

# Mountain-Plains Library Quarterly

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNTAIN - PLAINS  
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

M.P.L.A. HAS VALIDITY

M.P.L.A. WHITHER GOEST THOU?

PROBLEMS FOR DENVER MEETING

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTER—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Summer 1960

**MOUNTAIN-PLAINS LIBRARY QUARTERLY**

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**C O N T E N T S**

Mountain Plains Library Association Officers.....	2
About This Issue.....	3
M.P.L.A. Has Validity.....	4
M.P.L.A. Whither Goest Thou?.....	6
Here And There .....	13
Problems For Denver Meeting.....	14
Bibliographical Center—Executive Committee.....	15

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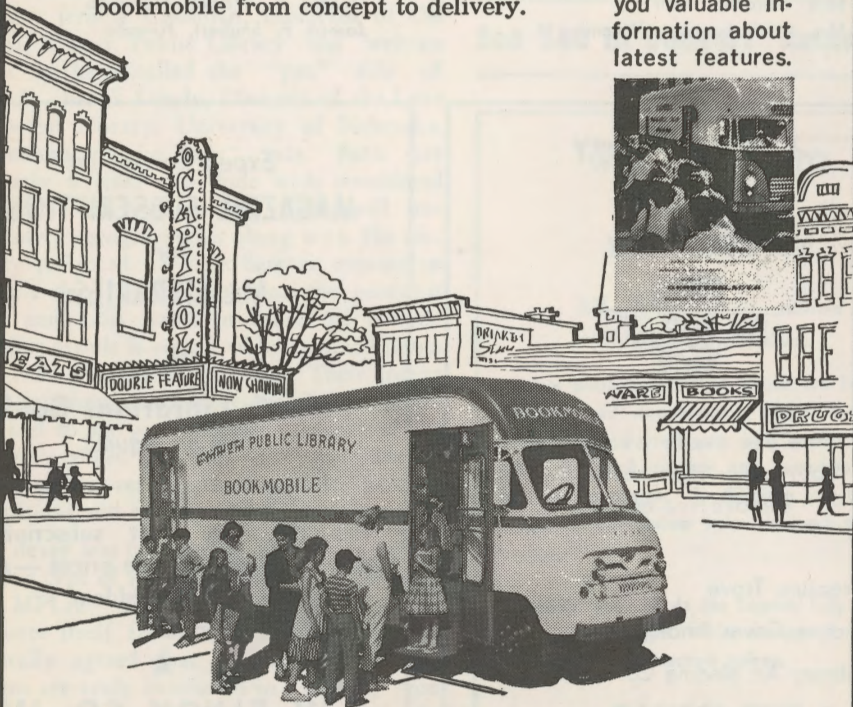


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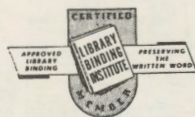
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## About This Issue . . . About the Denver

It was determined at the Midwinter ALA meeting in Chicago that MPLA should have a fall convention without exhibits or a program as in other years. Since it is intended that we get down to work to determine what we are, why we are, and what we might become, it seemed pertinent to aim the summer issue of the QUARTERLY at this meeting. So be it. You will find the points listed which will come in for discussion and decision September 1-3 on the Denver University Campus. These are as agreed upon by President Abrams and the MPLA board. Committees are being asked to submit such findings as they can on these points to our Denver assembly.

In order to facilitate the thinking of MPLA members and to point up the issues before us the editor has asked for two articles which he thought would do this very thing. Jerome Cushman, Librarian of the Salina, Kansas, Public Library has written what we have called the "pro" side of MPLA. Frank Lundy, Director of the Love Memorial Library, University of Nebraska, has submitted the "con" side. Both are honestly written and done with considered thought. Anyone reading them will immediately recognize this along with the sincerity reflected. I wish here to express an editor's deep appreciation for the generous time and solid effort in behalf of MPLA. Neither article is meant to be rammed down any MPLA member's throat. Their intent is to enlighten you before the Denver meeting and to set you thinking seriously about our association. In this way you should come to Denver prepared to take part in discussions and to help make decisions.

It never was intended by anyone in setting up this type of meeting in Denver to overtly kill MPLA. Every organization needs to evaluate itself from time to time. It was generally agreed that our time had come. If you are truly interested in MPLA, you will attend the Denver meeting, and you will do so with a hope to revitalize MPLA and put it on a growing, going, worthwhile basis.

The Editor

## Meeting . . .

An insert sheet will be found for your Denver reservations. *Please* attend. MPLA needs you there. We plan a Thursday luncheon and a Friday evening dinner. (Mark same on your mailing blank.) No agenda is printed in this issue but you are given problems to be discussed. There are committees preparing reports. An agenda may be mailed to you soon. If not, don't let this keep you away. There will be much you can contribute in giving objectively to MPLA. We want to come up with a decision for a 1961 convention that proves MPLA exists for a true purpose.

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# M. P. L. A. Has Validity

By **JEROME CUSHMAN**, Librarian

Salina Public Library

Salina, Kansas

MPLA began with high hopes. Its aim at bringing librarians with common problems together though separated by thousands of square miles, was bold and imaginative. Did something go wrong? In the light of our re-examination of the total position of MPLA it might be assumed that a great deal is wrong. In fact some of the thinking propounds the question, why MPLA at all? Talk like "organization for vacation excuse," "programming on the district level," "no planning and sense of direction" are accusations which have been made since the beginning of the Association. I will devote some words to a presentation of the affirmative side of the picture—that MPLA for all its lame, halt and blind perigrinations, has a validity that would permit it the opportunity to grow in strength.

In criticising MPLA sometimes one loses sight of the original purposes for its organization. The wide expanse of territory coupled with a sparsely settled population presented library problems which could be served better on a regional basis. That the crossing of state lines has had little or no success does not obviate the fact that a regional pattern of library development, if effected, makes the most sense. The key seems to be "if effected." While it is true progress has been uncompromisingly slow it would come to an immediate and final halt were there no organization even thinking about its problems. Little by little our country is thinking in terms of broader patterns for the general welfare. One day, for example, it will be recognized that stream pollution is not a local problem but must be handled the entire length of the stream and with federal assistance. Health organizations, both state and local, were not persuasive enough to change a presidential veto, but they are organized to be on the spot when the legislation comes up again. There must be, I maintain, an organization ready to step in when the occasion demands. It is as true of MPLA as it was for the Salina Mental Health Association which talked and planned for 20 years—before it spearheaded

a successful Mental Health Clinic for the community. MPLA will have its day.

Another plus factor for MPLA is its liaison possibilities with ALA. Of course ALA maintains liaison through state library associations but a regional association is able to plan within the kind of framework that more nearly fits that of the national organization. It is certainly easier for ALA to assist in channeling foundation money for research through regional associations. The factor of prestige must not be discounted. Whenever an eight state regional association speaks in the name of the librarians of that area, the impact is bound to be stronger.

To disband MPLA would solve nothing because the problems that could best be handled by a region would still remain. Some other organization would have to be formed in order to maintain communication on a wider than state basis. One of the problems that MPLA has encountered is the difficulty of state libraries to cross state lines with their services. It is known that legislators grow pale at the thought of spending money for the citizens of another state. Perhaps the state library associations have been either too busy or too timid to exploit the possibilities of regional service. State governments can and have gotten together to pool tax money, as in the case of the division of water rights. Perhaps more work should be done to persuade the legislatures that it would be to everyone's advantage if there was some sharing of the cost of educational responsibilities for each other's citizens. After all, geography is not the librarian's fault.

MPLA programming has left much to be desired. I'll let Frank Lundy elaborate on this point, and as an ex co-chairman of a couple of MPLA programs, I'll take my knocks with a gracefulness born of the knowledge that the truth will out.

Let me make one more point in favor of MPLA, and then suggest a thought or two

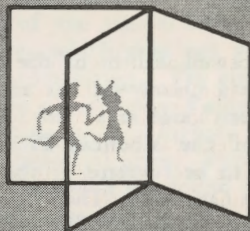


for the future. Belonging to this Association has meant a great deal in terms of person to person communication. It is well and good to say that one would see the same people at ALA, but it seems to me that MPLA personal associations have been on a plane that is more significant than the "it's good to see you" haste at national conferences. One gets a "feel" for the region from day to day contact with representatives of its far reaches. Visiting firemen have remarked favorably about the particular and altogether wonderful flavor of MPLA conventions. There is something more than just people coming together and I believe that the librarians themselves have received a subtle but nevertheless important education in recognizing mutual problems though their colleague be from Nevada, Utah, Colorado or Kansas. It is healthful for a librarian from North Dakota to be concerned with the problems of a rural library in Nebraska. He knows that they have the same dry dusty row to hoe. Distance welds librarians of our region together and our fellowship is genuine. Since we are all poor, perhaps it is easier to like each other. There is no compulsion to tolerate wealthy libraries and librarians.

There is much to be done in MPLA. I will only say that its effectiveness for the future lies in three directions—programming, research, and legislation. Programming must cease trying to please everybody but must aim at a professional and high level uniqueness; research must produce with scientific accuracy our resources and our problems; and legislation must bring to fruition the idea and practice of truly regional library service.

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# M. P. L. A. Whither Goest Thou?

By **FRANK A. LUNDY**

Director of Libraries

University of Nebraska

Ford Rockwell, Editor of the *Mountain-Plains Library Quarterly*, has asked me to state the "con" side in a "pro and con" discussion of the Mountain-Plains Library Association to be featured in the Summer issue of the *Quarterly*. The 1960 conference of the Association will "not go in for displays or a planned program as formerly" but will attempt "to take stock of ourselves and see what we were amounting and could amount to in our region."<sup>1</sup> Frankly, I am not "con" the M.P.L.A. I participated in a preliminary planning session held in Denver in 1947, in connection with a regional meeting of UNESCO, to consider the idea of an M.P.L.A. and also in the Estes Park Conference of 1948 which saw the M.P.L.A. become a reality. I served under Presidents Esterquest and Tyler and then enjoyed the privilege of being the third President of M.P.L.A. I have attended more than a majority of its annual meetings. I believe that libraries and librarians in these western states need a regional association. But I am "con" the M.P.L.A. in the form and substance in which I have come to know it during its first full decade. For that reason I felt impelled to accept the invitation to contribute this statement.

The M.P.L.A. held its second annual meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado, in 1949, in conjunction with a Trans-Mississippi Regional Conference of the American Library Association. It held its third annual business meeting, but its second full-dress annual conference in Salt Lake City in the summer of 1950. In October of 1950 I gave wide distribution to a mimeographed statement in which I said:

"Our state associations here in the Mountain-Plains area are limited in size and scope by the number and nature of library organizations within their boundaries. They draw heavily upon small public libraries for membership and definition of purpose. They can be immensely helpful at the state, county, and city levels of government in securing favorable library legislation and in aiding local librarians to do a good job. State organizations in our

area, however, frequently do not have the money or the manpower to develop the kind of program that would be most helpful in raising professional standards and improving local job performance and in promoting library projects that are not quite national in scope, but much broader than state boundaries. The activities of the Denver Bibliographical Center and the program of the Northern Great Plains Library Council are examples of what I mean.

"Our state associations have much to offer the small public library and the school library, but relatively little to offer the university library or the large public library. This is true in part at least because there are so few of the latter in each state. It is difficult to organize a worthwhile program or a continuing series of activities for university or large public libraries within the framework of a state library association and yet these libraries, few in number though they may be, contribute substantially to the work of the profession within their states as well as in the nearby region.

"The national organizations, the American Library Association and its many affiliates, on the other hand, are almost too large and too complicated and in a sense too remote to do much for libraries on a local basis. Relatively few librarians in a given state or region can afford regularly to attend meetings of the A.L.A. and it takes attendance at several of these meetings to become sufficiently oriented so that one may make the most effective use of the opportunity.

"If these impressions are accurate from the point of view of the local library, there is a very real need for the regional library association. Cooperation among libraries has become imperative from every point of view. The available resources in personnel,



books, and financial support in any single institution no longer enable it to do its whole job without cooperation from other institutions of like nature."<sup>2</sup>

There have been several serious efforts made by officers of the Association and by speakers at its conferences to analyze the elements of regionalism within the M.P.L.A. and to suggest their application to its program of activities. In the first issue of the M.P.L.A. *Quarterly* appeared Eugene Wilson's analysis of the elements of the concept of regionalism in the points of view of several writers on American regionalism, each seeking the common elements but from different approaches. A region, according to James Dahir, is a territory which possesses enough of the measure of sameness to distinguish it fundamentally from its neighbors. After looking at the core elements of regionalism in several different frames of reference, Wilson concluded that the M.P.L.A. covers "a western agricultural-mining, semi-arid, mountain-great plains region, with all of the problems characteristic of the larger regions of which it generally is considered to be a part."<sup>3</sup> If "hope in regional development lies in the trinity of nearness, general likeness, and common problems" and if "the logic of the region as a development unit may be found in 'localism on a regional basis,' or extended localism as the structure and spirit of regionalism," then I would like to suggest that these easy generalizations have proven to be a snare and a delusion to librarians seeking a common bond of strength within the M.P.L.A.

The core element in a regional library association is not wheat or corn, cattle or sheep, minerals or lumber, cities or farms, mountains or plains, desert or cropland, but books—books and the promotion of library service. It is true that books and library service cost money; also that the availability of money for books and service is conditioned by industrial, agricultural, and mineral wealth; by transportation and rainfall; but even more so by the density and economic well-being of the population, by its educational level and cultural aspirations, its politics and other group motivations. Is this not true everywhere, though the context may vary radically in some details from place to place,

Milton Abrams considered that the advantages of regional association might be political, historical, promotional, or professional. But, he said, if one studies the geography of the region, he is confronted with an area which does not demonstrably fit itself into a region. The eight states of M.P.L.A. do not compose a single historical region, but do in fact include parts or all of several historical areas. Furthermore, it is not an area which has found any particular regional orientation among sociologists, but includes parts of the Middle States, the Southwest, and the Far West. "It seems the region has certain common problems, shared by each member state, in the distances and small pockets of populations. The problems posed are communication and the lack of necessary population and taxable wealth to provide a sufficient number of people and an adequate financial base for economic library enterprises. Perhaps the thing which brings us together is the distance which separates us."<sup>4</sup> Robert Thomas re-emphasized the same point when he said, in welcoming Nevada to membership in the M.P.L.A.: "The twin factors of sparse population and great distances, which are among the most serious problems in providing good library service, are most intense in the eight states now making up our region."<sup>5</sup>

With help from John Richards, let us now look at the other regional associations.

"Since state and local government together bear the primary responsibility for library planning and administration, the state library association has played an important part in library development. The public library is largely a municipal concern and has grown up as a local institution. There is, however, an increasing tendency for the state to supervise and assist in library development . . . Because of this dual responsibility of local and state governments for libraries, the state association has become the logical planning unit, a unit which cannot be replaced on either the regional or national level. While the A.L.A. heads up the work on library standards and library organization, the individual state associations have had to adapt these standards and their organizations to their own particular needs and often they do pioneer work through the combined re-



sources of the state association and the state extension agency." 6

Most of the states which have banded together to form regional associations have two characteristics in common: they are for the most part on the periphery of the United States and they are sparsely settled and include comparatively a small A.L.A. membership. Richards pointed out that two-thirds of the states are included in the five regional associations, but together they include only about one-third of the A.L.A. membership in the continental United States.

Because of the isolation of its libraries and the need to pool resources, the *Pacific Northwest Library Association* perhaps more than any of the other regional library associations has taken the place of the state associations. While several of these state associations hold yearly meetings with programs, there has been a tendency for the state association to pay particular attention to legislative programs and other matters of special interest to the individual states and to leave to P.N.L.A. the type of programming generally associated with library conferences.

In contrast to the P.N.L.A., the *New England Library Association* is most informal. There are no dues and meetings are financed through conference registration fees and exhibitors fees. Meetings may be held in any year when in the opinion of the conference or executive board the annual conference of the A.L.A. will be held at a point too distant to attract a considerable attendance from New England.

The *Southeastern Library Association* began primarily as a forum to consider common library problems in the light of Southern conditions, economic, social, and governmental, and in relation to the state of library development. Fourteen biennial conferences followed, but more recently, through reorganization, the Association has a headquarters office and a part-time paid executive-secretary, in addition to a quarterly journal and a membership exceeding one thousand.

In the *Southwest Library Association* members of the state library associations automatically become members of the regional association and a small part of their dues are allocated accordingly. The programs are largely devoted to subjects and

problems of special interest to libraries of the region.

The *Pacific Northwest Library Association's* program for the 1950's is highly suggestive for the M.P.L.A. It pointed toward a complete regional survey of economic, geographic, political, human, and international factors affecting library service and development in the Northwest, in terms of the following specific objectives:

(1) a complete analysis of the financial support necessary for adequate library service, the most efficient units of service, and a practical and feasible suggestion of ways in which necessary funds may be secured and recommended service units established;

(2) a careful consideration of how our libraries are governed and how they can be improved and developed through the coordinated efforts of adjoining municipalities, counties, states, and the province, through the establishment of larger service areas;

(3) an impartial and detached analysis of the place and activities of the five state and provincial library agencies in the region in promoting the growth of libraries and the use of books;

(4) a further study of coordination of library growth and service in the Northwest in support of research and scholarly work;

(5) a detailed study of school libraries of the region, their staffing, use, and effectiveness;

(6) an analysis of the education, training, aptitudes, and personalities of the people who work in our libraries, looking toward a better discharge of their important responsibilities.

Let us set the stage for a few practical suggestions of immediate import with Grace Stevenson's wise words:

"The solution of the regional problems will not come about automatically as a result of the existence of a regional association. The association must have a practical, but forward looking program, based on the needs for library service in the area and the resources, both within and without the region, that can be made available to provide that service. Such a program requires careful planning. It should be ambitious for the long haul . . . but it should be capable of accomplishment in smaller parts, or sections, since we all need a sense of accomplishment lest we grow discour-





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aged . . . Both the problems and the resources of these seven great western states make the regional approach to them the soundest approach."<sup>7</sup>

During the initial twelve years of its existence the Mountain-Plains Library Association has conducted itself like any typical library association. It has suffered the usual surfeit of committees conceived to study and promote all the usual and typical activities of libraries and librarians and library associations. It has concentrated its major effort on holding an annual conference, complete with several general sessions, several imported speakers of prominence, and a battery of committee and section meetings. Like any state library association and like the American Library Association itself, and striking a kind of arithmetic average between them, it has tried to be all things to all people. It has heavily advertised its vacation meeting spots, square dances and barbecue suppers, and cowboy ballad singers in order to draw a crowd. And in thus adding one more typical annual conference to a schedule of annual conferences that already exceeds the need and the demand, it has almost deliberately set out to make itself superfluous.

The primary purposes of a regional library association in the American library scene must first of all find their definition in the regional idea. Our local library clubs, our multi-county district meetings, and our state associations are already doing a commendable job at their appropriate levels. To attempt to do the same things in a regional meeting, at even greater expense of time and effort and money for the participants, is undesirable. It is, for example, a little silly to drive a thousand miles to a regional conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, only to find a good piece of the program given over to a workshop on book mending. This sort of thing is being done better in almost every way at the state and local level.

Each annual conference of the M.P.L.A. has drawn heavily upon local attendance by those living within a radius of fifty or one hundred miles who could conveniently attend. It has become a sort of show for these local people and it moves around each year in order to distribute its attractions among all the people, in the spirit of democ-



racy I presume. The Mountain-Plains region extends east and west from Omaha to Reno, a distance of 1,494 miles on the highway; and north and south from Denver to Grand Forks, a distance of 1,004 miles. The simple fact is that a majority of the members who can afford with any regularity to travel such distances for an annual meeting can also afford the annual summer conference of the American Library Association and for obvious reasons they will prefer the latter where there is truly something for everybody and headline speakers galore.

The M.P.L.A., failing to be truly a regional association in more than name and geographic circumference, has failed consistently to attract and hold the library leadership within its eight states. The officers of the Association can be counted upon for about three years: the year before, the year of office-holding, and the year following. The head librarians of the university libraries, the large public libraries, and the state library agencies rarely bother to attend more than a very occasional M.P.L.A. conference, and yet these are usually the library leaders in their local and state organizations. A careful analysis of conference registrations on this point, if the records are still available, could be most interesting. Failing to find in the M.P.L.A. bill of fare regional conference material of inescapable significance, these few prefer to step upward from the state effort directly to the national level. Perhaps seventy-five percent or more of the individuals attending the M.P.L.A. are new from year to year. At what point does this high percentage become a liability rather than as asset? Too high a rate of turnover in any organization can sooner or later spell disaster. What is "too high"?

Four or five years ago I took the initiative in urging the leadership of the M.P.L.A.—the officers of the Association and the head librarians of a variety of types of libraries within the region—to come together to discuss the common elements of librarianship within our region and to outline "a five-or-ten year plan" for the M.P.L.A. I suggested that such a meeting might be held in the fall or in the spring, or that it might be substituted for one of the annual summer meetings, and that Lincoln, Nebraska, where the M.P.L.A. had not yet met, would be pleased to serve as host. The proposal was cried down as undemocratic! What kind of

nonsense is this, when elected and appointed leadership must abdicate its responsibilities in the name of democracy?

I have long thought that a significant and influential core-element on the Mountain-Plains Library Association might always be the Denver Bibliographical Center and the concept of Metropolitan Denver as the natural book center of an area at least five hundred miles in radius. It is now time to assess this concept in terms of its true validity and from something other than a purely promotional point of view. The larger libraries of all types, particularly the city and university libraries in the eastern Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas, now tend to look toward Chicago and its Midwest Inter-library Center, and toward Washington D. C., and its National Union Catalog, as their natural centers of bibliographical control. The time may now be here when regional centers other than those in Chicago and Washington will inevitably serve more compact clienteles in contracting rather than expanding geographic areas. Modern transportation facilities tend to rule out variations in topography as the determinant of library service organization, except for the mere factor of distance alone. One should bear in mind that our postal system is a national one and does not vary locally in speed and cost every time a book or a letter must be hauled up and over a mountain or across a river.

Under the impact of the national Library Services Act I had thought that I would now see strength and solidarity develop in a series of meetings of the heads of the state library agencies within the M.P.L.A. region. Our analysts have stressed our sparsity of population and our great distances as our dominant characteristics and these two, perhaps above all others, must inevitably influence our blueprints for experimental expansion in library service. But to my knowledge such a meeting did not come about. The Library Services Act received its political strength from the state agencies through their state representatives and senators in Congress. The next step up in the orientation and direction of the heads of the state agencies came in regional meetings of a different kind planned out of Washington, D. C., and in national programs conducted within the conference framework

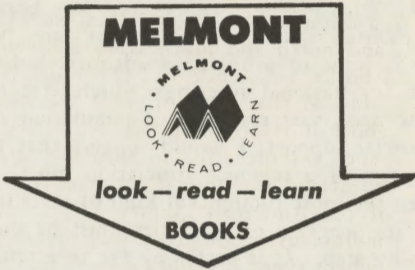


of the American Library Association. Not even the Library Services Act has found core elements of regionalism coincident and consistent with the M.P.L.A.

The Denver University Library School must surely find the entire M.P.L.A. region a fertile field for its endeavors in education for librarianship, since all other library schools of equal standing lie entirely outside the regional borders, and the Denver School is at the geographic center. Not only recruiting for librarianship, but promotional opportunities, and a wide variety of personnel studies of importance to libraries of widely-varying size and type could be hung upon joint enterprises involving both the School and the Association.

Having asked the question "Why Are We Associated?" Milton Abrams emphasized the need to strengthen the Association's *Quarterly*, now in its fifth volume. He said: "It must provide a basic communication between members of the Association, reporting its conventions, and the work of its committees, sections, and officers. If we were closer, if we could meet oftener, so much importance could not be attached to our publication, but so long as we are what we are, where we are, the publication of a first class *Quarterly* is necessary." Perhaps a convenient test case of regional principle can be found in the *Mountain-Plains Library Quarterly* and all of you who read it will have to apply the test, each one of you. Quite apart from simple and obvious elements of local pride and personal curiosity, have you found this quarterly journal to be an essential addition to your own shelf of professional literature since its inception in 1956? Do you find it both desirable and necessary to read it in addition to other library publications which are available to you, or is it simply a burden upon its staff and the Association's treasury, both of which combine to produce it, and really a source of pride only to those whose articles are printed in it?

A regional library association, including our own, can survive and do good work if it has regional reasons for being, and pursues its work vigorously within a regional framework. Librarians who have serious problems with common elements will meet together to work toward their solution. The regional association cannot be just another



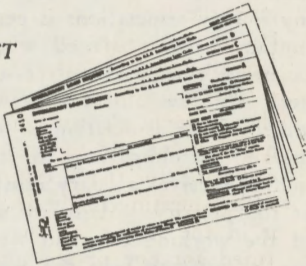
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"state" association, even though it may hope to be a little bigger and better, but boring its clientele with the same bill of fare. Nor can it hope to provide an adequate substitute for national meetings which after all draw upon vast resources of population and financial support. I would suggest that the purposes of a regional association must be given the most thoughtful kind of attention and its program of activities must be built step by step. It is better by far to attempt only a few projects, perhaps only one or two that obviously need attention, and to do them well, than to scatter the efforts of the association over so wide a field of interest and activity that it loses its senses of identity and significance. I would also suggest, if a choice between the two must be made from time to time, that invitational meetings of officers, committee members, and other professional leaders may be more important to the proper functioning of the regional association than the customary annual camp meetings open to all who can find available transportation. In other words, as Frank Hankins put it, "a regional library association will function best if the emphasis is on a working group, rather than a meeting body."<sup>8</sup> At this point his article, entitled "Must Conventions be Conventional?", will bear re-reading for its thoughtful comments on organization and purpose; and also Eli Oboler's "Across State and Provincial Borders: What Regional Library Associations Can Do,"<sup>9</sup> for its suggestions of appropriate interests and activities.

In conclusion I should like to comment upon the most difficult problem we face and the one we are least likely to solve. It concerns available manpower for the work at hand. Nearly all of the work of our many library associations is performed on a voluntary basis. Salaried workers, in the associations chiefly executive-secretaries and editors, are few and far between. Every member of our association is employed at home and his obligations to the job for which he receives a salary must at all times have top priority. Many are willing to extend the working day and week into long hours in order to help the association. The likelihood of success and accomplishment is always greater, however, when the association assignment parallels and to some extent overlaps the responsibilities of the job at

home. If the regional association can concentrate upon regional library problems which obviously must be studied and solved one way or another, its membership can all the more willingly participate in the work. This is true, but true it must be remembered, only up to the economist's point of diminishing returns which every individual must reach and face sooner or later.

Standing committees should be organized to provide continuity, with one or two members of each committee retiring during each presidential year and one or two being appointed. I have more than once had the frustrating experience of having spent the year trying to appoint a whole new slate of committees, only to have them all expire at the end of my term. In such a situation committee productivity is at its lowest point on the scale. *Ad hoc* committees should be appointed for a specific purpose and continued in office until the job is done.

The real work of a regional library association, it would seem, must be done in small group meetings of officers, or committees, or other special hard-working groups. Logically, a general conference should grow out of the need by the membership to hear reports and consider recommendations made by the smaller groups assigned to do the spade work. When a full conference develops out of special work done in this manner, it may then not be inappropriate to attach a general session with an outside speaker, and perhaps even a square dance, a barbecue supper, and a ballad singer, all three, to end the event upon a relaxed and happy note! We have tended to go at the business the other way around and have in some measure failed to get down to the serious work which confronts us!

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## Here and There . . .

**Jerome Cushman** (see his article) is one of 15 librarians invited to go to Sweden to discuss Swedish library problems. Jerry left after attending the ALA meeting in Montreal.

**Carlos Quitino** is Bob Thomas' successor as Librarian of the Hutchinson, Kansas Public Library. He moved over from Dunklin County, Missouri.

**Daniel Seager** (MPLA's top notch treasurer) has declared a dividend within his own home—a little girl in March named Dana Ruthe.

**Dan** had an article in a recent quarterly issue of the journal "Improving College and University Teaching."

### Nevada

Following a precedent set last year, the third annual Nevada School Library Conference was held in two major cities. In Las Vegas it was held in conjunction with the annual convention of the Nevada Council of Teachers of English and Foreign Language April 23-24, and in Reno it was held at the University of Nevada May 7. Theme for this year's meeting was "Richer by Asia", using the new ALA publication and a special companion list prepared by Stanley E. Adams, Reader Services Librarian at the Nevada State Library.

**H. Dean Stalling**, Librarian, North Dakota Agricultural College, is President of the N.D. Library Association. In April he participated in the organizational meeting of the N.D. Research and Development Council, speaking on "How to organize and prepare information for a Bibliography of Research and Statistical Information".

**NDLA** will be held September 29—Oct. 1 at Grand Forks. Headquarters at the city armory. Banquet speaker is Vera Kelsey, author of "The Red River Runs North".

**James Hodgson** (retired) has had published "The Literature on Library Standards; With particular reference to their application to military libraries."

**Miss Ellen Lord**, Librarian at the University of Omaha is Nebraska's member of the Joint Committee on Librarianship as a Career. Miss Lord was just appointed ALA's regional membership chairman for several midwestern states.

**The Salina, Kansas, Public Library** will go on the ballot in November for a new building. Horace Moses of Topeka Public Library has been employed as consultant. Mr. Moses is also consultant for the Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada Public Library.

**Edgar D. Welch** (member M. P. L. A., S. L. A. and A. D. I.), formerly Chief Librarian of the Activation Division of The Martin Company, has joined Advanced Information Center, Denver, Colorado as Librarian-Researcher. His article, *Your Technical Library*, was recently published in *The Engineers Bulletin of the Colorado Society of Engineers*; free reprints may be obtained by writing him at P. O. Box 8223, Denver 19, Colo.

**Lester Asheim's** "2 Library Lectures" given at Emporia's Library School can be obtained free in an attractive pamphlet by writing to Benjamin Richards at the State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas. The lectures deal with the professional role of the Librarian.

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**See You In Denver! Remember!!**

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# Problems For Denver Meeting

## PROBLEM NO. 1

*Question: Does the MPLA now consist of state associations and individual librarians whose interests and problems provide a substantial basis for regional association?*

**Discussion:** It is suggested that our status should be determined as it relates to the Bibliographic Center. This relationship presently involves a "Bib Center" report in the *Quarterly*, and the general notion has grown up that the Bibliographic Center and the libraries it serves should compose our region. This question may very well be the real issue here. This question also calls for a discussion of the present membership and geographical limits of the region. It seems to the officers of the association that if the question above is answered in the affirmative we should proceed with plans to strengthen the association, however, if a committee finds inadequate justifications for the present region it could recommend its dissolution, or a reorganization based on a change in our objectives and/or in our geographical borders.

## PROBLEM NO. 2

*Question: Does the present constitution provide the necessary officers or is it possible or desirable to create the office of executive secretary to conduct the administrative affairs of the association?*

There seems to be a lack of continuity in our program partly at least because we are

Prepared by  
**PRESIDENT ABRAMS**

lacking a permanent type officer whose obligation it would be to manage a register of membership from year to year; to promote and accept payment of dues; to pay the bills of the association, and to keep appropriate records of the meetings of the association.

It should be pointed out that such an executive secretary may now be appointed according to Article V Section 1 of the constitution, but there needs to be a definition of his duties and considerable prestige written into this position.

## PROBLEM NO. 3

*Question: Shall the association meet annually as now provided and if not shall a meeting of the officers and certain select committees meet biennially?*

**Discussion:** For a long time there has been a question about whether or not the convention should be held on alternate years. It has also been suggested, as in the problem above, that the officers and key people meet on off-years to carry on the affairs of the association. This committee should, if it makes such a recommendation, suggest who shall attend and what shall be the nature of the business conducted.

(Continued on Page 16)

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# BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 9, 1960

The following members of the Executive Committee met in the Arthur Lakes Library, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado, at 3:30 p. m. on April 9, 1960: Miss Virginia Wilcox, Chairman of the Executive Committee; Mr. Daniel Seager, Miss Miriam McNally, members of the Executive Committee; Mrs. Eulalia Chapman, Director of the Bibliographical Center; Mrs. Victoria S. Barker, Secretary of the Bibliographical Center.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved, as published in the MPLA Quarterly.

As the Treasurer was out of town, Mrs. Chapman reported that the \$5500 which the Bibliographical Center now has is sufficient to run on. The DPL bill will come in soon.

The Finance Committee is working on its report on a definable basis for the charging of dues, and recommendations for the establishment of a firm financial base for the Center. The report will also include recommendations concerning standard dates for the payment of dues.

It was agreed to ask Miss Alice Spengler, Librarian of Colorado Woman's College, to be the chairman of the Nominating Committee, for libraries paying less than \$100, Miss Alice Payne, Librarian of Nebraska State Teachers College, Kearney, Nebraska, and Miss Lillian Maddox, Librarian, Alamo-gordo Public Library to be the other two members. Alternates, in case any of these cannot serve, are to be Miss Georgia Coffin and Miss Isabelle Anderson.

The Director's Report included the matter of membership. Mrs. Ione McClain, Librarian, Sheridan College, Sheridan, Wyoming, chairman of the Membership Committee, is going to refer prospective members to the membership chairman in each state so that definite acceptance or refusal of membership will be arranged.

The Director's next trip is to Roswell, New Mexico to the Public Library Division of the New Mexico State Library Association. She will talk on "Let the Bibliograph-

ical Center be your Road Runner." She reported a successful trip to Nevada, to their state meeting

It was agreed that the Director should continue to buy the Catalogue de la Bibliotheque Nationale from Kraus, as the newly issued volumes become available.

The Director is now authorized to sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer.

The Bibliographical Center exhibit was used by the Amarillo Public Library for its National Library Week publicity.

The Englewood Junior Chamber of Commerce has voted to make the Bibliographical Center its project for the year.

14,800 requests were made to the Bibliographical Center last year. They received 110,000 regional cards.

It was agreed to continue to publish Bib. Center news and the annual report in the Mountain Plains Library Association Quarterly, and consider the charges later.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed. Mrs. Victoria S. Barker, Secretary,  
Library, Boulder Laboratories  
National Bureau of Standards

## NEW MEMBERS TO JUNE 1960

Lillian de La Torre  
1134 High Street  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Johnson County Library  
8700 West 63rd St.  
Merriam, Kansas  
Mary A. Moore

Exploration Engineering  
114 South Coast Bldg.  
Houston, Texas  
Robert D. Turley  
Clements A. Lehnertz, Jr.

Carnegie Library  
Niobrara County  
Lusk, Wyoming  
Mrs. Jane P. Tyrrell

Nebraska Public Library Commission  
Lincoln 9, Nebraska  
Louise A. Nixon



#### PROBLEM NO. 4

*Question: What shall be the role of sections and committees in MPLA? What problems belong to sections and what problems belong to standing committees?*

Article VIII of the present constitution provides for the organization of appropriate sections and Article VII allows the appointment of such committees as seem necessary to carry on the work of the association. Sections have been organized and have provided programs at each annual meeting, but committees have been appointed at random by the president. New life needs to be given to the sections and some definite status to some standing committees. The distance which separate us, so it seems to us, makes more active committee work necessary.

#### PROBLEM NO. 5

*Question: Is there a need for a revision in the dues schedule for individual and group membership?*

This investigation should include a gen-

eral examination of the entire financial framework of the association. The answer to this question may hinge on the committee's own ambition for the association and its program. We are presently committed to publishing a *Quarterly*, which is, I think our first obligation, but there are other things which need to be done.

#### PROBLEM NO. 6

*Question: What needs to be done now to maintain the Quarterly at its present professional level?*

Ford Rockwell has assumed full personal responsibility for the *Quarterly*, but this should not detract us from our responsibility to provide for its continued financial support; to provide the publication with appropriate editorial support, and status and tenure for the editor. Again what the *Quarterly* does will depend on the objectives and operations of the association, but it seems obvious that we must have a quality publication first.

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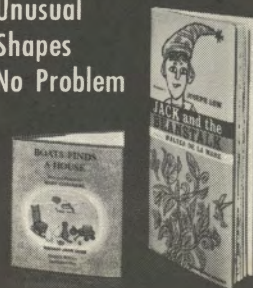
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