

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1973 - 1974

EDITOR'S NOTE

After a long and bumpy publication trail, the Biological Sciences Division is again attempting to re-establish its newsletter. The first issue in this new format was gallantly and almost singlehandedly produced by our immediate past chairman, Carroll Reynolds, in Spring 1973. In that issue he posed the question, "Do you want a newsletter, a bulletin similar to 'Reminder', or something else?" He was later to ask the same thing of the small number of division members (less than 5%) on hand for our annual business meeting in Pittsburgh. Those few of us present hemmed, hawed and nodded in agreement with platitudes about the need for communication. A few of us unashamedly remarked that the lack of written communication with our members must certainly be partially responsible for the small attendance. Some remarked also that it might be apathy due in large part to the fact that many of our members are affiliated with other library organizations such as the Medical Library Association and consequently are saturated with meetings. Whatever the reasons, we hope to use your newsletter as a first step in answering all of these questions.

Editorial responsibility was accepted based on the following definition from Webster's Third International Dictionary:

ed.i.tor...i: a: one who revises, corrects, or arranges the contents and style of the literary, artistic, or musical work of others for publication or presentation.

Our intention is neither to write articles nor spend inordinate amounts of time pursuing "newsworthy" inclusions for the newsletter that might interest only the editor. Editing and printing is a large enough responsibility for a staff of one. It is hoped that if indeed the division needs a newsletter, its 700 members will contribute time, new ideas and the relevant materials necessary to its success.

DIVISION ACTIVITIES

SLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PITTSBURGH, PA.

June 11-16, 1973

The division sponsored several events of interest during the conference, beginning with an open house on Sunday evening which followed the boat ride. Unfortunately, not too many Division members were able to locate the room where the open house was held; it was tucked away at the end of a long hallway. Next year we hope the conference

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hotel will be more conveniently arranged.

Dr. Joseph Buckley, Associate Dean of the School of Pharmacy, University of Pittsburgh, spoke at Monday's luncheon on the subject of animal studies, specifically about the relationships existing between animal diseases and the variable stresses placed on animals. This luncheon was reasonably well attended, but few people remained for the business meeting which followed.

At the business meeting, an attempt was made to ascertain exactly what the makeup of the Biological Sciences Division is; what subject areas are actually represented? This is a necessary question to answer, so that program planning will more reasonably reflect the interests of all groups within the Division.

However, since the business meeting was so poorly attended, those present decided that a questionnaire should be sent to all members of the Division (see page 3). The questionnaire will seek to obtain several levels of information necessary to program planning as well as a section on the type of libraries represented in the Division. At present, medical libraries seem to be in the majority; we must know what other groups are represented so that programs do not tend to be one-sided. This should create a Division which more closely represents its membership.

On Wednesday, the luncheon speaker was Mr. Henry W. Pierce, the Science writer for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, who discussed "Science looks at ESP". The talk was most enlightening - and enjoyable as well. He described several scientific experiments which proved, much to the astonishment of the audience, that people do have the capability for ESP.

Ms. Grace T. Jenkins from NLM spoke at the meeting following Wednesday's luncheon. She reviewed the growth and development of the Medline System. Also at that afternoon's meeting, the Division heard from Dr. David E. Shephard and Jack D. Key from the Mayo Clinic and Foundation. They are co-authors of the paper "Do librarians prevent or promote entropy in Information Networks?" The point of contention in their presentation focused on a discrepancy of opinion between scientists and librarians as to which of the two groups is responsible for the dissemination of specific types of information. The scientists' position, as delineated in the above-mentioned paper, was that it was the obligation of librarians to make researchers (scientists) aware of all that was written on any particular subject (or all test results, etc.). The librarians objected to this on the premise

Persons wishing to contribute information or announcements for the next issue should submit material to: Susan Gensel, Editor, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Library, P.O. Box 100, Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11743.

(contd. from page 1)

that the scientists were requesting too much specificity on the part of the librarian, requiring excessive amounts of the librarian's time which they felt should be spent on other things more pertinent to the literary world per se. The librarians also felt that such an action would remove from the scientist the responsibility for his own education. Both sides agreed that there was a lack of communication between the two groups and a lively discussion ensued.

The Division tour began with a visit to the beautifully furnished Hunt Botanical Library at Carnegie-Mellon University. The Hunt Library is now known as the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation and contains one of the foremost collections of the history of botany and botanical illustrations. Also of interest is the renowned, in-depth collection of works by and about Linneaus.

The group then continued on to lunch and a tour of Old Economy at Ambridge, Penna., which is now maintained by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Old Economy was originally founded as a pietistic settlement in 1825 by the Harmony Society.

Our thanks to the Pittsburgh Conference Committee who planned many programs of interest for the Biological Sciences Division. We hope to be able to present such a wide variety in Toronto next year.

Caroline Morris
Division Chairman

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

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P. O. Box 100
Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A group of librarians and others interested in audiovisual, media or learning resources met at the Health Sciences Education Association (HeSCA) national meeting in Richmond in July to discuss forming a special interest section of HeSCA. It was felt that this group could provide a clearing house for media information and facilitate the transfer of information between librarians and other media people as well as provide hardware and product information which is not offered by other organizations. For further information contact:

Ms. Helene Zubkoff
George Washington University
Paul Himmelfarb Health Science Library
2300 Eye Street
Washington, D. C. 20037

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Thomas G. and Beatrice K. Basler are editing a book, Health Sciences Librarianship: An Annotated Bibliography, to be part of the Gale Information Guide Series, Sub-series on Libraries and the Book Trade. This book is to be of help to all in health sciences libraries including those in medical school, hospital, nursing, dental, psychology and other libraries. All facets of health sciences librarianship, i. e. administration, technical and user services, rare books, building, media, computers, surveys, networks, financial support, and manpower, will be included. Anyone who has recently authored any item of possible interest to health sciences librarianship that is published, unpublished, or in production and would like to insure its inclusion, please submit the document or an abstract to the Baslers, 2926 Westchester Drive, Augusta, Georgia 30904. Expected completion date is mid-summer, 1974.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire has been designed to collect information for three purposes. 1. Directory information (items 1-11). 2. Program information (items 12-16). 3. Newsletter information (items 17-20). It is hoped that you will take a few minutes to answer these questions and return them to the editor by February 15, 1974. The next issue of the newsletter will contain the directory. Division officers cannot emphasize enough the need for this information in planning future programs for the membership. Seven hundred (700) responses are necessary.

1. Name _____ 2. Title _____
3. Name of Organization _____ 4. Phone _____
Business
5. Address _____
(Street or Box No.) (City) (State) (Zip)
6. Mailing Address _____
7. Type of Library: Pharmaceutical _____ Medical/Hospital _____ Biological Research _____
University Branch _____ (Subject coverage _____) Other _____
8. No. of Bound Volumes as of Dec. 1973 _____ 9. No. of Serial Titles _____
Chapter Other Division
10. Affiliation _____ 11. Affiliations _____
12. Did you attend SLA annual meeting in Pittsburgh? _____
13. Have you ever attended an SLA annual meeting? _____ If so, which ones? _____
14. Do you plan to attend SLA in Toronto, June 1974? _____ How many days? _____
15. What kind of meetings would you like to see planned? Speakers _____ Panels _____
Workshops _____ Seminars _____ Tours _____ Other? _____
16. What subjects would you like to see covered at these meetings? _____
17. Would you like to see more regional groups established within the division? _____
18. What kind of information would you like to see in this publication? "How to" arti-
cles _____ Book reviews _____ State-of-the-Art reports _____ Meeting announce-
ments _____ Bibliographies _____ Personal Notes _____ Advertising _____
Surveys _____ Employment Clearinghouse _____ Other? _____
19. Would you be willing to make a commitment to help prepare a section of the newslet-
ter? _____ How frequently? _____ Which section(s)? _____
20. Additional suggestions and comments. (Use reverse side for additional rapping.)

ADDRESS COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO:

Susan Gensel, Head Librarian
COLD SPRING HARBOR LABORATORY
Library - P.O. Box 100
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