225, a good indication of the vitality of the group and the increase in special libraries.

The Chapter has provided one Association President, a treasurer and several vice-presidents and directors as well as numerous Division chairmen. Chapter member Marian E. Wells received the SLA Professional award in 1968.

SLA Annual Conventions were held in Chicago in 1933, 1937 and 1958. Executive Board and Advisory Council meetings were held in 1945, 1952 and 1954.

Eight meetings are held each year, from September through May. All are held in Chicago except that one is either held out of town or a special effort is made to invite out-of-town members. The first such meeting was held in Urbana, November 1915. An annual joint meeting is held with the Chicago Library Club.

Elodie Boggs, Library of International Relations, was given the World Understanding Award by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, May 1956.

One of the Chapter activities ispublishing the Chapter bulletin, The Informant. It started out October 1935 with a modest format of three mimeographed pages and no official name. The first issue carried just the announcement of the next meeting and the minutes of the previous one. The bulletin wasn’t named The Informant until two years later in 1937, when Madge Preble was editor, and then it acquired a masthead and a colored front page.

The Membership Directory was first issued in 1940. The directory for 1944 was a nine-page mimeographed list with no cover—a contrast to its present 32-page printed edition. In addition to The Informant and the Directory, the Chapter published a Union List of Periodicals in 1944, and a Union List of Serials and Periodicals in 1950. A new edition of the Union List will be published in 1959. The Sci-Tech Group issued a Bibliography on Sci-Tech Library Methods in 1957, which was so successful that it was sold out by 1959. The Directory Manual came out in 1952, and a crowning achievement was Inside Special Libraries in 1956. During the summer of 1957, the Illinois manual written for the Chapter archives was issued by SLA as a model for other Chapters. A Directory of Libraries in the Chicago Area was published jointly with the Chicago Library Club in 1945.

The Chapter participated in the Women’s Conference sponsored by the Altrusa Club, December 1944. The subject of the conference was “Women’s Role in Post-War Planning.”

Committees have remained much the same but some reflect the times, such as the War Activities Committee, which naturally had a short life. The current roster includes the Consultation Committee, representing the new service now offered by SLA. A duplicate exchange service has been in operation since 1939.

Special events that were part of the Chapter’s war activities included:
1. The pamphlet files of the Consumer Information Service were classified by subject and indexed, 1943.
2. The War Information Center of the Chicago Public Library was manned by Chapter members in the evening, 1943.
3. Bibliographies were prepared entitled Absenteeism in Industry, War Clothes for Women, Substitutes Materials for Consumers, 1943.
4. Book campaigns were held, 1943, 1944.
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INDEX SMITH

Illinois

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4. Book campaigns were held, 1943, 1944.
5. The patents of the office of the Alien Property Custodian were abstracted and indexed, 1943.

6. A Sunday morning breakfast for servicemen was sponsored at USO headquarters, March 23, 1944, and May 20, 1945.

The Chapter has provided a representative to speak on special libraries at the annual career conference sponsored by the Chicago Technical Societies Council and other organizations. It is held at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

The local Science-Technology Group set up and manned a SLA booth at the National Chemical Exposition for the years 1946, 1948, 1950, 1952 and 1954.

In both 1951 and 1952 a training course for non-professional librarians was held at The John Crerar Library. In 1951, 16 attended. Lorena Clarke, Medical and Dental Library, University of Illinois, was the instructor. In 1952, 35 attended, and Betty Kienzle, The John Crerar Library, was the instructor. There was no charge.

This history may not show any earth-shaking ideas or startling innovations—rather, the record reflects a steady effort to add to the practices of sound librarianship.

Elizabeth Carlson
Frieda K. Kersh

Indiana

The Indiana Chapter of Special Libraries Association was born long before its official charter date of June 15, 1941. It came into being out of the deep need of librarians in special libraries and in specialized departments of college and public libraries in the area to discuss common problems and to pool work experience.

On November 30, 1936, 33 librarians met at an informal dinner. This first meeting was arranged by an outstanding team: Ethel Cleland, who had organized and long been head of the Business Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library, and Mrs. Irven Murray Strizby, head of the Lilly Research Laboratories Library. Mrs. Cleland, as a young librarian, had worked in the Indiana Legislative Reference Library with SLA's Dr. John A. Lapp, first editor of SPECIAL LIBRARIES, and she had helped him with his editing and mailing duties. Mrs. Strizby, now library consultant to Eli Lilly and Company, later became SLA President, 1947-48, and winner of the 1956 SLA Professional Award.

A second meeting of the library group, in February 1937, drew an attendance of 44. On November 8, the librarians decided on a continuing organization, with officers. On February 2, 1938, Mrs. Verna Grimm, librarian of the American Legion National Headquarters, became the organization's first president. At a meeting on the following May 12, she read to the members a letter from the SLA Executive Board suggesting that the group reorganize as a local unit of the Association. Considerable resistance to the suggestion was voiced. Public librarians who worked in specialized subject or form collections were not sure they qualified as special librarians. Several persons in the group were responsible for small library collections in local institutions; since they were not professional librarians they felt they would have no place in a more formal organization. The personal contacts at meetings and the semi-professional nature of programs had thus far been highly satisfactory to members, so it was decided to continue that informal and unattached group.

But larger forces were already moving to hasten the development of a more professional destiny for the local organization. SLA officers were even then reviewing the high proportion of SLA meetings held on the east coast—through a recent one had been held as far west as Pittsburgh! They decided it would be a good idea to plan alternate conferences further west, thus laying the groundwork for broader activities on a geographic basis. Indianapolis was a logical mid-west point, but no city without a SLA Chapter had ever been host to a SLA Convention.

President Alma Mitchell decided to break a cross-country trip with a stopover in Indianapolis to explore the Convention idea. She and seven dedicated souls—or impetuous masks, depending on the point of view—decided that the Indianapolis group could host a convention.

During the winter, the idea was considered by the entire organization of Indianapolis special librarians. In the spring of 1939 an official invitation was decided upon and prepared. In August the invitation was accepted. After that, under the general chairmanship of Irene Strizby, all activities were geared toward the June 1940 SLA Convention. Committee and planning meetings were held at bimonthly intervals during those hectic months. A directory of special libraries was compiled. With Hosier hospitality at its highest level, arrangements were completed well in advance of the meeting date. "Utilization of Resources" was chosen as the theme. In spite of the absence of official Association connections, the Convention Committee not only kept out of the red but actually turned over a small but tidy surplus to SLA.

The 1940 Convention provided the momentum that carried the group to petition SLA to become a Chapter. The petition, presented on June 15, 1941, was accepted. In September a constitution was formulated and adopted by the founding Chapter. Thus a somewhat casual organization was on its way to becoming professional.

Interassociation relationships were clearly established in the second year of the Chapter's existence, when the precedent of holding one meeting each fall in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Indiana Library Association and the Indiana Library Trustees Association was set. In 1942-43, the Union List of Serials was begun, a continuing project which has resulted in a useful reference tool maintained in the Technical Department of the Indianapolis Public Library. During the war era, special librarians assisted in sorting Victory Campaign books and cooperated in the sponsorship of a statewide Books-for-Bonds rally. The end of the decade saw two traditions established in meeting places—a fall meeting at Homewood, in Lebanon, the home of Dr. and Mrs. Donald A. Laird, and a spring meeting on the campus of an Indiana college or university.

In May of 1950, a revised constitution and bylaws were adopted, and the Chapter Manual was compiled and put into use. In program planning, roundtable and panel discussions adopted several years earlier were continued. An open meeting for business and institutional executives of the community was first held during the 1950 Convention in Indianapolis; again in April 1956, with Rose Vormelker as speaker; for the third time in January 1954; and for the fourth time in 1955, paving the way for more unified Chapter sponsorship of a consultant service to help organizations contemplating installation of libraries. Formerly this service had been rendered strictly on an individual member basis. An annual workshop meeting was started with the May 1955 meeting at Butler University. Librarians have worked with library
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school curricula and with recruitment activities. A current development of the latter is the Chapter’s work with the Hoosier Student Library Association, looking toward an introductory and apprentice program in selected special libraries.

The years of the Chapter’s increasing professional maturity have been marked by greater emphasis on exploration of problems, sponsorship of common professional projects and participation of individuals in Association activities. A remarkable balance of interest has been achieved in the participation of company, institution, government, college, university and public librarians. All have enjoyed an exceeding degree of support from their organizations, thus proving the prestige and actual demonstrated value of SLA.

As the Chapter concept developed and at the meaning of SLA affiliation became clearer, not only in terms of prestige but in actual concrete help, there came greater Chapter activity and increased participation in the Association and in professional library activities in general. Many members have attended Association Conventions regularly and others occasionally. Among those are several who have taken an active role in programs and organizing activities of SLA. Articles have been contributed, in the best Hoosier tradition of authorship, by these and other members, both to Serials Libraries and to other professional library periodicals. The Chapter has been fortunate, too, in having Nellie Coors, active at both the Chapter and Association levels, who has constantly offered a fine philosophy of the relationship among public, university and special libraries.

The tank of writing this history has been both simplified and expedited due to the work of Francis Bedell who, as a member of the Archives Committee in 1955, compiled a Chronology of Chapter Events. The Indiana Chapter had in December 1958, 71 members, including one Honorary Member. It will probably never rank among the first ten, for these Chapters are in large urban areas and areas where there are concentrated many companies and agencies whose research and other information and service needs clearly indicate establishment of professional-level libraries.

The Chapter must be judged as one in a preponderantly non-industrial area of the Midwest, highly diversified in culture, industry and business. It is also an area in which the library concept as a means for organizing and making available information has developed in comparatively recent years. Considering these factors, together with the high percentage of special librarians of the area enrolled in Association membership, the diversity of program and activities and the participation of individual librarians, it is a Chapter to be proud of and one whose future is promising.

CHAPTER HISTORY

Louisiana

The Louisiana Chapter was organized in New Orleans on November 17, 1946. Nineteen members signed the petition for affiliation with SLA.

Three meetings are held during the year throughout the Chapter area. On March 35, 1957, the Chapter was host to the SLA Executive Board and Advisory Council meetings.

The first issue of the Bulletin, a quarterly, was published in February 1947, with Mrs. Dorothy B. Skau as editor.

Michigan

The Chapter cooperates at the local level with the Louisiana Library Association, New Orleans Library Club, Baton Rouge Library Club, Louisiana Section of the American Chemical Society, Special Libraries Section of the Mississippi Library Association and the Alabama Chapter of SLA.

It also participates in special meetings for, or including, library students from Louisiana State University Library School. Joint meetings were held with the Alabamas Chapter on March 5, 1955, and with the Special Libraries Section, Mississippi Library Association, on January 5, 1957, and November 1, 1958. On October 27, 1958, Kate Wallich gave a report, "Education of the Special Librarian," before the Law Libraries Association, and on March 16, 1956, Grigg Aspes, then SLA President, spoke on "Opportunities in Special Libraries" at the first Bemcial Convention of Alpha Beta Alpha, national undergraduate library science fraternity, at Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, Louisiana. Dr. Gould H. Cloud, information specialist in charge of the Houston Research Library, Humble Oil and Refining Company of Houston, Texas, addressed the opening session of the Louisiana Library Association meeting, March 7, 1957, on "The Key to Progress, Speedy Use of Published Information." On October 26, 1957, Mr. A. L. Layton talked to the class in Special Library at Louisiana State University, Library School.

An article on special libraries appeared in the New Orleans-Picayune, Dixie Magazine Section, on October 19, 1947. A Chapter membership directory was prepared and distributed to members at the March 1958 meeting.

At the Annual Convention of the Louisiana Library Association, March 26, 1956, the Louisiana Chapter received the Modist Award. This award is given annually to the Louisiana library showing the greatest accomplishment during the preceding year; an exception was made that year in giving the award to the Louisiana Chapter. The Chapter was especially commended for its work in connection with the Industrial Development Conference sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Commerce and Industry and Louisiana State University, College of Commerce, held at Louisiana State University, December 15-16, 1953.

Mrs. Lucile L. Keck during her presidential visit on January 22, 1954, spoke over WFTP, New Orleans. Katherine Kindler, SLA President, and Mrs. Marie Goff were given TV interviews in New Orleans on March 5, 1957.

The Louisiana Chapter was the first of the southern Chapters. When it was organized, it had one charter member from Texas. By 1948 it had members from Florida, Alabama and Georgia. In 1949 it added members from Oklahoma, Mississippi and Tennessee. The organization of the Texas Chapter on September 10, 1949, included 11 former members of the Louisiana Chapter. There are now Chapters in Georgia, Alabama, Oak Ridge and Oklahoma. Needless to say, this Chapter has watched with much pride the growth of southern Chapters of SLA during the past eight years.

Alma L. Alpin

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ALMA S. ALLEN

Michigan

On March 11, 1956 special librarians in Michigan met together to discuss common problems; on October 15, 1957, a round table for business and research librarians of the Michigan Library Association was held and during 1957-58 regular
meetings were scheduled. A petition for affiliation with SLA was sent to the Associa-
tion Executive Board on March 14, 1939, and on February 9, 1941 a consti-
tution was adopted.
The Chapter meets about six times a year, usually in Detroit but also with one-
day meetings at Toledo, Ohio, and Kalamazoo, Michigan.
The first issue of the Bulletin of the Special Libraries Association, Michigan
Chapter was published in November 1935 with Grace Winter, librarian, North-
western High School, as its first editor. It is issued usually about six times a year.
The Chapter has been host to the Association's Annual Convention three
times—1931, 1942 and in 1945. All Conventions were held in Detroit.
Chapter projects have included the Michigan Union List of Serials, 1946-1947;
the Union List of Serials of Metropolitan Detroit, 1946; and membership direc-
The Chapter also participated in the indexing of current medical literature com-
plied by the SLA Biological Sciences Division, 1953-54, and in the preparation of
the fourth edition of the Union List of Technical Periodicals 1953-54.
Recruitment has been one of the Chapter's outstanding activities. In 1946 it par-
ticipated in the Michigan Librarian Association Recruiting for Librarianship Com-
mittee; in 1947 Joseph Grossbeck gave a radio talk, "Librarianship as a Career," in
1950 Mrs. Florence H. Armstrong spoke at a recruiting program of junior libraries;
in 1953 Mrs. E. Hardinborough was the Chapter representative at the 11th Annual
Career Conference sponsored by Wayne University and the Detroit Board of Educa-
tion. Also in 1953, the Chapter participated in a discussion on Librarianship as a
Career, sponsored by the Detroit Junior Librarians; in 1953 it participated in a TV
program, Vocational Guidance, sponsored by Mary Manse College, Toledo; during
1953-54 Mrs. Ruth P. Braun was the Chapter representative on the Planning Com-
mittee for Recruiting for Librarianship, in cooperation with Junior Librarians, De-
troit & Wayne Company Employes Union, Local 1939, Detroit Public Library Staff
Association and Metropolitan Library Club; in 1953-54 Leola Michaels was Chapter
representative on the Planning Committee for Recruiting for Librarianship; and dur-
ing 1954-55 the Chapter had a representative on the Metropolitan Detroit Library
Recruitment Committee, cooperating with Detroit Board of Education, Junior Lib-
rarians, Detroit Public Library and Metropolitan Library Club.
Over the years the members of the Michigan Chapter have been very active in
SLA affairs, holding both Association and Division offices.
Recognition from libraries and other organizations has been won by several
members of the Chapter: In 1944 Louise C. Grace was named Soroptimist Club's
"Woman of the Year"; in 1946 the General Motors Corporation recognized Caroline
W. Lott's silver anniversary as librarian of the Research Laboratories Division; and
Dr. Mary Elvira Weeks, Kneige-Hooker Scientific Library, Wayne University, re-
cived the Alumni Citation for work in Chemistry, from Ripon College, Ripon, Wis-
consin. In 1953, Maud Payne was voted the Fourth Annual Staff Memorial and Fel-
lowship Association, Detroit Public Library, Award; Mrs. Elinee H. Stone, Chief
of the Bureau Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, received in 1950 the
Annual Award of Recognition of the Detroit Club of Printing House Craftsmen, and
in 1953 a Citation for Contribution to Historical Scholarship by the Historical

Society of Michigan and also the sixth Annual Staff Memorial and Fellowship Asso-
ciation, Detroit Public Library, Award.

DOROTHY V. MARTIN

Minnesota

I N 1943 WHEN THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER of Special Libraries Association was
founded, there were few special librarians located in the area. It was therefore a
group comprising a few special librarians and a number of librarians representing
public, reference and university libraries, about 20 in all, who met in St. Paul on
March 30, 1943 for the purpose of discussing the possibilities of forming a local SLA
Chapter. As the discussion progressed it soon was evident that it was not a question
of whether there should be a local Chapter but rather how it could be realized. The
reason for this prompt and wholly favorable response was that some good prelimi-
nary groundwork had been done before the time this meeting was held.
The person to whom this Chapter owes its inception and who guided it in its
formative period was Melvin Voigt, at that time head of the Library Service Section
of General Mills, Inc., of Minneapolis. He had been in Minneapolis only about four
months, but during that time he had had a number of occasions to realize there
were possible projects that could best be handled by a local group of special librarians
and that the work and effectiveness of all librarians in the area could be improved by
greater contacts with one another. Early in February 1943 he wrote to Mrs. Kathleen
B. Stebbins, then Executive Secretary of SLA, and described the situation to her.
Her prompt reply was so encouraging and enthusiastic that he broached the subject
with librarians in Minneapolis.
So it was that, when the first preliminary meeting was held, the way had been
prepared and time for action ripe. The group voted unanimously to petition the SLA
Executive Board for authorization to form a Chapter, and the petition was promptly
signed by the necessary number of eligible members. Eleanor S. Cavanaugh, SLA
President, was so pleased that there was to be a Minnesota Chapter that she did not
wait for the next SLA Executive Board meeting but took a letter vote, and on April
21 reported that the Board had given its approval for the formation of the Minne-
sota Chapter. At a second meeting held in Minneapolis on April 29, nominating and
constitutional committees were appointed; and at its third meeting, June 3, 1943,
held on the campus of the University of Minnesota, a constitution was adopted, offi-
cers were elected and the Minnesota Chapter was officially established. Mr. Voigt
had served as chairman of the proposed group, and it was fitting that he should be
the first president.
The year 1943-44 was a busy and profitable one. A membership drive was in-
saugurated and was so successful that in its first year the number of members more
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The objective, as stated in the constitution of the Minnesota Chapter, is "to pro-
mote the collection, organization, and dissemination of information; to develop the
meetings were scheduled. A petition for affiliation with SLA was sent to the Asso-
ciation Executive Board on March 14, 1939, and on February 9, 1941 a constitution
was adopted.

The Chapter meets about six times a year, usually in Detroit but also with one-
day meetings in Toledo, Ohio, and Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The first issue of the Bulletin of the Special Libraries Association, Michigan
Chapter was published in November 1935 with Grace Wintzer, librarian, Northwestern
High School, as its first editor. It is issued usually about six times a year.

The Chapter has been host to the Association's Annual Convention three
times—1931, 1942, and in 1955. All Conventions were held in Detroit.

Chapter projects have included the Michigan Union List of Serials, 1938-1939;
the Union List of Serials of Metropolitan Detroit, 1940 and membership directories,

The Chapter also participated in the indexing of current medical literature com-
piled by the SLA Biological Sciences Division, 1953-54, and in the preparation of
the fourth editing of the Union List of Technical Periodicals 1953-54.

Recruitment has been one of the Chapter's outstanding activities. In 1946 it par-
ticipated in the Michigan Librarian Association Recruiting for Librarianship Com-
mittee; in 1947 Joseph Groombeak gave a radio talk, "Librarianship as a Career," in
1950 Mrs. Florence H. Armstrong took a recruiting program of junior librarians;
in 1953 Mrs. E. Cardenough was the Chapter representative at the 12th Annual
Career Conference sponsored by Wayne University and the Detroit Board of Educa-
tion. Also in 1953, the Chapter participated in a discussion on Librarianship as a
Career, sponsored by the Detroit Junior Librarians; in 1955 it participated in a TV
program, Vocational Guidance, sponsored by Mary Mason College, Toledo; during
1955-57 Mrs. Ruth P. Braun was the Chapter representative on the Planning Com-
mittee for Recruiting for Librarianship, in cooperation with Junior Librarians, De-
troit Wayne Company Employees Union; Local 1199, Detroit Public Library Staff
Association and Metropolitan Library Club; in 1955-59 Leola Michael was Chapter
representative on the Planning Committee for Recruiting for Librarianship; and dur-
ing 1959-61 the Chapter had a representative on the Metropolitan Detroit Library
Recruitment Committee, cooperating with Detroit Board of Education, Junior Li-
brarians, Detroit Public Library and Metropolitan Library Club.

Over the years the members of the Michigan Chapter have been very active in
SLA affairs, holding both Association and Division offices.

Recognition from libraries and other organizations has been won by several
members of the Chapter: in 1944 Louise C. Grace was named Sorononite Club's
"Woman of the Year," in 1946 the General Motors Corporation recognized Caroline
W. Latt's silver anniversary as librarian of the Research Laboratories Division; and
Dr. Mary Elvira Weeks, Kingsley-Hooker Scientific Library, Wayne University, re-
cieved the Alumni Citation for work in Chemistry, from Ripon College, Ripon, Wis-
consin. In 1953, Maud Payne was voted the Fourth Annual Staff Memorial and Fel-
lowship Association, Detroit Public Library, Award. Mrs. Ethelene H. Stones, Chief
of the Bureau Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, received in 1950 the
Annual Award of Recognition of the Detroit Club of Printing House Craftsmen, and
in 1953 a Citation for Contribution to Historical Scholarship by the Historical

Society of Michigan and also the sixth Annual Staff Memorial and Fellowship Asso-
ciation, Detroit Public Library, Award.

DOROTHY V. MARTIN

Minnesota

In 1943 when the Minnesota Chapter of Special Libraries Association was
founded, there were few special librarians located in the area. It was therefore a
group comprising a few special librarians and a number of librarians representing
public, reference and university libraries, about 20 in all, who met in St. Paul on
March 30, 1943 for the purpose of discussing the possibilities of forming a local SLA
Chapter. As the discussion progressed it soon was evident that it was not a question
of whether there should be a local Chapter but rather how it could be realized. The
reason for this prompt and wholly favorable response was that some good prelimi-
nary groundwork had been done before the time this meeting was held.

The person to whom this Chapter owes its inception and who guided it in its
formative period was Melvin Voigt, at that time head of the Library Service Section
of General Mills, Inc., of Minneapolis. He had been in Minneapolis only about four
months, but during that time he had had a number of occasions to realize there
were possible projects that could best be handled by a local group of special librarians
and that the work and effectiveness of all librarians in the area could be improved by
greater contacts with one another. Early in February 1943 he wrote to Mrs. Kathleen
B. Stebbins, then Executive Secretary of SLA, and described the situation to her.
Her prompt reply was so encouraging and enthusiastic that he broached the subject
to librarians in Minneapolis.

So it was that, when the first preliminary meeting was held, the way had been
prepared and time for action ripe. The group voted unanimously to petition the SLA
Executive Board for authorization to form a Chapter, and the petition was promptly
signed by the necessary number of eligible members. Eleanor S. Cavanagh, SLA
President, was so pleased that there was to be a Minnesota Chapter that she did not
wait for the next SLA Executive Board meeting but took a letter vote, and on April
21 reported that the Board had given its approval for the formation of the Minne-
sota Chapter. At a second meeting held in Minneapolis on April 29, nominating and
constituent committee were appointed, and at its third meeting, June 3, 1943,
held on the campus of the University of Minnesota, a constitution was adopted, ad-
dress was elected and the Minnesota Chapter was officially established. Mr. Voigt
was elected as chairman of the proposed group, and it was fitting that he should be
the first president.

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