ELEVATORS

We are readily identified,
waiting in the square
carpeted, a room
with elevators on three sides,
waiting for the bell,
looking for the light.

Guns and butter,
butter and guns.

The bell rings. A light designates
one of two possibilities.
Doors part, presenting
faces smiling at our faces
smiling at the space that isn't there.
More luck, perhaps, on the other side.

In time we find ourselves,
noses to the goal, on our way
up or down as someone says
"We've got to stop meeting like this".

ALA Midwinter 1980, The Palmer House, Chicago

a poem by David Ferguson

We move in a civil way
between one or another of the acronyms,
words of organization, WOO,
.patiently aware
the committees will be there
at tables set with pens and pad,
the phrases temperately managed,
will be there as we ease between
buzzing in the hive of rooms,
working our
of their concerns)

no need to rush
for friends in the lobby will be there
deciding where it is we are to dine.

Wars and rumors of wars
whirl about outside,
headlines papering the wind.

Books are looking less
like butter every day--
more expendable, sandwiched in--
though they'll be there
after we have dined and died.

(continued on p. 5)
To the editor:

I hope SRRT members might find the enclosed exchange between me and my immediate supervisor of interest. As you may know, we at the Chicago Public Library are assuming more and more duties which appear to be of dubious motivation, while our personnel and book budgets are shrinking drastically.

I have been a member of SRRT for the last year, and am also active in the current drive to unionize CPL. Any comments you may have on this issue would be welcome.

Truly yours,

Raymond

Editors' note: To protect the parties concerned, names have been changed.

To: Raymond

Nov. 26, 1979

As you know, you are the only staff member at the branch who has not taken the voter registration workshop and cannot, of course, register patrons to vote. I originally did not insist that you take the workshop because I deduced from conversations and inquiries with other CPL staff that it was only necessary to make sure that the branch was covered. However, on at least one occasion there was no one at the branch with you who could register people to vote and on at least two other occasions I was called away from my lunch period because you could not register the individuals yourself.

I now feel that for the branch to be effectively covered for this service all qualified personnel should take the workshop.

I am sure you had voiced some objections.

To: Carol

Nov. 29, 1979

As you will recall, when voter registration was initiated at the Chicago Public Library, I submitted a grievance about assuming this duty, which I then decided not to appeal, as our joke of a grievance procedure does not allow any recourse against the Commissioner’s power to expand the scope of our duties.

Voter registration was not one of my assigned duties when I began at CPL and I cannot in good conscience perform a task which is clearly designed by the Byrne administration to expand its own base of support. I believe in work and do not lightly refuse a duty imposed on library staff by my supervisors; however, the issue of the library assuming this has never been thoroughly aired as it should be.

I think the library staff would be quite willing to help register all citizens to vote, as it is a progressive move on the part of CPL.
I may consider them. In any case, please call my secretary to determine when the next workshop will take place so that you may register for it.

Thank you.

Carol

Dear Editors:

My A.L.A. membership expires at the end of 1979, and I am not renewing it. My rationale is that the $50. would be better spent by joining N.O.W. and the National Women's Political Caucus.

However, I would still like to receive the SRRT Newsletter which I appreciated more than anything else sent by A.L.A. last year.

Soo... enclosed is $3. for an affiliate membership and thanks so much for the work you are doing.

Sincerely,

Nina Ramos

SRRT SUITE

Your New York Annual Conference plans should include many visits to the SRRT Suite, a place to relax, caucus, and meet your friends. Beat the high cost of hotel rooms! The parlor and two bedrooms provide ample space for sleeping bags. Share a continental breakfast on Sunday morning, June 29 in the suite with fellow SRRT members. Location of the suite will be announced in the next, pre-conference issue, and widely advertised at the convention. Pass the word along: an alternative, cheap place to sleep in Manhattan is the SRRT Suite!! Contact Julie McCartney, 6 Jones St, #2A, New York, NY 10014 for more information.

...and a booth!

Reach out at the New York Annual Conference by exhibiting your materials at the SRRT booth!!! We need: bibliographies, brochures, flyers, posters, photographs, flags and banners, as well as art and music. Use this professional booth space to educate ALA members on your task force activities.

At least four square feet will be allotted each task force. Please reserve space and indicate types of materials you intend to display so that space can be shared in an equitable way. Contact Elizabeth Morissett, Auraria Libraries at Lawrence and 11th St, Denver, CO 80204 before April 1, 1980.
Interesting Finds at the American Historical Association Conference

by Jackie Eubanks
Brooklyn College Library, New York

Ah! So, being a poor bibliographer from Brooklyn College (History, Africana Studies and Puerto Rican Studies, all of whose budgets have been cut), I ventured abroad to Manhattan to another exhibit area for books: that of the historians with enough money to attend the American Historical Association Conference in the Hilton Hotel, December 27-30, 1979. Here's a list of some of the interesting items I found:

1) Newsletter of the CCWH (Coordinating Committee for Women in the Historical Profession) $12 to $5, depending upon employment status, from Mounted Route #8, Box 373, Plattenburgh, NY 12901.

2) QUASH, the newsletter of the Grand Jury Project published every six weeks by the National Lawyers Guild, which has just joined in the Anti-Klan Network. $6 for most folks; $12 for institutions and non-Guild lawyers. The November-December 1979 issue includes an index for all issues from 1975 to 1979.


4) A flyer from John Knox Press (341 Ponce de Leon Ave, NE, Atlanta, GA 30308) for their book 'restlin' Jacob by Erskine Clarke, a study of ambivalent Southern Christianity in its

BIBLIOGRAPHY

11) Radical America, $10/year for six issues, from Box B, North Cambridge, MA 02140.

12) CLAI (Conference on Latin American History) materials: San Diego State University, Center for Latin American Studies, The College of Arts and Letters, San Diego, CA 92182.


14) Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture, an historical study published and available from Fag Rag, Box 331, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215 at $5.50.


16) And, of course, materials from New England Free Press, 60 Union Square, Somerville, MA 02143.

17) Cultural Correspondence ($7.50/yr, quarterly) whose next issue will be a special one: Looking Back at the 60's, Ahead to the 80's. Address: CC, c/o Dorrwar Bookstore, 224 Thayer St., Providence, RI 02906. Has excellent book reviews and concentration on social history!!!!!
V. K. J's Foundation, P. O. Box 843, Terre Haute, IN 47808. Membership in the tribute to Debs is $5.00 or more, as you can. The brochure, which features John Joseph Laska's murals at Debs House, has been produced with support from the Indiana Dept. of Commerce.

6) Much from MARHO (the Mid-Atlantic Radical Historians Organization) including a free "MARHO Guide to N, Y, C."); with a subscription to the Radical History Review, you will receive also the Radical Historians NEWSLETTER and notices of MARHO Forums and Conferences, for $9.00 (unemployed), $12.50 (employed) and on up for institutions and supporting subs.

7) A publishing project looking for gelt: The Incredible Shrinking American Dream; an illustrated peoples' history of the United States. Advance sales available from: Chicago Comic Book Project, c/o New World Resources Center, 1476 West Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60613, at $4.95 for 1-9 copies, $3.95 for over 10 copies, each.

8) Critical Teaching and Everyday Life, by Ira Shor. $5.50/$12.50 from South End Press, Box 68, Astor Station, Boston, MA 02123.

9) American Labor Films, a new resource book from the Film Library Information Council; $7.00 each, from American Labor Films, Box 348, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019.

10) A phonorecord, Folk and Country Songs of the F.D.R. Years, available from Roy Berkeley, Box 311, Shafsbury, VT 05262. $6.50 each.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The following SRRT members are candidates for ALA Council in the upcoming election. Now more than ever, our political strength depends upon strong representation in this decision-making group. Vote for these SRRT-supported candidates and let our voice be heard!!

President Elect - Annette L. Phinazee
Treasurer - Herbert Biblo
Council -
  Henry C. Chang
  Billie M. Connor
  Diane Gordon Kadanoff
  Joan Higbee
  Clara O. Jackson
  Marjorie Joramo
  Suzanne LeBarron
  Lourdes Lendion Deya
  Joseph F. Lindenfeld
  Doreitha R. Madden
  Gerald Shields
FIGHTING PROP 13

Alameda County Library workers, many of whom were unemployed during the summer of 1978 after the June passage of Proposition 13, formed the Coalition to Restore Quality Library Service. Although the Coalition originated as a group of Young Adult, Children's and Outreach Specialists, the membership quickly expanded to include many others concerned about the future of public libraries and their funding sources. Allies include authors, booksellers, publishers, S.E.I.U. 616, professional associations, educators, legislators, and community supporters. The Coalition has assumed the role of advocate for quality library service, and has emerged as an action-oriented group. Its work is focused on responding to the critical issues surrounding the plight of the library.

Within the scope of our library role we often discuss political issues and provide information. We open ourselves to criticism, however, when as employees we actively promote library-related issues. After the community of library professionals numbly stood by during the summer of 1978 while politicians shut down an entire library system, the Coalition made a conscious decision to become involved and fight for the principle of quality library service.

It is naive to assume that one's administrators and professional State and national organizations can wage the battle for adequate funding alone. The Coalition has organized, worked within the existing political structure and managed to affect some needed changes in the direction of funding.

Why should you buy a "LIBRARIES ARE" t-shirt, sweat shirt or tote bag? As an enthusiastic library supporter, you
The proceeds from t-shirt sales are used to support Coalition activities, including the production of a bi-monthly newsletter, the continued documentation of the short and long term effects of Proposition 13 on library service, the lobbying at local and state levels for restoration of quality library service, and the function of serving as a clearinghouse on information on Proposition 13.

All proceeds help to further Coalition activities.

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Please include handling ($1.50 for first 1-2 items and 50¢ for ea. additional item) $Additional donation to help the cause!! $I would like my name added to Coalition mailing list TOTAL $Please prepay & make checks to Elizabeth Talbot (Coalition Treasurer):

MAIL ORDER TO THE COALITION, E. TALBOT, 5000 LOMA VISTA AVE, OAKLAND CA

SEND ORDER TO: (your name) (address, zip code)

please be patient and allow at least 6-8 weeks for delivery.
ELEVATORS (continued from p. 1)

About the land, from town to town, papers fly like the edge of history into which we go with news of shortages spinning about the thoughtlessness of wheels, the keep of heat, the want of warmth, cities glittering while corridors of the mind darken, surprised at the turn of shadows into which we walk. So much produced-- toasters, plastic spoons and radios-- while the old disparity eats further into our lives.

Guns and butter, butter and guns.

The escalator will deliver us, moving up and down like manikins in soft light of chandeliers, twinkling over the space where we sit, in and out of leather chairs, smoking now and then, on our way to take our time about a drink.

Out of South Africa -- what's to be done?
Guns and butter, butter and guns.

Disaffiliate ourselves from the agency for international documentation.

After talk the council stands and does just that. Good. Something.
To notice that the good world comes, if at all, with ironies, on down time, out of work and noting an absence in the street of gathering before the doors or even signs around of people out of sorts, took to t-shirts and the sale of shopping bags with words designed to advertise the flagging interest.

Who reads anyway?

between the guns and the butter, the butter and guns.

In an auditorium not far from here, a marble movie house nervous with urgency, teachers, payless for weeks, crowd up to microphones with amendments.

The city that works is weakening.

Guns and butter, butter and guns. And the speaker said fight among ourselves for what is left.

So we plan what we can in advance of what we cannot know, waiting for the elevator like items to be assigned, retrieved and stored.
knowing better. Only we can set ourselves off, sit by and hurt, with first hope no more than a ritual priority, the conventional thing.

How many years did we say we could care? Ask those who believed us and have no choice.

Guns and butter, butter and guns.

And budget cuts. No new money. The speaker assures his audience libraries are the warehouse of our civilization. We are told the system works if we address ourselves to it. The same old new motif.

We can no longer afford to be amiable only with the public making use of us. When the bell rings come out chummy in the marketplace for a bigger slice of the smaller pie. Get militant. Daring. Picture your alderman in glass. Tell his story and he'll tell yours where it counts for the hard buck. Support your local repository.

Yet doors close in California leaving all those books to gather dust despite the high regard in which they're held, closing minds (the closers' own disconnected from the hand that manages the wheel) shelved intelligence unpeopled, those often thought of as custodians, shut out, till they --no thanks to ALA locked in the pinch of paper work -- till they

Coming here on the train
I am with nothing to share
At liquor and our caring
In the parlor car, we were visited by a frail young woman,
bowing in to see if she could buy some food.
From Laos. A teacher. A spirit
delicate, courageous, deferential and of great grace
unaltered by the lurching car.

She will see her sister.
It will mean much.
She is pleased to talk with us.
She wishes us luck
like a blessing. Customary.
She is very hungry.
She does not say so.

Guns and butter, butter and guns.

---

Report of the Women's Caucus, NY Chapter, SLA
Sponsored by the Social Sciences Group, the newly-formed Women's Caucus is beginning to address the concerns of women in special librarianship by politically uniting themselves, for the first time, within the Special Libraries Association.

The first meeting took place in Dec., 1979 when Elizabeth Futas led a fruitful discussion on the ways women can solve the problems of coming together to discuss common problems and to formulate strategies for dealing with them. In February the work was carried forward with a panel that provided a framework for identifying women's major concerns. Over 50 people attended to hear Kathy Weibel and Rachel Goldstein speak on problems ranging from professional isolation, changes within the profession that will affect us, and research on these problems. Future plans of the Caucus include publishing a newsletter and encouraging other SLA chapters to form women's groups. A long-range goal is to see the national SLA establish an ongoing, permanent committee for the concerns of women. For information, contact Gurley Turner, Catalyst Library, 14 East 60th St, NY, NY 10022.

Resolved: that the SRRT Action Council heartily endorses the candidacies of Annette Phinizee for ALA President Elect and Herbert Biblo, Treasurer.

The Action Council expressed its deep regret that the Library Bill of Rights was adopted by Council without alteration and without reflecting our concerns of equal protection.

Mary Biblo, Dorthy Puryear and Betty Turock will examine political strategies and develop action plans for the group as part of the effort to increase our effectiveness within ALA.

Miriam Crawford is requesting SRRT materials for our archives, located at the University of Illinois Library. When an accumulation of papers is passed on from a retiring officer or task force worker, the "taking-over" person should send on papers no longer needed to her.

SRRT Treasurer Betty Turock has requested all task forces to submit a written statement to her when requesting funds.

LC & WOMEN

The ALA Subject Analysis Committee's Subcommittee on Racism and Sexism in Subject Analysis submitted its interim report at the Midwinter Meeting in Chicago. The final report will be submitted this June in New York. The Subcommittee is seeking particularly, at this point, comments on LC subject analysis of women-related materials (specificity of access, bias, etc.); comments on the adequacy of LC classification of women-related materials (particularly the H schedule); and comments on any other perceived bias in subject analysis or classification. Please send information on women-related issues to Joan K. Marshall, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY 11210 and information on other issues to Elizabeth Dickinson, Technical Services Coordinator, Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library, 605 North El Dorado, Stockton, CA 95202.

NEW TASK FORCE

The SRRT Library Union Task Force was founded at the 1980 Chicago Midwinter meeting. Creation of the group was proposed by Joan Higbee, Processing Services Department of the Library of Congress, and it was approved by the
In April, copies of the Survey of Library Service in Local Correctional Facilities will be available from the ASCLA office at ALA headquarters. This survey is the culmination of a project started six years ago by the SRRT Task Force on Service to Prisoners, which is now the Library Service to Prisoners section of ASCLA. Estimated cost of the publication is $9.00. Its 280 pages include a directory for each state of libraries serving local jails and youth correctional facilities, a summary of state patterns of service, and selected state charts of different kinds of service offered to each institution.

Access is further enhanced by a geographic index and an expanded subject index, which covers more than 450 current topics, including abortion, energy, gay rights, religions, ageism and youth liberation, as well as over 50 form headings.

This hard-bound edition sells for $39.95; SRRT members can order the volume at 10% discount by using the coupon below. Order your copy of Alternatives in Print today!!

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