DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

SLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, KANSAS CITY

The theme of the 69th Annual Conference of the Special Libraries Association was “Managing for Change.” The continuing education seminars, which began on Saturday, June 10, 1978, reflected this theme in covering such subjects as time management, zero-based budgeting, and interpersonal relations. The first general session focused its attention on “Preparing for Change” and included speakers addressing the topics, “Issues and Ideas for Managing Change” and “The Role of Communication in Effective Management.” Approximately 2,600 persons registered for the Conference.

Conference programs sponsored by the Biological Sciences Division (BSD) were co-sponsored with several other divisions this year. This arrangement worked out extremely well, especially since the Division’s attendance was affected by the Medical Library Association’s Annual Meeting which was scheduled at the same time in Chicago. The divisions that co-sponsored programs with BSD were: Pharmaceutical Division, Public Utilities Division, Food and Nutrition Division and Environmental Information Provisional Division. The BSD sponsored four students who attended most of the Division activities.

The first BSD program of the Conference was a luncheon scheduled for Monday, June 12. The speaker was The Honorable Charles B. Wheeler, Jr., Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri. Mayor Wheeler is a pathologist and an attorney. He welcomed the group to Kansas City and gave a most informative talk. He related his experiences in public office to his educational background in two very significant disciplines which have helped him deal effectively with a wide variety of urban problems.

A panel of specialists spoke on the topic, “Food and Drug Additives,” Tuesday, June 13. Participating in the program were the following: Don Germann, St. Luke’s Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri; Richard Dowdy, Department of Human Nutrition, Food and Food Systems Management, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri; Cliff Malone, Chemistry Department, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, and consultant with the Food and Drug Administration; and Paul Sanders, Eli Lilly, Indianapolis, Indiana. Each of the panelists covered the topic from a very different viewpoint. An interesting discussion followed the presentations as the speakers responded to questions submitted to them by the audience.

Bruce Littel, Aquatic Biologist, Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory, Region VIII, spoke to the group at a luncheon meeting on Wednesday, June 14. Mr. Littel discussed several aspects of a topic of wide interest: the problems related to the pollution of our water supply in the United States; the scientific determination of the extent of pollution; and the measures being taken to minimize these problems.

A business meeting was held on Monday, June 12, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Representing the SLA Board of Directors at this session was Jeanette Privat. The Secretary-Treasurer’s report was given and chairmen or their designated representatives gave reports on the activities of each committee appointed for the past year. Unfortunately some important issues could not be resolved, since a quorum was not present. Items on the agenda included: an appropriate project for the Division (which involved a discussion of plans for a directory); the status of the Division archives (including the findings of a recent survey); and selection procedures for student members to be sponsored to attend BSD activities at SLA Annual Conferences.
The BSD field trip on Thursday, June 15, received excellent attendance. Many Biological Sciences members participated, as well as a significant number of members from other divisions. Included in the itinerary were the following: a visit to the Dyche Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas; the Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kansas; the Zoological Park, Topeka, Kansas; and lunch at the Cornucopia Restaurant in Lawrence. Alice Brand, Librarian at the Menninger Foundation, welcomed the group. Following a tour of the Menninger Museum, an opportunity was provided to see the Library and to have refreshments.

The Division sponsored an open house in its suite at the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel from Sunday through Wednesday evenings. The BSD Hospitality Chairman had overall responsibility for the suite. Attendance was excellent! The open house presented an opportunity for BSD members to become better acquainted and, in some cases, to interest prospective members in Division activities. The Chairman and members who assisted him certainly succeeded in providing food, drink and a warm welcome!

Tena L. Crenshaw
Immediate Past Chairman
Biological Sciences Division, SLA

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

APATHY: When fewer than one-eighth of the members voted for Chairman-elect of the Division and when we couldn’t scrape up a quorum, of only twenty members from the 200 or so who were at the Conference, for the annual business meeting in Kansas City, something may be wrong. Or maybe everything is going so well in the Division that you all are completely satisfied. I’d really like to know which it is.

MEANWHILE: Planning for the Honolulu conference is proceeding quite well. We have a speaker on “Resources in Sex Research” lined up for Monday morning, a lunch with a colleague from Finland giving a short talk on the differences in bio-medical networks in Finland and the U.S., followed by a short business meeting (see you all there?) on Tuesday, and a field trip on Thursday. We are also co-sponsoring a talk on Japanese scientific and technical literature and a couple of speakers on Hawaiian folk medicine and on prospects for the year 2000 in the area of medicine, drugs, and health. Details will be forthcoming in future newsletters. We hope to see many of you there.

Thomas H. Rees, Jr.
Department of Psychiatry Library
Health Sciences Center, T-10
State University of New York
Stony Brook, New York 11794

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FRANK E. MCKENNA
1921-1978

Frank was Executive Director of the Association from 1970 until his death on Friday, November 10. He will be hard to replace and sorely missed by his friends and colleagues.

The Executive Committee of the SLA Board of Directors has designated Richard Griffin, Assistant Executive Director, to act with full authority of the Executive Director until a new Executive Director is appointed by the Board. It has also suggested that those wishing to make contributions in memory of Frank do so in the form of unrestricted gifts to SLA.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PAST CHAIRMAN

At the time of the SLA Annual Conference in June, 1978, membership of the Biological Sciences Division (BSD) had reached approximately nine hundred. This number reflected growth in membership for 1977-78. In addition, during the past year, there had been a deeper involvement by a significant number of members in committee assignments, BSD Executive Board work and conference planning activities. Many committee chairmen explored new ways in which the Division could best be served, and it is believed that a number of their proposals will be adopted during the coming year.

A major decision made last year was to publish a Division directory. The New Projects Chairman, John Beecher, agreed to be responsible for this publication. The directory as planned would serve as a useful reference tool. Income derived from sales would provide additional funds for the Division. Also increased assets would enable BSD to undertake some of the projects suggested by Division members during the year.

The SLA Executive Board requested that each division examine its subject scope as stated in its Bylaws and make any needed revisions. Our Division accomplished this through suggestions made by the BSD Executive Board; through input given by members; and through a final statement achieved as a result of the revisions made at the annual business meeting in Kansas City. It was necessary to have the Biological Sciences “scope notes” broad enough to include the subject areas reflected by our membership, but precise enough to limit us to the disciplines that we do represent.

Attention was given in 1978 to how our Division should select students for sponsorship to the SLA Annual Conferences and the amount of financial support that was appropriate. Some excellent student selection plans were submitted by Elizabeth Davis, Career Guidance Chairman, and were carefully reviewed by the BSD Executive Board. Although funds were not available to sponsor more students this past year or to give them greater financial aid, it was agreed that Elizabeth’s proposals would be kept in mind for future years when it was anticipated that more funds would be accessible.

A Joint Cabinet Committee on the Status of Archives in Chapters and Divisions was appointed at the Winter Meeting of SLA in February, 1978. The following Division Chairmen were asked to serve on this committee: Sandra Paul, Publishing Division; Jeremiah Post, Geography and Map Division; and Tena Crenshaw, Biological Sciences Division. The Committee surveyed chapter and division archives through the use of a questionnaire. The questionnaire enabled chapters and divisions to report the quantity, nature and location of their archives in a standard manner. The archivist for BSD, Caroline Morris, submitted the BSD questionnaire to the Committee. The archives for the Division are located at Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where Caroline is Librarian. The Archives Study Committee will continue to function under the guidance of new Committee members named at the June 1978 Annual Conference.

Throughout the year, the BSD Chairman received much cooperation from many members in carrying out Division work! As in many organizations, however, there is a need for more involvement by more members. Participation could be serving on the Division’s Executive Board, working on a committee, writing articles for the Newsletter, contributing ideas and/or time to a new project, helping with plans for the SLA Annual Conference, or supporting the SLA Annual Conference through attendance. All activities are important and all members are needed! I am very grateful for the opportunity I’ve had to become truly involved in BSD activities this past year!

Tena L. Crenshaw  
Immediate Past Chairman  
Biological Sciences Division, SLA
Four $2,500 scholarships will be awarded by SLA for the academic year 1979/1980. The awards to be granted in May 1979 are for graduate study leading to a master’s degree at a recognized school of library or information science in the U.S. or Canada. Preference will be given to those applicants interested in pursuing a career in special librarianship. Awards are made without regard to race, sex, age, religion or ethnic background.

Eligibility: College graduates or college seniors with an interest in special librarianship (work experience in special library helpful); and U.S. or Canadian citizen.

Qualifications: Definite interest and aptitude for special library work; good academic record; and financial need.

Applications: Must be completed and returned by January 15, 1979 and may be requested by writing to SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE, SLA Headquarters, New York.

Four $1,000 stipends will be awarded by SLA for the academic year 1979/1980. The awards, to be announced in May 1979, are for one semester or one quarter of graduate study leading to a master’s degree at a recognized school of library or information science in the U.S. or Canada. Preference will be given to those applicants interested in pursuing a career in special librarianship. Eligibility is limited to minority group members as defined by current guidelines of the U.S. government.

Eligibility: Member of a minority group according to the present guidelines of the U.S. government; college graduate, college senior or matriculated graduate library school student with an interest in special librarianship; and U.S. or Canadian citizen.

Qualifications: Definite interest and aptitude for special library work; and financial need.

Applications: Applications must be completed and returned by March 1, 1979 and may be requested by writing to POSITIVE ACTION PROGRAM FOR MINORITY GROUPS COMMITTEE, SLA Headquarters, New York.

The Association Office has a new telephone number: (212) 477-9250.

Persons wishing to contribute information or announcements for the next issue should submit material to: Doris Williams, Editor, Biology Library, State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York 11794 by January 30, 1979.
NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following to membership in the Division. May their association with us be helpful, educational, and friendly.

Karen S. Barnett
152 E. 94th St.
New York, NY 10028

Barbara R. Becker
8765 Glenwick Lane
LaJolla, CA 92037

Audrey E. Bevington
Library
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories
P.O.Box 100
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

Evelyn T. B. Brignoli
65 Indian Field Rd.
Greenwich, CT 06830

Mrs. Joanna M. Cameron
4067 Rose Hill Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45229

Raisa A. Cherniv
Health Science Library
Lutheran Hospital
3024 Fairfield Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Patrice F. Cohen
2727 Palisade Ave., #8L
Bronx, NY 10463

Cathy M. Collins
6651 N. Nordica
Niles, IL 60631

Gerald R. Costa
1773 W. 10th St.
Brooklyn, NY 11223

Susan B. Critchell
P.O.Box 73
Livingston, NY 12541

Patricia A. DeGeorges
Milton Helpern Library of Legal Medicine
520 First Ave.
New York, NY 10016

Betty G. Emilio
241 Maple Road
West Milford, NJ 07480

Eleanor S. Fairbanks
3737 N. Stone Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85705

Carol A. Feltes
1655 Ashland Ave.
Columbus, OH 43212

Kristine N. Fender
2837 Ludlow Road
Cleveland, OH 44120

Nancy C. Fitzpatrick
7333 Parkwood Drive
Fenton, MI 48430

Gary C. Fouty
426 1/2 Firth
Ames, IA 50010

Sylvia P. Gelblum
Carolina Population Center
University of North Carolina
University Square
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dorothy S. Gleisner
Library
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881

Jill M. Hamilton
Biomedical Division Library
Noble Foundation, Inc.
Route 1
Ardmore, OK 73401

Vicki Holcomb
Library
Decis. Des., Inc.
8400 Westpark Drive
McLean, VA 22101

Susan E. Jones
750 State St., Box 248
Albany, NY 12203

Dalia Kleinmuntz
819 LaCrosse Ct.
Wilmette, IL 60091

James S. Koga
1942 Channing Way, #101
Berkeley, CA 94704
Rita H. Matcher  
3308 Clarks Lane, Apt. D  
Baltimore, MD 21215

Bernice C. McKeibben  
1881 Lakehurst Drive  
Norman, OK 73071

Jacquelyn J. Moerk  
145 NW 75th  
Seattle, WA 98117

Barbara J. Montanary  
2100 Mt. Diablo Scenic Blvd.  
Danville, CA 94526

James J. Olson  
2038 N. New England  
Chicago, IL 60635

Mary M. O'Pecko  
51 E. Church Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Mary L. Palomba  
Health Science Library  
New Britain General Hospital  
100 Grand St.  
New Britain, CT 06050

Sally Pollak  
Texas Medical Center Library  
Houston Academy of Medicine  
Jesse H. Jones Library Building  
Houston, TX 77030

Donna L. Richardson  
722 Inverness Lane  
Deerfield, IL 60015

Constance L. Riley  
90 Parkside Drive  
Suffern, NY 10901

Katherine W. Rouzie  
Library  
Emanuel Hospital  
2801 N. Cantonbein Ave.  
Portland, OR 97227

Theresa C. Ryan  
11102 Stroud  
Houston, TX 77072

Arlene M. Sameshima  
1550 Wilder Ave., #904  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Susan G. Sheck  
4555 Henry Hudson Parkway  
Riverdale, NY 10471

Irene D. Shanefield  
8030 Stuart Ave.  
Montreal, PQ H3N 2R8  
Canada

Catherine M. Stout  
16 E. Chestnut Hill Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Micela D. Sullivan  
1206 W. Nevada, #2  
Urbana, IL 61801

James A. Warrington  
102 E. Armory, Apt. 10  
Champaign, IL 61820

Tsai-o Wong  
3 Georgian Court  
Toronto, Ontario M4P 2J7  
Canada
DIVISION OFFICERS 1978/1979

CHAIRMAN

Thomas H. Rees, Jr.
Department of Psychiatry Library
Health Sciences Center, T-10
State University of New York
Stony Brook, New York 11794

CHAIRMAN-ELECT

Susan L. Gensel
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Library
Box 100
Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11743

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Eloise C. Foster
Division of Library Services, Amer. Hosp. Assoc.
840 N. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611

BULLETIN EDITOR

Doris Williams
Biology Library
State University of New York
Stony Brook, New York 11794