NEW YORK,
JUNE 28-JULY 4

schedule of SRRT meetings

Thursday, 6/26 & Friday, 6/27:
* TF on Women / Status of Women Preconf.,
  Cook College, Rutgers Univ., New Jersey
Saturday, 6/28:
* TF on Women, Sheraton Centre, Regency
  Ballroom, 2-4 p.m.
Sunday, 6/29:
* BREAKFAST, Sheraton Centre SRRT
  Suite, 8-11 a.m.
* Action Council, Hilton, O'Henry Room,
  2-4 p.m.
* Alternatives in Print, Barbazon Plaza,
  Studio M, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
* Farm Workers, Hilton, O'Henry Room,
  4:30-5:30 p.m.
* Peace Information, Barbazon Plaza,
  Studio D, 8-10 p.m.
* TF on Women, Sheraton Centre, Georgian
  Ballroom A, 8-10 p.m.

Monday, 6/30:
* SRRT MEMBERSHIP Barbazon Plaza,
  South Gallery, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
* SRRT/IFRT Program, Sheraton Centre,
  Georgian Ballroom, 2-5:30 p.m.
* TF on Women, Waldorf Astoria, Basildon
  Room, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
* ALA MEMBERSHIP I, Sheraton Centre,
  Imperial Ballroom, 8-10 p.m.

Tuesday, 7/1:
* Ethnic Materials, Sheraton Centre,
  Commonwealth Room, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
* Coretta Scott King Award Breakfast,
  N.Y. Sheraton, Ballroom, 7:30 a.m.
* Library Union TF, Sheraton Centre,
  Georgian Ballroom B, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
* Gay Liberation TF, Sheraton Centre,
  Versailles Terrace, 2-4 p.m.
* TF on Women, Waldorf Astoria, Gold
  Room, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
* TF on Women / LAMA Program, 2-4 p.m.

Wednesday, 7/2:
* Action Council, Hilton, Nassau Room A,
  11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
* Gay Liberation TF, Hilton, Nassau
  Room B, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
* Tools for Consciousness-Raising TF,
  Barbazon Plaza, South Gallery, 4:30-
  5:30 p.m.

Thursday, 7/3:
* ALA MEMBERSHIP II, Sheraton Centre,
  Royal Ballroom, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

PROGRAM INFO INSIDE
LIBRARY UNION TASK FORCE

Our newest task force is well on the way to becoming one of the busiest, reports chairperson Joan Higbee of the Processing Dept. of the Library of Congress. At the business meeting in New York (Tuesday, July 1, 9:30 am) Joan will lead a discussion on the plans this group hopes to work on. They will be publishing a newsletter in the near future, and Joan urges any and all to attend the meeting to help them get started. The task force is concerned with the following eight initial objectives:

1. To bring together, within the framework of ALA, individuals from a wide range of labor organizations and bargaining units covering library and information science staff.

2. To serve as a clearinghouse for the exchange of ideas on problem solving and for exploration of the needs, goals, and objectives of all groups of library and information science personnel operating within a collective bargaining environment.

3. To provide a center within ALA for individuals who wish to discuss the ideas, experiences, and expertise of organized library and information science staff. Library-Union Task Force members will be prepared to convey these concerns to groups within ALA and to the library profession at large.

4. To offer through program meetings and discussions an opportunity for non-unionized library and information science staff to gain a better understanding of the spectrum of interests and experiences of their unionized colleagues.

5. To provide library and information science students, as well as faculty members, with an opportunity to understand the library union movement from the perspective of those actively involved in its evolution and implementation.

6. To publicize and support the ALA position on collective bargaining (see below).

7. To promote an understanding of the individual library worker's right to a broad, ongoing awareness of the missions, functions, and objectives of his or her institution.

8. To address the need that library and information science workers have to be fully informed participants within their institutions and to develop an understanding of their right to promote the public interest by seeking to contribute to the library profession at large.
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING:

ALA'S STATEMENT OF POLICY

The American Library Association recognizes the principle of collective bargaining as one of the methods of conducting labor-management relations used by private and public institutions. The Association affirms the right of eligible library employees to organize and bargain collectively with their employers, or to refrain from organizing and bargaining collectively, without fear of reprisal.

STATEMENT OF GUIDELINES RELATED TO THE ABOVE POLICY

The membership of ALA consists of persons, libraries, and other organizations interested in libraries and librarianship, thus including employees, employers, and individuals and institutions which are neither library employees nor employers.

The ALA recognized its national, occupational, and professional responsibilities to educate and provide pertinent information to concerned groups regarding library unionization and collective bargaining. No one pattern or organization for library collective bargaining can be recommended for all libraries. As a national educational organization, the ALA will:

1. inform librarians, other library employees, library administrators, trustees, boards of education, and appropriate officials about collective bargaining trends, methods, and techniques.

2. assist librarians, other library employees, library administrators, trustees, boards of education, union organizations, and appropriate officials in gathering data and information to enable them to develop better employment patterns and contracts.

3. encourage and conduct educational programs to train librarians, other library employees, library administrators, trustees, boards of education, and appropriate officials in collective bargaining, and in working effectively within contractual employment patterns.

4. encourage type-of-library divisions to develop guidelines and recommendations for the pattern(s) of organization for collective bargaining for their type of institution.

6/26/79
BOOK FAIRS...

waterways

If you are lucky enough to extend your vacation time in New York past the conference week, you'll be able to attend the Waterways Book Fair in Manhattan. Waterways is an ongoing project in poetry; writing seminars, public readings, and public readings are offered frequently by the participants. On Friday and Saturday, July 4 and 5, from noon until 6 p.m., the Waterways Fair will be held at the South Street Seaport, at 211 Water Street. Thirty-one presses will be represented, and poetry readings will continue throughout the afternoons.

michaux

The fifth annual Lewis H. Michaux Book Fair in Harlem this year honored John O. Killens, author of And Then We Heard the Thunder and Great Gittin' Up Morning: The Story of Denmark Vesey. The Fair was held May 23-25 at the Studio Museum, and featured films and readings for children, poetry readings by black artists, and a large display of publications. Disappointingly, no catalog was available this year, but information about the Michaux Book Fair is obtainable nonetheless from the Studio Museum in Harlem, 2033 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY (at 125th Street and Fifth Ave, an interesting place to visit during the ALA Conference!).

Here's a list of some interesting items discovered at the Michaux Book Fair:

1. A pamphlet from the Black New York Action Committee, 321 W. 125th St., Harlem, NY 10027 entitled The Transit Strike: Myths, Realities, & Struggle. This is a political analysis of a municipal union and its black workers. The Committee is actively seeking names for a mailing list, so write them a letter.

2. The Black Emergency Cultural Coalition Newsletter was there, giving out information on community arts, prison arts programs, and art therapy. To request a copy of the Newsletter, write to them at 463 West St., New York, NY 10014.

3. NokPublishers specializes in books on African history. Write for a list of titles from them at 150 Fifth Ave, NY, NY 10011.

4. Black Liberation Press, Box 955, Harlem, NY 10027 has a variety of interesting titles in print.

5. Most of the materials exhibited at the Michaux B.F. can be obtained from a new distributor who was on hand: Nkiru International Book Enterprises is located at 1 Virginia Place, Brooklyn, NY 11213.
1980 saw the sixth annual New York Book Fair, the largest exhibit of alternative publishing in America. It was held in early April at New York University's Loeb Student Center, in the middle of a public transportation strike. People bicycled, walked, skate boarded and roller skated to the Fair, bringing in record attendance. A special feature was the Collective Book Exhibit, composed of a number of small presses listed in the 6th edition of Alternatives in Print (for a discount coupon for AIP, see SRRT Newsletter #55). The Collective Book Exhibit staffers prepared a list of its contributors; write for a copy from Jackie Eubanks, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY 11210. A list of all other exhibitors can be obtained by sending a SASE to Suzanne Zavarian, 321 W. 94th Street, NY, NY 10025.

A briefly annotated catalog of publishers was available at the Fifth NY Book Fair; the catalog was snapped up by librarians at the 1980 Midwinter Conference. Copies are still available free of charge. Request one by writing David Ferguson, 411 W. 22nd Street, NY, NY 10011 (being sure to include a legal-size SASE).

Here are some "finds" from the NYBF:

Available from the Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company (600 W. Jackson, Suite 413, Chicago, IL 60606) are these new titles of the Illinois Labor History Society:

Pilsen and the West Side, by William Adelman. Focuses on the once Bohemian community along 18th Street in Chicago, which was the scene of action in the "Chicago Bohemian Rebellion" of 1892. 320 pp. $4.50.


Also available from Charles H. Kerr are two new titles of the Industrial Workers of the World:

One Big Union. Argues one union for the working class can work. 32 pp. $1.00.

Joe Hill, IWW Song Writer, by Dean Nolan. Born 1878, executed 1915, Hill's songs live on. 32 pp. $1.00.

Women and non-traditional medicine is the topic of two separate but similar new books. Herbal Remedies for Women is a 20-page book of herbal preparations and recipes. It is available for $3.70 (includes postage) from Feminist Health Works, 487-A Hudson St., NY, NY 10014. Hygleia: A Women's Herbal by Jeannine Parvati is a much longer paperback that weaves the ancient practice of herbalism with the new women's consciousness and holistic health. It is available from: Hygleia, Box 4048, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 at a cost of $10.00 (California residents, add 54¢ sales tax).

The Motheroot Journal: A Women's Review of Small Press Books is published quarterly from 214 Dewey St., Pittsburgh, PA 15218. The cost of an individual copy is $1 and the 4 times yearly subscription price is $4.
SOURCEBOOK

Gay Theatre Alliance Directory of Gay Plays, compiled and edited with an introduction by Terry Helbing (JH Press, New York, NY; 1980; ISBN 0-935672-00-1). The Directory has comprehensive information on plays with major gay characters and/or predominant gay themes. The plays included are only those which have gayness or gay people as their main, primary, or at least, very important focus, theme or concern. Appendices include "lost" plays (those for which complete information could not be obtained), a list of gay theatre companies, and an index of playwrights.

The Directory is the first publication of JH Press, a new gay publication company specializing in gay theatre publications. In the coming months, JH Press will be publishing a series of play scripts of significant gay theatre productions by major gay playwrights. Write for more information from Terry Helbing, 51 W. 4th Street, NY, NY.

Guide to Women's Art Organizations: Groups/Activities/Networks/Publications, edited by Cynthia Navaretta and published by Midmarch Associates/Women Artists News, 1979 (P. O. Box 3304, Grand Central Sta., NY, NY 10017). An interdisciplinary network is building among women artists, whatever their special pursuits or geographical location. One of the purposes of this Guide is to provide a vehicle for the extension of that network. Another purpose is to reach individual women still working in isolation, to help them find a point of entry into a broad and expanding movement. The book includes groups/activities/networks/publications dealing with a wide variety of the arts: painting, sculpture, photography, film & video, theatre, dance, design, etc. It includes an extensive bibliography and resource list. Each copy is $4.50 to individuals, $5.00 to institutions; first-class mail, add $.50 per copy.

Do not hallucinate.

Gay Theatre Alliance Directory of Gay Plays, compiled and edited with an introduction by Terry Helbing (JH Press, New York, NY; 1980; ISBN 0-935672-00-1). The Directory has comprehensive information on plays with major gay characters and/or predominant gay themes. The plays included are only those which have gayness or gay people as their main, primary, or at least, very important focus, theme or concern. Appendices include "lost" plays (those for which complete information could not be obtained), a list of gay theatre companies, and an index of playwrights.

The Directory is the first publication of JH Press, a new gay publication company specializing in gay theatre publications. In the coming months, JH Press will be publishing a series of play scripts of significant gay theatre productions by major gay playwrights. Write for more information from Terry Helbing, 51 W. 4th Street, NY, NY.

Guide to Women's Art Organizations: Groups/Activities/Networks/Publications, edited by Cynthia Navaretta and published by Midmarch Associates/Women Artists News, 1979 (P. O. Box 3304, Grand Central Sta., NY, NY 10017). An interdisciplinary network is building among women artists, whatever their special pursuits or geographical location. One of the purposes of this Guide is to provide a vehicle for the extension of that network. Another purpose is to reach individual women still working in isolation, to help them find a point of entry into a broad and expanding movement. The book includes groups/activities/networks/publications dealing with a wide variety of the arts: painting, sculpture, photography, film & video, theatre, dance, design, etc. It includes an extensive bibliography and resource list. Each copy is $4.50 to individuals, $5.00 to institutions; first-class mail, add $.50 per copy.
The Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Task Force is prepared, once again, to submit a petition for the organization of a ROUND TABLE to carry of the work of the t. f.

Copies of the petition can be obtained from David Cohen, Coordinator, 68-ll Bell Blvd., Bayside, N.Y. 11364; the following is a copy of the petition.

New Name: Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Round Table

Rationale:

1. Because librarians, in serving the total community, work with people from many ethnic groups, the Round Table will enable us to expand our services to the membership both in terms of multiethnic materials and programs.

2. The Round Table will provide an opportunity for more members to share the work and responsibility through the electoral process and task forces for the development of materials and programs.

Purpose:

1. To serve as a source of information on recommended ethnic collections, services and programs.

2. To organize task forces, institutes and workshops to carry out the functions of the Round Table as defined in the petition.

3. To develop for annual conferences, forums, symposia and programs that deal with the key issues of ethnicity and librarianship.

4. To develop support in ALA for improved library services to the diverse ethnic minorities in the community, especially the unserved.

5. To maintain a liaison with the Office of Library Services to the Disadvantaged and cooperate with other ALA units including the caucuses in joint projects for the betterment of Outreach services.

6. To design research projects with funding support to measure the impact of multiethnic collections and services.

7. To organize a system of awards for librarians, authors and publishers for their contributions in overcoming discrimination, prejudice, racism, sexism and stereotyping in materials and services.

8. To disseminate the work of the Round Table through a program of publications. There is an urgent need for an effective exchange of information in the Ethnic area in the form of a Newsletter to be financed by the nominal dues for the Round Table.

Organization:

1. Election of officers and Executive Council by members.

2. Organization of Task Forces to do specific jobs.
Don't miss what is certain to be one of the more lively programs of the Conference! This long-awaited debate/discussion will focus on the inter-relationship of the first and fourteenth amendments: freedom of speech with freedom for equal protection. Herb Biblo will moderate the program, which will be held Monday, June 30 from 2:30-5:30 pm (see front page for location). Speakers include lawyers Dorothy Samuels of the American Civil Liberties Union and Howard Meyer, author of The Amendment That Would Not Die. Other panalists are Dr. Kay Martin of the N.Y. State Office of Mental Health, a representative from Women Against Pornography, and Barbara Bryant, vice-president of Phoenix Films. Central to the panalists' remarks will be ALA's Resolution on Racism and Sexism. Time will be reserved for questions and observations from the audience.

Literary Classics: Understanding Their Socio-historical Biases is the title of this task force's program on Wednesday, July 2 from 4:30-5:30. Chair DonnaE MacCann will introduce Professor Alison G. Sulloway, Dept. of English, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. By examining sexist and non-sexist approaches to literary criticism, Dr. Sulloway will provide a model for understanding sexism, racism, and other sociohistorical phenomena in the realm of literary achievement. Professor Sulloway's research studies have focused upon how literary and social institutions have influenced our perceptions as readers.

The SRRT Task Force on Women and the Council Committee on the Status of Women will be sponsoring the second ALA Preconference to focus on women's concerns. The theme of the preconference is the politics of the profes-
The agenda for Tuesday morning's business meeting of the Ethnic Materials Information Exchange T. F. includes discussing the petition for Round Table status, the program for San Francisco, 1981, and a report of the awards subcommittee. It will convene in the Sheraton Centre's Commonwealth Room at 8 a.m.

The EMIE program, which will be held in the Sheraton Centre's Georgian Ballroom A from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., is entitled Serving Your Ethnic Community: A Kaleidoscopic View of a Creative Ongoing Program. It will be a presentation of a series of creative and successful programs that serve the ethnic community. This is the final segment of a tripartite design begun in Chicago in 1978 that dealt with Tracking Community Ethnicity. At Dallas, 1979, the focus was Getting to Know Your Ethnic Community. The facilitator for this program, Natalia Davis, Director of the Spanish Information Center, Brooklyn Public Library, will introduce the speakers:

Joyce F. Cupples, Media Specialist who has worked with the Australian Aborigenes...
Nazar Tiwana, Project Director, Chicago P. L. currently involved in the expansive "America's Ethnic Heritage Program!"...also: David Cohen, Queens College, Ruth Ann Thomas, Rutgers University, and Arnulfo Trejo, Univ. of Arizona, who are presently engaged in library training programs for minority groups.

Following the opening presentation, there will be more than a dozen reporters from around the country and Canada who will describe a wide variety of multicultural activities with the use of illustrative materials. This will be done in small group panels at table settings. A complete, annotated list of the programs will be distributed to focus on women's concerns. The theme of the preconference is the politics of the profession - both on the job and in professional associations and groups. Speakers will include Kathy Weibel on a brief history of women in librarianship, Pat Schuman on women and the politics of ALA, Kay Cassell on building political alliances with other women's groups, Diane Kadanoff on the job search in a male dominated profession, and Regina Menudri on library administration and feminist values.

The Preconference will be held in Voorhees Residence Hall, Cook College (Rutgers University), New Brunswick, New Jersey on June 25, 26, and 27. The format of the preconference includes both speakers and action oriented small group discussions and workshops. There are a few spaces still available, so if you haven't registered yet, there is still time if you act now!! The conference fee of $75 includes registration, room, all meals and the Saturday morning transportation to New York.

Register by contacting Jody Bush Pitzenberger, 20 Elton Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02906 (w, 401-521-7722, ex. 207; h, 401-331-3396).

---

**Times Square Tour**

At the joint SRRT/IFRT program (above) you can register for a conducted tour of Times Square, led by a staff member of Women Against Pornography. The tour will be limited to 30 participants, and will cost $5 per person. The group will meet at the Women Against Pornography headquarters, 579 Ninth Avenue (corner of 42nd Street) at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 2.
Task Forces

WOMEN

The first business meeting of the Task Force on Women (Sat., June 28, 2-4 p.m.) will be a report and follow-up on the Preconference and nominations for Steering Committee. This will be an exciting meeting, because action items are certain to come out of the preconference.

The June 29, Sunday meeting will be a two part discussion meeting on library services for women and library programs about women. Sheila Hess, until recently librarian with NOW, would like to discuss current services and potential services with librarians who are providing library and information services to women. Barbara Haber, Curator of Books, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, will report the results of a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant is to develop methods for encouraging public libraries to offer programs about women. She is seeking response to the plan before writing an implementation grant.

The major program/workshop of the task force is being cosponsored with the LAMA Women Administrators Discussion Group and the Status of Women in Librarianship Committee. "Career Stress and Career Change" will be presented by Marcia Fox on Tuesday, July 1, 2-4 p.m. (for location, see front page).

Dr. Fox is author of a career-planning and job-hunting guide, Put Your Degree to Work. Until recently, Dr. Fox was assistant dean in charge of career counseling and job placement at N.Y.

THE SRRT SUITE

Our reservation for a suite at the Sheraton Centre has been confirmed; SRRT members and friends will find this one-bedroom parlor suite a welcome haven in the hustle of ALA. SRRT will use the suite as "headquarters" for the conference; a place to caucus, meet, relax and keep in touch with Council happenings.

Don't forget to attend SRRT's "Open House/ Breakfast" in the Suite on Sunday morning, June 29, from 8-11 a.m. We hope to use this time with SRRT/ALA Council members to great advantage: discussing important Council documents and issues, identifying those questions we should be aware of, and planning. Of course, we're also planning to have a good time at this get-together!

The Suite will be open from Saturday afternoon, June 28 until Friday, July 4. "Sleeping-baggers" will be welcome to sleep over during the conference for a mere token monetary sum. The Sheraton
career counseling and job placement at N.Y. University's Graduate School of Public Administration. She is now in a unique position to discuss career change because in April she left the academic world and entered the private sector, as Associate Research Director for a human resources communications and consulting firm.

The July 1 workshop will include methods for identifying the origins of career stress and ways to structure an action plan for eliminating stress. Career change within the profession or to another profession will be discussed as one possible approach to decreasing stress. Dr. Fox warns that career change itself can be a very stressful situation. In making a decision to change careers "make sure you know what you're all about and make sure you know what you want and make sure you're twice as smart as everybody else out there looking for the same thing". The workshop will not solve all career stress problems, but will guide the participants in realistically identifying the problems and possible solutions.

a mere token monetary sum. The Sheraton Centre cannot say which room we will occupy until check-in time, but will allow us to post the suite's location in the hotel. Look for the signs, and come on up!

PEACE/SRRT BOOTH

Elizabeth Morissett, Chairperson of the Peace Information Exchange Task Force, has been organizing the SRRT booth in the professional exhibits hall. Thanks to her work, PIE and other SRRT groups have the chance to educate ALA members on task force activities and interests. The exhibit will have bibliographies, brochures, flyers, posters and much much more.
LIBRARIES AND
THE SMALL PRESS

in the light of ALA Mid-winter, 1980.

By David Ferguson

In a crowd of acronyms, plentiful enough for aerospace to envy, it was fun to wear a set of generally unexpected letters. COSMEP Newsletter, Non-member, PRESS. Yet I felt at home. Small Press people are, after all, librarians of a sort, in that we exist to bring writers and readers together on a nonprofit or less basis. We select works we feel will be of interest to others regardless of how few in number those others turn out to be.

And we are both occasionally viewed by the general public, if we are viewed at all, as something of an oddity. A library administrator gave me an example of the attitude. At one conference he visited the bar with an undesignated lapel. The man drinking next to him put an arm on his shoulder and observed, "You know, there're 20,000 librarians in this hotel. Isn't that creepy?"

As I talked with the administrator about the Small Press it occurred to him that there ought to be an ALA Task Force on the Small Press. It was such an obvious need that I could hardly believe such a Task Force didn't already exist. Literary Magazines (CCLM) went through a $439,636 Ford Foundation grant for a Pilot Distribution Project, yet the problem is still very much with us. Even those publications that manage to survive through sheer will or grants or a combination of both have great difficulty in reaching an audience. The main avenue for distribution of BOX 749, the magazine a group of us publish in New York, is the street where I manage to sell it between intermittent, brief and unprofitable conversations with the police.

As selectors, editors and librarians have their work cut out. Many of us, who, as writers, have been passed over by the commercial elite do not relish the irony of having to become selectors. It is the most demanding part of the job. Who is to say this is good and that bad? Each Small Press has its own approach. A few no longer take unsolicited manuscripts. For myself, I believe judgments, however difficult, can be made in good conscience. (For one thing, there are so
It was such an obvious need that I could hardly believe such a Task Force didn't already exist. However, with the exception of Alternative In Print, there are no bridges designed specifically to connect libraries and the Small Press.

**Alternatives In Print** is a catalog of Small Press materials originally focused on political and alternative life-style publications. Jackie Eubanks, Mimi Penchansky and other members of the Alternatives In Print Task Force of ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT, pronounced to rhyme with alert) organized in 1969 to compile and produce this book. The current edition, just released by Neal-Schuman, Publishers, lists publications by author and title and includes 750 titles in foreign languages. The project that resulted in this expanded edition was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities co-ordinated by Elliot Shore, curator of the Small Press collection at Temple University. *Alternatives In Print* now sells for $39.95. (The remaining nickel will buy you a poem.)

The most heavily traveled bridge, one from the Small Press to the world at large, began fifteen editions ago: Len Fulton and Edna Ferber's *International Directory of Little Magazines and Small Presses* ($11.95 paper, $15.95 cloth). In many ways it has made possible the growth of the Small Press that its size now reflects. Other source books under the Dustbooks imprint: *The Small Press Record of Books in Print*, *The Directory of Small Magazine & Small Press Editors & Publishers* as well as *The Small Press Review*.

Distribution is the major problem of the Small Press. COSMEP tried a Book Van project and the Coordinating Council of...
was to bring Small Press to libraries. But the business of general distribution is less susceptible to informal organization than is the small, individual press. It's often hard enough for a commercial distributor to succeed. WIP, along with a number of other Small Press efforts at distribution, has gone out of business.

In the east, Alex Harvey, chairperson of COSMEP for 1979, initiated Small Press Racks In Libraries (SPRIL). SPRIL provided a workable method of acquainting librarians and public with the Small Press while giving librarians a chance to see what needs these publications met. Yet the NEA Literature Panel discontinued funding despite the contribution made by presses in giving their publications freely to the project. Perhaps a SRRT Task Force could look into ways librarians could help the Literature Panel recognize the value of such efforts.

Despite currently discouraging circumstances libraries remain a most appropriate and logical place for Small Press to be made available to the public. In the 1950s, when Sparrow Press started, library subscriptions made presses possible. Sixty percent of Sparrow's subscribers come from libraries, schools and other institutions. "If it were not for the libraries, we should be hard put to explain our activities," says Stefanile.

Frederick Crews, in a New York Review of Books piece on the Partisan Review, described most other little magazines as "mayflies of the literary world," a world composed, presumably, of more durable bugs. Lack of longevity, though not a dependable index of worth, is a problem for libraries. To some extent it becomes a chicken and egg situation. If more libraries subscribed more magazines and presses would survive. The notion that the fittest literature will make it in the Small Press than is generally perceived. But it happens locally and on an individual basis. For example, Jack Rittenhouse, a librarian in Albuquerque, is collecting works of authors in New Mexico, including Small Press publications. There are some 60 Small Press collections in libraries across the country. These collections are a good idea, but it would be even better if Small Press publications were more generally available. Librarians wanting to complete the record, especially of poetry, fiction and political thought, will have to become increasingly familiar with the Small Press.

The more I think about the possibilities of cooperation between ALA and COSMEP the more it makes sense. We could isolate some of the problems librarians have in dealing with the Small Press. Solutions could be worked out together. A Joint Committee or SRRT Task Force could facilitate exhibition of Small Presses at both Mid-winter and Annual Conferences.

COSMEP could also work with members of ALA in setting up poetry readings and other joint ventures. Certainly, any support from Small Press for libraries under attack by Proposition 13 thinking would be welcome.

In fact, why not create a National Small Press In Libraries Project co-sponsored by COSMEP and ALA?

Novelist Frederick Busch, in an essay, "When People Publish" (The Ohio Review, Spring/Summer, 1979) looks at the place of libraries in his life:

What is published is, more or less, what will sell. Perhaps it has always been the case, if to a lesser degree. But the library, anyway, was the place I went for
more magazines and presses would survive. The notion that the fittest literature will make it in the marketplace is optimistic, if not disingenuous. If larger and smaller Littles share any understanding it is that immediate popularity and literary merit or political validity seldom coincide. Good work and hard thought do not drive shallowness from the marketplace. All commerce of the mind ultimately depends on accepted conventions of support, one way or another, and libraries seem to me one of the most important.

Regularity of publication is another virtue that has not been a conspicuous attribute of the Small Press. (Some years ago a publication called The Incredible Bureaucrat, avoided the problem squarely by conceding that it came out "with alarming frequency.") An increased presence of Small Press in libraries would help some of us to publish more predictably, an understandably desirable objective from the librarian's point of view no less than ours. We are both dedicated to reaching people with the written word. Small Press editors work hard at no pay just to be in touch with a public. The more writers and readers have access to our publications in libraries the more we, as publishers, will be able to serve them. The library is a place where we keep in touch with each other.

Librarians are interested, many even anxious to include Small Press works. The 300 catalogs of the 1978 New York Book Fair that I took to Chicago were snapped up with enthusiasm. I could have taken 1000. From a number of random conversations and from what I heard at meetings I came to suspect that there is more happening in libraries concerning case, if to a lesser degree. But the library, anyway, was the place I went for what was written, not for what was selling. It was the dark continent; it was the place for discovery. I think this no longer is the case.

It is that continent of discovery that must survive. Those of us in libraries and the Small Press who work to enhance the availability of such public sharing, despite the prevalence of a commercialism, ostensibly democratic, that insists on making the least possible choice available to the largest number, might do well to work together.

Editors' note: The following article was submitted after this issue had gone to press. Because of its timely nature, it is included in the "1980 Conference" Newsletter.
SRRT MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:

To join, subscribe, or renew, please send this coupon—with payment—to:
***ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE, c/o J. McCartney, 6 Jones St. #2A, New York, NY 10014
Please make checks payable to ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE. THANKS!

Name: ____________________________________________

Street: ____________________ City: ______ State: _____ Zip: ______

Is this a new subscription? _____ A renewal? _____ Amount enclosed: ______

$5(ALA Personal Member) $3(Affiliate, non-ALA Member) $20(Institution. Back issues are available at $1 each. $ (numbers ________)

SRRT Newsletter Staff
Bob Baer, Treasurer
Barbara Bendoris, Head of Production
Julie McCartney, Editor
Paul Miller, Membership/Promotion

SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE
Julie McCartney
Paul Miller
Michael O'Brien

SRRT ACTION COUNCIL OFFICERS
Ruth Aronison
Leslie Berman
C. Michael Diodati
Bradford Chambers, Secretary/Conf. Arrangements and Programs
Jim Dwyer
Marlene England, Affiliates Liaison Task Force Coordinator
Marjorie Joramo, Coordinator
Donnarae MacCann
Barbara Pruett
Betty Turock, Treasurer

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOC./
SRRT Clearinghouse
Brooklyn College Library
Brooklyn, New York 11210