



# BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION Newsletter

---

VOL. 9, NO 1

FALL 1982

---

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all Biological Science Division Members:

The 1982 annual conference held in Detroit was especially engaging and productive this year. The programs were interesting, the events well planned, the BSD business meeting effective, the restaurants inviting, the Grand Prix fun, and the company excellent. Rather than try to recap the entire experience from my personal point of view, several of the members who attended the conference have agreed to share in this newsletter their impressions of the meeting with those of you who were unable to be with us in Detroit. Although attendance was down somewhat, the division had a good core of enthusiastic members who agreed to participate in BSD activities as committee members and planners. We hope to place special emphasis this year on career development and public relations, a review of BSD bylaws, an expanded newsletter, and long range planning. If you want to become involved, please don't hesitate to contact any one of the officers or committee chairs with ideas or suggestions.

Doris Bolef, Chairman-Elect, and I will attend the SLA midwinter meeting at Newport Beach, California in January, 1983 to discuss Association business, to put finishing touches on the New Orleans conference, and to begin planning for the 1984 annual meeting in New York City. If you have questions or suggestions for Midwinter, please let either one of us know before the meeting.

Plans for the New Orleans conference in 1983 are moving right along. We expect to have a full program for BSD members beginning on Monday, June 6 with a panel on the legal, chemical and biological parameters of hazardous wastes cosponsored with the Environmental Information and Chemistry Divisions. On Tuesday BSD will have a luncheon meeting with a speaker (more about that nearer the meeting) and later on Tuesday afternoon we will hold our annual business meeting in the division suite--an idea that worked very well in Detroit. On Wednesday we are organizing a joint meeting with the Natural Resources Division; on Thursday BSD will sponsor a field trip to some of the key biological labs and libraries in the New Orleans area. All of these

DIVISION OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 1982-83

Chairman

Elisabeth B. Davis  
University of Illinois  
Biology Library  
407 S. Goodwin  
Urbana, IL 61801

Chairman-Elect

Doris Bolef  
Library of Rush University  
600 S. Paulina Street  
Chicago, IL 60612

Immediate Past Chairman

Sara I. Hill  
DataPhase Systems  
3770 Broadway  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Secretary-Treasurer

Ruth Ahl  
Purdue University  
Library  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Director

M. Sandra Wood  
George T. Harrell Library  
Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, PA 17033

Bylaws Chairman

Gretchen Stephens  
Purdue University  
Veterinary Medical Library  
Room 108 Lynn Hall  
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Nominating Chairman

David Self  
University of Illinois  
Veterinary Medicine Library  
2001 S. Lincoln  
Urbana, IL 61801

Membership Chairman

Karen Patrias  
National Library of Medicine  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20209

Archives Chairman

Caroline Morris  
Pennsylvania Hospital  
Medical Library  
8th and Spruce Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

New Orleans Conference

Local Representative  
Beth Paskoff  
Louisiana State University  
Middleton Library  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Career Guidance and  
Public Relations Chairman

Rebecca Martin  
University of California  
Biology Library  
Berkeley, CA 94720

Newsletter Editor

Beverly Renford  
George T. Harrell Library  
Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, PA 17033

The BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION NEWSLETTER is published three times per year by the Biological Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association and is sent to Division members as a membership benefit. Issues may be sent others upon request depending on availability.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the Association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of Special Libraries Association. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product by Special Libraries Association.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE, con't

plans being developed and coordinated with the help of our New Orleans SLA contact, Beth Paskoff. New Orleans obviously has a lot to offer and Beth is arranging for us to enjoy the cultural and intellectual aspects of the city while we pursue the conference theme, "Removing Information Barriers."

Although June, 1983 seems very far away right now, do start planning to attend the New Orleans conference. It will certainly be an exciting opportunity to renew professional contacts and interests, and it could double as a terrific vacation!

Betty Davis

\*\*\*\*\*

ABOUT DETROIT...

The 73rd Annual Conference in Detroit was quite successful despite last minute concerns over the Grand Prix race. The race provided a few headaches for conference attendees, but for those of us who are also race fans, it was well worth watching.

The conference itself focused on the theme "New Technologies--New Frontiers." General Sessions included topics of telecommunications, video media, and systems technology. These sessions were highly informative and timely.

The Annual Conference was also quite successful and productive for the Biological Sciences Division. A highlight for the Division was the joint luncheon (with the Pharmaceutical Division) at which Professor K. Mayeda spoke on genetic research. Professor Mayeda's speech was not only informative, but entertaining as well. The successful business meeting, chaired by Sara Hill in the Divisional Suite, may have set a precedent for future meetings. The informal atmosphere set the stage for a productive and frank exchange of ideas and information. By holding the meeting in a more

Continued, next column

Detroit, con'd

"sociable" situation, members were encouraged to volunteer for committees and to contribute suggestions for future division activities.

The Division officers met several times during the Detroit meeting to work out "bugs" within the Division and to plan for the next two years. Under the capable direction of Chairman Elisabeth Davis and Chairman-Elect Doris Bolef, Division meetings are being organized for the New Orleans and New York City conventions. I hope you will plan to attend these annual conferences and share in the Division activities.

M. Sandra Wood

\*\*\*\*\*

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED....

The 1984 Special Libraries Association Annual Meeting will be held in New York City. With the resources that the City has to offer, the Meeting should be an especially good one. However, it will require lots of planning and assistance, especially from those in the New York City area.

Please volunteer your suggestions. What would you find most useful to see and hear? Contact:

Doris Bolef  
Library of Rush University  
600 South Paulina Street  
Chicago, IL 60612  
(312) 942-5379

\*\*\*\*\*

SEE PAGE 11 FOR AN  
EXCITING NEW CONTEST.

From Your New Secretary-Treasurer...

Greetings to the members of the Biological Sciences Division. I want to thank you for electing me your secretary-treasurer and to tell you that I am honored to have the opportunity of serving the division.

Following SLA and ALA, I made a trip to Chicago to pick up the records and received a thorough briefing from my predecessor, Doris Bolef. She deserves a round of thanks for her excellent record keeping and her wise investment of the funds. She even made money for the division!

The division of its annual meeting in Detroit voted to donate \$500.00 to the SLA Building Fund for the new headquarters. The contribution was announced at the membership meeting and we were the first to have contributed.

I am looking forward to working with you and the division officers during my two years tenure of office. Should you have any questions regarding financial matters or bill submission, please call or write me in care of Purdue University Libraries, Stewart Center, West Lafayette, IN., 47906. (317) 494-2900.

Ruth Ahl  
BSD Secretary-Treasurer

Editors note: The Treasurer's report for Fiscal Year 1981/82 is included in this newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* The next issue of the BSD News- \*  
\* letter will be mailed in January. \*  
\* Comments, contributions, letters \*  
\* to the editors and notices are \*  
\* invited. Such items should be \*  
\* sent by December 15, 1982. Mail \*  
\* to: Beverly Renford, Hershey \*  
\* Medical Center Library, Hershey, \*  
\* PA. 17033 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

AND THE BALLAD OF THE BALLOTS...

First of all, I wish to apologize to those of you who did not receive your ballots before the June election. Many people have complained that their newsletter with the ballots in them arrived about the same time as the deadline for returning them. Let me briefly explain how this happened.

The newsletter was originally scheduled for early May. In April, I heard from the nominating committee and began to contact the nominees for their resumes. The last resume came in the last week in April. Since the newsletter still had to be typed and formatted, it was almost another week before it was ready for the printer. When it did finally reach the printer, I was told it would take up to 11 days to be completed. That put us past the first week of May. The printer finally delivered it on the 12th day but he couldn't find the library, so he took it to the warehouse instead. That was a mistake since the warehouse naturally didn't know what it was or who it was for. They languished down there for another day until I finally located them and had them moved to the library. My staff and I immediately began to stuff in the ballots, staple and address them but this took another day. Sara Hill and I spent one evening sorting them by code so we could send them out bulk mail. They finally got in the mail the morning of May 19. I knew this was cutting it close but I figured that it would probably not take more than a week to arrive. That would make it May 26 when it came; just enough time to send back the ballot.

My problem was that I had grossly over-estimated the efficiency of the U.S. Postal Service. Some newsletters did not arrive for almost 3 weeks. Worse yet, the ones addressed to Canada came back en masse. They were apparently on strike up there.

This sad tale has taught us all about Murphy's Law. In the future we will send out the ballots first class. Again, my apologies to those who lost their votes.

Karen Horst  
Newsletter Editor  
1981/82

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION  
June 1, 1982

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1981-1982

The Division entered the 1981-82 Fiscal Year with a balance of: \$7,445.14

INCOME

SLA allotment - 2/19/82 (based on 705 members,  
12/31/82) 3,172.50

INTEREST

Ready Assets - 6/25/81 - 12/81 480.54

1/82 - 4/30/82 331.48

Interest on C.D. 149.88

\$ 961.90

Total Income: 4,134.40

Total: 11,579.54

EXPENDITURES:

Convention 546.75

Questionnaire 170.00

Newsletter 431.14

Stamps for ballots 125.82

Travel to Midwinter 300.00

1,573.71

Midtown Bank, Chicago, Illinois, Checking Account 521.31  
(4/30/82)

Merrill Lynch Ready Assets Trust (4/30/82) 9,484.02

Total: \$10,005.33

Doris Bolef  
Secretary/Treasurer

DID YOU MISS THESE?

COMING UP

The following reference books were included in the outstanding reference sources compiled for Library Journal by the Reference Sources Committee, Reference and Adult Services Division, American Library Association. (Library Journal 107(10): 957-962, May 15, 1982).

The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of North American Birds. John K. Terres. 1109p. Knopf, 1980. \$60. ISBN 0-394-46651-9.

The Audubon Society Handbook for Birders. Stephen W. Kress. 320p. Scribners. \$17.95. ISBN 0-684-16838-3.

The Consumer Health Information Source Book. Alan M. Rees & Blanche A. Young. 450p. Bowker. \$32.50. ISBN 0-8352-1336-6.

The Cook's Encyclopedia. Tom Stobart. 512p. Harper. \$19.95. ISBN 0-06-014127-1.

Help Yourself to Health: a Health Information and Services Directory. Art Ulene with Sandy Feldman. ca. 200p. Putnam. 1980. \$19.95. ISBN 0-339-12474-8. pap. \$10. ISBN 0-399-50465-6.

The Physician's Drug Manual: Prescription and Nonprescription Drugs. Robin Bressler, ed. 1213p. BMI: Doubleday. \$17.95. thumb index, \$19.95. ISBN 0-385-17477-2.

The American Society for Information Science (ASIS)  
45th Annual Meeting  
October 17-21, 1982  
Columbus, OH

ONLINE '82  
November 1-3, 1982  
Atlanta, GA

American Library Association (ALA)  
Midwinter Meeting  
January 8-13, 1983  
San Antonio, TX

Special Libraries Association  
Business Meeting for Division Officers  
January 1983  
Newport Beach, CA

Medical Library Association  
Annual Meeting  
May 27-June 2, 1983  
Houston, TX

Special Libraries Association  
74th Annual Conference  
June 4-9, 1983  
New Orleans, LA

American Library Association  
Annual Conference  
June 24-30, 1983  
Los Angeles, CA

---

POSITION AVAILABLE:

Life Sciences Librarian - Science-Engineering Library, Northwestern University. Responsible for collection development in the life sciences, excluding medicine; serves as liaison to life sciences departments, provides reference services including online searching and develops bibliographic instruction; oversees Science-Engineering interlibrary loan, reserve and inventory proposals. The library is in its own building (1977) with a 231,558 volumes collection and operates on a budget of \$709,506, including \$420,516 for acquisitions. Technical services are provided principally by the centralized online system. MLS from an ALA-accredited library school is required; a degree in the life sciences is desirable. Position is currently open. An appointment will be made in the range of \$15,000-\$18,000 dependent upon qualifications. Send application and resume, including list of references, to Lance Query, Personnel Librarian, Northwestern University Library, Evanston, IL 60601. Applications received by October 11, 1982 will be considered. An EO/AA Employer.

## ANOTHER NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

The following description of the Blacker-Wood Library of Zoology and Ornithology of McGill University was written for the BSD Newsletter by Eleanor MacLean in the Spring of 1981. For a variety of reasons this wonderful piece of writing was never published. We have included it in this issue. We extend our thanks to her for sharing the Blacker-Wood Library holdings with the Division membership.

# # # # #

### BLACKER-WOOD LIBRARY OF ZOOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

In 1919, Sir William Osler died and bequeathed his library on the history of medicine to McGill University, an action which inspired ophthalmologist Dr. Casey Albert Wood to make a similar donation. Born in Wellington, Ontario in 1856, Wood was educated at Bishop's University and made many friends at McGill during the years he practiced medicine in Montreal before pursuing his career in the United States. Dr. Wood was profoundly interested in natural history, especially ornithology, and he eventually combined his two principal concerns in the writing of a major treatise - the *FUNDUS OCULI OF BIRDS* (Lakeside Pr., 1917). Subsequently, he endowed McGill with the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology (named after his Montreal-born wife) and persuaded his friend, businessman Robert Roe Blacker (also Ontario-born and transplanted to California) to endow a supporting collection in vertebrate zoology. After his retirement as an ophthalmologist in 1920 and his appointment in 1921 as curator of both the Blacker and Wood Libraries, Dr. Wood had a highly successful second career. By the time of his death in 1942, he had laid a firm foundation for the present Library. He also found time to travel repeatedly throughout Europe, Sri Lanka and the rest of the world to study birds, collect books, paintings, and manuscripts, and to co-author or commission and co-ordinate innumerable articles on ornithology and zoological art. Most notably, he translated into English Frederick II's medieval treatise on falconry *De Arte Venandibus* (Stanford University Pr., 1943) and wrote *An Introduction to the Literature of Vertebrate Zoology* based chiefly on the titles in the Blacker Library of Zoology ... and other libraries at McGill University, Montreal (Oxford University Pr., 1931), which is still a standard source on the history of zoological literature.

There are 27 libraries in the McGill Library System and Blacker-Wood, together with the Botany-Genetics Library (which includes cellular and molecular level biology) and the Macdonald Campus Library (which incorporates agriculture, renewable resources, conservation, and entomology), provides the basis of the

University's biology collections. The Blacker-Wood Library is located on the second and third floors of the Redpath Library Building, about three blocks away from the Stewart Biology Building where most of the Library's users work.

The name Blacker-Wood Library of Zoology and Ornithology does not entirely represent the focus of the collection. Materials are collected in all aspects of vertebrate and invertebrate zoology (except entomology), neurobiology, limnology, paleontology, the history of biology, sociobiology, general natural history, and marine biology. While the Library is open to anyone who wishes to use it, the main purpose is to serve the teaching and research needs of the Biology and related departments and the collection policies reflect this goal. Although it is not emphasized as strongly as in the past, there is still a commitment to the development of the ornithology collection. The Library has two very small endowments; the Blacker Fund is used for some standing orders and for rare and historical materials in zoology and the Wood Fund is used for rare and historical materials in ornithology.

Acquisitions and cataloging are handled in the McLennan (central) Library as are interlibrary loans. Circulation, reference, selection, orientation for the Biology students, maintenance of the Blacker-Wood catalogue, some book mending, and what limited preservation measures can be managed with a small staff and restricted budget, are done in the Blacker-Wood Library. The staff consists of a full-time librarian, two library assistants, and 58 hours a week of student help in circulation, shelving, and typing. The collection consists of nearly 39,000 books and a further 35,500 serial volumes. Over 740 journals are currently received and there are holdings of a further 1,800 titles which are no longer acquired. The collection also contains nearly 8,000 original paintings, drawings, prints, and photographs, 100 records of wildlife sounds, 6,000 reprints of articles on Crustacea (the Robert Gurney collection), over 300 manuscripts, 3,000 folders of letters from naturalists (primarily of the late 19th and early 20th century and including three from Charles Darwin), and the archives of the Natural History Society of Montreal and the North American Falconry Association. These specialized materials, all pre-1825 publications, and those more recent materials identified as having historical, artistic, or monetary value are kept in the Blacker-Wood Rare Books Room rather than in the open stacks. Although the University does have the double elephant folio edition of Audubon's *Birds of America*, this is housed in the McLennan Rare Books Department rather than in Blacker-Wood.



The many interesting and valuable works in the Library include a collection of approximately 350 Arabic and Persian books, most of which were acquired in northern India in the early 1920s by Vladimir Ivanow, formerly the Russian Imperial Librarian. There is a collection of 156 "Feather Paintings" made in 1618 by Dionisio Minaggio, Chief Gardener of the State of Milan. While most of the pictures are of birds, complete with their feathers, beaks, and claws, there are also several hunting scenes, Comedia del'Arte figures, musicians, tradesmen, and a reconstruction of a Dodo. All the illustrations are made completely of undyed bird feathers, with the exception of one scene which has a small, but real, snake in it. There are also the superb original paintings - 121 birds, 12 flowers, and 30 fish - done, mostly from live models, by Lady Elizabeth Gwillim (1763-1807), the wife of an English judge in Indian, who, although she never published her work, preceded Audubon as a painter of life-sized portraits of Birds. Some of her paintings, all of which are in the Blacker-Wood collection, were recently exhibited at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. The Library also houses original paintings by Edward Lear, Edouard Travies, John and Elizabeth Gould, John Gerrard Keulemans, Joseph Wolf, and Joseph Smit. The latter were recently presented to the Library by his grandson, Dr. Arthur Elvidge, who had been on staff at the Montreal Neurological Institute. The Library also contains part of Joseph Bank's manuscript diary of his voyage to Iceland, as well as some of the scientific notes from his voyage to Newfoundland. Other Treasures include a 1483 edition of Pliny's *Historia naturalis*, containing a manuscript poem by medieval poet Laurentius Burellus, and a collection of over 900 original mid-eighteenth century British paintings of birds and mammals by Peter Paillou and Charles Collins, including his prototype of the Dodo. In the Library are also the earliest drawings of Australian birds by a European painter, John Lewin; the earliest known drawings of the flora and fauna of Santo Domingo, by a French army officer named de Rabie; and a 1792 folio edition of Thomas Pennant's *Arctic Zoology* into which an early owner has had painted several hundred marginal watercolours of the plants and animals described as well as, by a second artist, several dozen full-page landscapes. There is also a unique copy of the first edition of Francis Willughby and John Ray's *Ornithology*, hand-coloured and presented to Samuel Pepys as President of the Royal Society, which had helped to finance the publication.

The Library thus has a dual role to fulfill resulting from its effort to provide a collection which both supports the wide range of biological topics in which McGill's academic community is currently interested and maintains the historical nature of a collection which has been evolving over many years. In

most libraries, these two responsibilities are separate as to both location and staff, but this is not the case with Blacker-Wood. This, inevitably provides the staff with a constant challenge; to provide as much service as possible to scholars who visit or write with queries requiring in-depth research into the historical material in the collection and to fulfill the Library's primary responsibility of giving the faculty and students of the University a broad range of services enabling them to make effective use of the current research collection.

Eleanor MacLean  
Blacker-Wood Librarian  
April 7, 1981

# # # # # # # # # #

## Job Lines

American Society for Information Science (ASIS)  
202/659-1737  
Association of College and Research Libraries  
312/944-6795  
British Columbia  
604/263-0014  
California Library Association  
916/443-1222 or 213/629-5627  
California Media and Library Educators  
415/697-8832  
Employment Committee of the Texas Chapter  
Special Libraries Association  
713/765-2375  
Florida State Library  
904/488-5232  
Georgia Library Association/JMRT  
404/634-5726  
Library Jobline of Illinois  
312/828-0930 (24 hours)  
Maryland Library Association  
301/685-5760  
Metropolitan Washington Library Jobline  
202/223-2272  
Midwest Job Line  
517/487-5617  
312/644-1896 (to list a job)  
Missouri-Kansas-Nebraska, Special Libraries  
816/932-2333

New England Library Jobline  
207/623-2286  
New Jersey Library Association  
609/695-2121  
New York Library Association Jobline  
212/227-8483  
New York Special Libraries Association  
212/753-7247  
North Carolina State Library  
919/733-6410  
Oregon Job Line  
503/585-2232  
Pacific Northwest Library Association  
206/543-2890  
Pennsylvania Cooperative Jobline  
412/362-5627  
South Carolina Jobline  
803/777-8443  
Special Library Association: Southern California  
Chapter  
213/795-2145  
Texas State Library Jobline  
512/475-0408  
512/475-4110 (to list a job)  
Virginia Library Jobline  
804/355-0384  
Washington, DC  
202/223-2272

CONTEST CONTEST CONTEST CONTEST CONTEST

CONTEST

CONTEST

NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

CONTEST

CONTEST

The Newsletter is looking for a name. At the business meeting of the BSD in Detroit, it was decided that the newsletter could use a new look and a new name. With that in mind, a "Name the Newsletter Contest" was suggested. All members of the Biological Sciences Division are being asked to suggest names. The prize being offered is a free ticket to the Division luncheon at SLA New Orleans. The winning name will be selected by membership ballot that will be printed in the Winter issue of the newsletter. (Final selection is subject to approval by the BSD Board). The contest winner and the new newsletter name will be announced in the Spring issue. The newsletter will begin to use the new name with the Fall issue, 1983

CONTEST

CONTEST

CONTEST

CONTEST

Suggested name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTEST

CONTEST

CONTEST

CONTEST

Deadline: November 15, 1982

Mail to: Beverly Renford  
Hershey Medical Center  
Library  
Hershey, PA 17033

CONTEST

CONTEST

CONTEST CONTEST CONTEST CONTEST CONTEST



Biological Sciences Division/SLA  
c/o Beverly Renford, Newsletter Editor  
Hershey Medical Center Library  
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit 20  
Lancaster, PA.