

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 preliminary 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. 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 Minnesota 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, officers were elected and the Minnesota Chapter was officially established. Mr. Voigt had acted 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 inaugurated and was so successful that in its first year the number of members more than doubled so that at the Annual Convention, in June 1944, the Minnesota Chapter was awarded the membership gavel. In fact, the impetus had been so great that by 1945 membership again had doubled, and the Chapter was awarded the gavel a second time.

The objective, as stated in the constitution of the Minnesota Chapter, is "to promote the collection, organization, and dissemination of information; to develop the

usefulness, efficiency and co-ordination of special libraries and other reference and research agencies in the State of Minnesota . . ." In pursuance of this goal, the Chapter in its first year planned several meetings as visits to special libraries in the Twin Cities to acquaint members with some of the collections and services available.

The high point of the year came at the spring meeting when Eleanor S. Cavanaugh, SLA President, visited the Chapter and spoke to its members on the activities of the Association. While she was in Minnesota, Miss Cavanaugh also addressed library school classes at the University of Minnesota and the College of St. Catherine.

The Minnesota Chapter was a "war baby" and certain war conditions prompted it to its first cooperative project, the preparation of a *Selected List of European Scientific Periodicals* received after 1940 by libraries in the area. It was ready for distribution in March 1944, and copies were available to any interested library. It served a very useful purpose by pooling periodical resources at a time when many shipments from abroad failed to reach their destinations. A much larger project, also begun in this first year, was the *Union List of Current Periodical Accessions in Minnesota Libraries*. This was not completed until May 1946. Then instead of being published, the file, on 3x5 inch cards, was housed in the Brown & Bigelow Library, and information from it made available at all times by telephone.

Interest in SLA and its work was imparted by the Minnesota Chapter to the Minnesota hospital librarians who, at a meeting in May 1944, voted to petition the SLA Executive Board for the establishment of a Hospital and Nursing Librarians Group within the Association. This petition was a direct result of Miss Cavanaugh's visit and was due chiefly to the efforts of Perrie Jones, librarian of the St. Paul Public Library, who earlier in her career had been a hospital librarian. Hospital librarians from Chicago and New York presented similar petitions. As a result of these efforts, the new Group was organized at the Annual Convention in Philadelphia in June 1944, and Ruth M. Tews, head of the Hospital Library Service of the St. Paul Public Library, was appointed its first chairman.

Precedents established in the Chapter's formative period have been followed, and activities have broadened and extended. The constitution prescribes that at least four meetings be held each year. Generally five have been held, and in some years six or seven. Meeting places are divided between Minneapolis and St. Paul. A few meetings have been excursions to some point outside of the immediate area of the Twin Cities, such as the trip in May 1949 to Rochester to visit the famed Mayo Clinic and its library, in the following year to Austin to the George A. Hormel Company, which had established its library a few years earlier, and in May 1953 to Collegeville to visit St. John's Abbey and University, one of the oldest institutions in the state.

The policy of holding meetings in special libraries has been continued. It was especially advantageous in the early years when the special library movement was growing and each year saw the formation of new company libraries in the area.

Librarians in the Twin Cities and members of various groups and associations always had joined meetings and activities, so it was logical that special librarians would cooperate with them. There have been numerous joint meetings with the Twin City Library Club and the Minnesota Library Association. At one meeting, in conjunction with the 1948 Convention of the latter association, its president, Dr. E. W. McDiarmid, University of Minnesota librarian, and Rose Vormelker, SLA Presi-

dent, were the speakers. In 1947 the Minnesota Chapter held a meeting concurrent with the Upper Midwest Regional Library Conference. In January 1957 the several local library groups as well as the library schools of the University of Minnesota and the College of St. Catherine joined with the Minnesota Chapter to bring to the Twin Cities Edward Waters, Library of Congress and chairman of the Joint Committee for Library Education. His subject, of vital importance to all librarians, was "Education for Librarianship." Meetings such as these have been invaluable in extending the outlook of librarians and furthering their common goals.

A proposal, made by Melvin Voigt, to publicize special libraries to different kinds of business resulted in some unusual projects. At the Exposition of the Minnesota Federation of Engineering Societies, held in Minneapolis February 27 to March 1, 1947, the Minnesota Chapter sponsored a booth. Exhibits and pictorial displays presented SLA publications, its function in helping set up new libraries, company libraries in the Twin Cities and the tools and services of the special library. Two librarians were in attendance at all times to answer questions. The winter of 1949-50 featured a series of discussions on the subject of business and libraries. At each of these meetings individuals representing business and industry were invited to participate in a discussion of the relation of the library to business and what business expects from the library. A large insurance company, the Department of Business Research and Development of the State of Minnesota, an engineering laboratory and research departments of large industrial companies were represented. A similar project was tried in the spring of 1952 when officials of organizations and companies, which had indicated an interest in organizing special libraries or in affiliating their staffs with SLA, were guests of the Chapter. A joint meeting was held with the Minnesota Chapter of the American Marketing Association in December 1956 to bring it into closer cooperation with special librarians.

The work of recruitment until 1954 was largely left to individual members, who from time to time addressed library school students or appeared on vocational guidance programs of local colleges to present the special libraries field. However in 1954-55, in line with the Association's recommendation, the Chapter appointed a Recruitment Committee and initiated an intensive program. In the spring two events were scheduled. The Chapter sponsored a library booth at the three-day Career Festival, which was held in March at St. Thomas College in St. Paul. High school students from all over the state visited the Festival and about 2,000 visited the library booth. In April a library convocation for high school seniors was held at the Minneapolis *Star & Tribune*. This was accomplished with the cooperation of the Minneapolis public schools. The Career Festival was repeated in 1956 and 1957.

Annual visits from Headquarters of either the President or the Executive Secretary have kept the Chapter informed of the functions and activities of SLA on an Association basis and served to make local librarians feel that they are active members of it. Several members of the Minnesota Chapter have held positions of responsibility in the Association.

The most important participation of the Minnesota Chapter in the affairs of the Association was during 1950-51, which culminated in the SLA Convention held in St. Paul, June 18-21. Already in 1948 Grieg Aspnes, Chairman of the Chapter's Public Relations Committee, was urging its members to have a Convention in Minnesota

and at a meeting in Rochester, May 7, 1949, the Chapter voted to invite SLA to meet in St. Paul in the near future. The 42nd Annual Convention was later scheduled.

Under the leadership of Grieg Aspnes and Frederic C. Battell, librarian of the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company, Minneapolis, who was Chapter President, activities for the year 1950-51 were concerned with plans and preparations for the Convention. These two officers and Margaret P. Hilligan, in her capacity as Chapter Liaison Officer, attended the meeting of the SLA Executive Board and Advisory Council in St. Louis in October for the purpose of outlining plans and programs. In November, Mrs. Elizabeth Owens, SLA president, spent two days in the Twin Cities on Convention business. Each and every member of the Minnesota Chapter was drafted into service in order to assure a well-planned Convention. Registration figures disclosed a total of 579 delegates from 36 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and Finland.

The Minnesota Chapter in 1953 made a contribution to the SLA Scholarship Fund as a memorial to Dorothy Ware who died in 1952. Miss Ware had been librarian of the Business and Municipal Branch of the Minneapolis Public Library and a member of the Minnesota Chapter since its establishment. In 1958 a similar contribution was made in memory of Margaret P. Hilligan, who died in 1957. Miss Hilligan had been active in SLA activities as well as in the Minnesota chapter.

In the new SLA Consultation Service, organized in 1957 to assist firms that need help in establishing a new library or in expanding existing facilities, Minnesota is represented by its Chapter Consultation Service Officer.

The Minnesota Chapter issued its first *Bulletin* in May 1943, a month before its official establishment, in order to announce the organizational meeting and to publish the proposed Chapter constitution and report of the Nominating Committee. Since then the *Bulletin* has been issued four or five times each year, except in 1956-57 when there were seven numbers. The editor from May 1943 to June 1945 was Elaine M. La Pointe. Thereafter the editor changed each year. From September 1946 to May 1955 the title was *Minnesota Chapter News-Notes*; with the October 1955 issue the title reverted to *Bulletin*.

The first list of members was issued with the October 1943 *Bulletin*. Separate directories were published in 1949, 1952, 1955, 1957 and 1958; however, in most intervening years membership lists were included in the *Bulletin*.

Such is the history of the Minnesota Chapter. What is its outlook for the future? Its membership as of December 31, 1958, was 102. There have been years in the past when the number was larger, but at the business meeting on May 11, 1957, the Membership Committee reported that of prospective new members contacted all who were actually special librarians had joined. The membership now includes persons in the Twin Cities and surrounding area whose interests and work lie in the special libraries field. It is the only group of librarians in the area that meets regularly, holding from four to seven meetings a year with a usual attendance of 45 to 50 persons, occasionally as many as 85. Its programs and activities emphasize professional matters and problems. While stressing special librarianship by its cooperation with other groups, it extends its influence and effectiveness to all librarians for the good of the entire profession and community.

ANNA M. HEILMAIER

Montreal

THE MONTREAL CHAPTER OF SLA was founded in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on May 9, 1932 with 19 members. Mary Jane Henderson, librarian, The Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, was its first president.

The Chapter holds five general meetings a year, including an annual meeting in Montreal and one joint meeting with the Quebec Library Association.

The *Bulletin*, which is a quarterly, was first published in January 1935 with Beatrice V. Simon as editor.

In June 1936 the Chapter was host to the SLA Annual Convention, and on September 23-24, 1949, the third Regional Conference, Montreal, Toronto and Western New York Chapters met in Montreal.

Chapter projects have included the following publications: *Current List of Periodicals in Montreal and District*, 1935; *Union List of Periodicals in Montreal Libraries*, 1953; *Directory of Members*, 1933, 1940, 1949, 1955 and 1958 (loose-leaf); and *Trial Index to a Selected List of Canadian Commercial and Financial Periodicals*, compiled by the Chapter's Commercial and Financial Group, 1937.

In addition to its own projects, the Chapter has participated in such special projects as the preparation of a brief presented to the Royal Commission on National Development in Arts, Letters and Sciences (Massey Commission), 1949; round tables, April 1945; courses on supervisory training sponsored jointly by Federal Department of Labour and Quebec Department of Youth and Social Welfare, 1947; and a documentation seminar, January 20-21, 1958, sponsored jointly by the Montreal Special Libraries Association, Canadian Library Association and McGill Library School.

During the years since its organization, Chapter members have held many Association and Division offices.

MARGARET M. STRONACH

New Jersey

THE NEW JERSEY CHAPTER WAS FOUNDED ON April 24, 1935 and affiliated with SLA on June 11 of that year. Its true origin bears an earlier date. For some three years prior, a couple dozen New Jersey "specials" had been meeting informally, discussing mutual problems and visiting each other's libraries. There was even a project, a union list of serials. Looking back to those pre-organization days recalls trips to the libraries of the Stevens Institute of Technology, the Bell Telephone Company, the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, with luncheon in the company's cafeteria, and the Worden Research Laboratories with ice cream and cake served in a charming garden. General meetings were held at the library of the Public Service Corporation. New Jersey SLA'ers were then members of the New York Chapter.

Recognition of the increasing number of industrial libraries in the state and knowledge of the benefits being derived from the informal meetings prompted Marian Manley to suggest the possibility of a New Jersey Chapter to Alma C. Mitchell. Both expressed reasonable doubt about a widespread desire to form a separate unit because of interest in the New York Chapter's activities. To ascertain opinion, a questionnaire was mailed to 60 New Jersey librarians during February 1935. The replies were overwhelmingly in favor of a New Jersey Chapter. This led

to an April 24 dinner meeting at Wilkin's Coffee Shop in Newark for further discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of forming a chapter. The result was reported in *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, May-June 1935. There was a unanimous vote to seek permission for a New Jersey Chapter and that same evening, 28 librarians signed a petition sent to SLA Headquarters. This petition was presented and approved at the SLA Executive Board meeting held in the Hotel Statler, Boston, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, June 11, 1935.

The Worden Laboratories and June 28, 1935, mark the first business meeting of the Chapter. Alma C. Mitchill was elected its first President. Subsequently, the Chapter's Executive Board and committee chairmen met on the third Saturday of each month. The agenda followed the pattern of SLA Executive Board and Advisory Council sessions. Reports were presented by officers and committee chairmen, matters of both Chapter and Association interest were discussed and a great deal of work was accomplished. Such is the solid foundation of the New Jersey Chapter.

Three projects were undertaken during the initial year. The first was the preparation of a workable constitution. The second was one of which the Chapter was particularly proud. Through the able chairmanship of Mrs. Margaret Smith, a library training course was conducted at the Newark College of Engineering. Twenty-nine members registered for the entire course of ten lectures at a fee of \$10 while ten others attended single lectures on payment of \$1.25 for each. Response was so enthusiastic that a more advanced and specialized course followed in the next year. Educational programs have continued to be a popular Chapter activity. The third project was the appointment of a Joint Committee of the New Jersey Library Association and the New Jersey Chapter for purposes of studying interlibrary relationships, assembling information on special collections and attaining close cooperation between the two organizations. This joint effort has yielded lasting benefits. The New Jersey Chapter is represented on the NJLA Council. One of its presidents and two of its vice-presidents have been members of SLA.

With the second year, experiments in program planning began. The new Chapter was trying to find its way. Meanwhile, members' interest in New York Chapter Group activities was accommodated by a formal provision for disseminating information through the New Jersey Chapter *Bulletin*. The 1937-38 and 1938-39 reports of President Marian Manley stated the definite objective of planning programs designed "to broaden contacts between special librarians and workers in other professional fields." One topic considered was cooperative medicine and another was advertising. Speakers were representatives of the medical, business and library professions. Outstanding programs in 1939-40, while Betty Joy Cole was President, were a joint meeting with the North Jersey Section of the American Chemical Society and one to which members of the junior and senior classes of the New Jersey College Library School were invited.

The themes suggested by these highlights from the first five years remain favorites—general topics, joint endeavors and recruitment. Another perennial feature is the ever-popular trip to a library. At least two of the eight meetings each year provide this pleasure. They are rivaled in attendance only by visits from SLA's President.

Interestingly enough, the two most desired types of projects throughout the history of the Chapter were forecast by early activities. A second union list of serials,

presently housed in the Newark Public Library, was compiled in 1949. It is now being revised, this time for publication. Educational clinics were held in 1947, 1949, 1950, 1953, 1954, and 1956. Among the subjects covered were those of periodical handling, public relations, library manuals and government documents.

The use of Chapter funds for contributions has often been approved by the membership. In 1938 gratification was expressed at the opportunity to pay tribute to the founder of the Special Libraries Association by voting a gift of \$100 toward the John Cotton Dana Library at the University of Newark. The following year support of the SLA Student Loan Fund was stressed, and \$100 was made available. The latter practice has been perpetuated with regularity. Several contributions were made as memorials to deceased members of the New Jersey Chapter.

1949-50 was the memorable year in which the New Jersey Chapter served as host for the Association's 41st Annual Convention. Alma C. Mitchill was Convention Chairman, and Hazel Levins was Chapter President. Without exception every member helped to make this event successful and enjoyed the task. The Chapter is cooperating with the New York Chapter and the Philadelphia Council in preparing for the Golden Anniversary conclave at Atlantic City. Another more recent treat was that of having the Association Executive Board and Advisory Council present for a Chapter meeting in Princeton, November 1956.

A Science-Technology Group and a University and College Group were once a part of the New Jersey Chapter organization. Although they have passed out of existence in the interests of a stronger united effort, there has been no lack of participation in Division activities. Eight members have served as Division Chairmen.

The list of members who have worked on Association committees is a lengthy one, and many have accepted the responsibility of chairmanships.

Betty Joy Cole has served faithfully as the Association's representative to the Council of National Library Associations and was elected Chairman of CNLA 1947-48.

Alma Mitchill's name appears frequently in this record but a most significant professional contribution remains to be noted. She was the editor of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* from 1941 to 1951 and acting editor 1955-56. On December 5, 1950 Miss Mitchill was the honored guest at a dinner given by the New Jersey Chapter. In recognition of her services to the Association and of her successful editorship of *SPECIAL LIBRARIES*, she was presented with a Life Membership in SLA. The following June she received the Association's Professional Award, a truly distinguished and highly deserved honor. She also was chosen "Woman of the Year" by the Executive Council of Women's Service Clubs of Essex County, New Jersey, in October 1955.

KATHARINE L. KINDER

New York

THE MANHATTAN DISTRICT MEMBERS of SLA (53) met for the first time on May 5, 1914. Their informal get-together was so successful that other meetings followed, and in June 1915 they decided to organize by electing officers and adopting bylaws. This Special Libraries Association of New York held meetings monthly at first, but they became less frequent during World War I. However, by 1920 the New York Association was again having monthly meetings and rapidly enlarging its member-

ship. To keep up interest and stimulation, it decided to divide into subject groups for some of the meetings. This worked so well under the local President, Rebecca B. Rankin, that in 1922-23, when she was SLA President, she sponsored the same idea for the whole Association. She also worked for the integration of local associations into the structure of SLA, and the New York Association was one of the first to affiliate as a Chapter, January 1925.

During the 1920's a major project of the New York Chapter was the compilation of the *Union List of Periodicals in Special Libraries in the New York Metropolitan District*. This was finally published by the H. W. Wilson Company in 1931. A companion piece was the *Union List of Services in 34 Libraries in Manhattan*, compiled by Margaret Kehl and published in 1934.

In November 1931 SLA Headquarters was located in New York City, and Rebecca B. Rankin agreed to act as secretary without salary. The Standard Statistics Company, through its librarian, Eleanor Cavanaugh, gave office and storage space at 345 Hudson Street. Yawman and Erbe Company supplied necessary office equipment.

The early 1930's were brightened by two entertainment projects: "Rather Special," an original fantasy with music, at the Federal Reserve Bank Theatre, May 11, 1932, and "Briarcliff Divertissement," prepared by Chapter members for the entertainment of the SLA Regional Conference at Briarcliff Manor, June 17, 1933.

On the more serious side, the Chapter developed an Employment Committee as early as 1931 and a Student Loan Fund in 1938. Directories of members appeared in 1928, 1931 and 1937 (the current 1956 directory is the seventh edition). Throughout the 1930's Chapter members participated in many other activities ranging from a benefit fund supper in aid of the Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee to much work in connection with tours for visiting librarians at the World's Fair in 1939 and SLA Day at the Fair, May 17, 1939.

From 1940 to 1945 the Chapter took part in so many war activities that a War Activities Committee was set up to coordinate them and to keep members informed.

A major organizational job was the preparation of a complete set of manuals for officers and committee chairmen in 1944-45.

Both the Chapter and the Groups have used the forum, the workshop and the training course as means to inform, aid and inspire members. An outstanding contribution to the work of the profession has been the course in subprofessional training sponsored by the Chapter and given at the Ballard School (YWCA). SLA members have taught the course since its inception in the fall of 1948. The experiment proved so worthwhile that the course has been included in the curriculum regularly offered by the school.

The Professional Training Committee, acting upon the results of a survey conducted among the members of the New York Chapter, has developed, in cooperation with Queens College, an experimental program of professional instruction for special librarians and those wishing to enter the profession. These courses were offered as part of the Queens College curriculum beginning in the fall of 1953 and continuing through 1955.

In 1956 Chapter representatives were appointed *re* special libraries training to take part in an Institute of the Alumni Association of Columbia University School of Library Service, April 1956. That year also saw work on a *Directory of Training Op-*

portunities for *Special Librarians* (1958-59 revision published in August 1958) and, following a Chapter theater party, the presentation to Shirley Booth of a special miniature desk set for her interpretation of a special librarian in the play "The Desk Set."

The duplicate exchange, first started in 1937, is one of the Chapter's most useful projects, over 1600 items being listed in 1957. The Chapter also maintains a lively and sustained interest in public relations, library methods and recruiting special librarians. Besides many instances of direct cooperation with other library organizations, the Chapter President serves on the Committee for Library Cooperation in Metropolitan New York.

A two-day Institute on Library Planning, which attracted over 130 people, was the major project in 1958. It is hoped that the papers presented can be used in a revision of *SLA Monograph No. 1, Libraries for Research and Industry: Planning and Equipment*. The Chapter is also supporting the SLA Consultation Service plans through an active local committee, which is developing a roster of professional consultants well qualified to serve firms and companies interested in organizing new libraries or requesting help with particular problems.

The Chapter had, in December 1958, 1328 active members, 13 active committees and 12 subject groups holding from two to five meetings a year in addition to the four Chapter meetings. The separating effect of the Chapter into subject groups has been countered by friendly contacts in social meetings like the annual Christmas party and informal luncheon clubs of Chapter members in various sections of the city.

Two Chapter members, Eleanor S. Cavanaugh and Ruth Savord, were joint recipients of the Association's Professional Award in 1954.

The activities of the New York Chapter have been so many and varied during the years that it has been possible to survey only the highlights in this history.

MARY PAASCH

Oak Ridge

THE OAK RIDGE CHAPTER HAD ITS genesis in the increasing number of special librarians who migrated to East Tennessee in connection with either Atomic Energy Commission projects or the development of the Tennessee Valley Authority. On June 22, 1953 the SLA Executive Board accepted and approved its formation.

The Chapter publishes each June a formal bulletin called *Radiations*. The first issue was published in June 1954. Twice a year a less formal bulletin is issued, *Particles-alpha* in November and *Particles-beta* in March. The first issue of *Particles* appeared in November 1954.

Although the Chapter constitution requires a minimum of four meetings a year, with the last one being the annual business meeting, the Chapter has been meeting monthly, from September through May. Most of the meetings are held in Oak Ridge, but Knoxville, Tullahoma, Chattanooga and Kingsport have been host, and other out-of-town meetings have been planned. The membership of the Oak Ridge Chapter is scattered over such a wide area that it is a difficult problem to find convenient meeting places. Besides the state of Tennessee there are members in Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.