



Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter ALA

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ELEVATORS

APR 8 1980

LIBRARY

ALA Midwinter 1980, The Palmer House, Chicago

a poem by David Ferguson

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 gold, on our way
up or down as someone says
"We've got to stop meeting like this".

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 out side,
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)

INSIDE: 1980 ALA Elections, p.3. The T-Shirt Business, p. 4.
Special Alternatives in Print Coupon, p.6.

To the editor:

December 19, 1979

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.

LETTERS...

Nov. 29, 1979

Nov. 26, 1979

To: Raymond

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.

At one time you had voiced some objections to taking this workshop. If you still have objections you should put them in writing so that 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

To: Carol

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 city's part, if it were not for the extreme shortages of staff, which already mean that programs and service of the CPL will be cut next year.

I agree that a one-woman stand by me against performing this duty is pretty meaningless and does place a burden on you as branch head, but would welcome the opportunity to reopen the issue.

Your friend,

Raymond

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.

Sooo...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 Morrissett, Auraria Libraries at Lawrence and 11th St, Denver, CO 80204 before April 1, 1980.

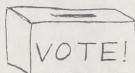
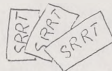
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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 CGWHP (Coordinating Committee kon 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.
- 3) Catalogs from Nok Publishers International, specialists in African History, 150 Fifth Ave, New York, NY 10011.
- 4) A flyer from John Knox Press (341 Ponce de Leon Ave, NE, Atlanta, GA 30308) for their book Wrestlin' Jacob by Erskine Clarke, a study of antebellum Southern Christianity in its encounter with slavery. \$6.95, paper.
- 5) A free historical pamphlet from the Eugene V. Debs 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 Lacka'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.
- 11) Radical America. \$10/year for six issues, from Box B, North Cambridge, MA 02140.
- 12) CLAH (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.
- 13) Ethnic Politics in Urban America: The Polish Experience in Four Cities, edited by Angela T. Pienkos, available for \$6.95 from the Kosciuszko Foundation Book Service, 15 East 65th St., New York, NY 10021.
- 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.
- 15) English Women in Print, 1475-1700, an annotated bibliography and subject index, in progress. Contact Allison Heisch, Project Director, English Women in Print, The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA 91108.
- 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!!!!



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 Biblio
Council -
Henry C. Chang
Billie M. Connor
Diane Gordon Kadanoff
Joan Higbee
Clara O. Jackson
Marjorie Joramo
Suzanne LeBarron
Lourdes Lendon Deya
Joseph F. Lindenfeld
Doreitha R. Madden
Gerald Shields

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,
limitations and dangers
is not necessarily to settle down
in the likelihood of our futility,
fingers cold about the beer,
knowing better. Only we
can write 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
comes 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
in garages closed
despite the high regard
in which they are 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

on down time, out of work
and noting an absence in the street
of gathering
the doors
or even signs around

of people out of sorts,
look 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 announcements.

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,
waiting to be placed
by an odd majority.

Coming here on the train
at 2 am with nothing to share
but 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 to look
like a blessing. Customary.
She is very hungry.
She does not say so.

Guns and butter,
butter and guns.

Report of the Womens' Caucus, NY Chapter, SLA

Sponsored by the Social Sciences Group, the newly-formed Womens' 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 womens' 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 womens' groups. A long-range goal is to see the national SLA establish an on-going, permanent committee for the concerns of women. For information, contact Gurley Turner, Catalyst Library, 14 East 60th St, NY, NY 10022.

Overheard at Action Council meetings,
Chicago, 1980.

Resolved: that the SRRT Action Council heartily endorse the candidacies of Annette Phinazee 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, Dorothy 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.

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 Action Council. A three-hour business meeting of the Library Union Task Force will be open to all interested persons at the ALA Annual Conference in New York. For information, contact:

Joan Higbee, Coordinator, LUTE
French Section, Shared Cataloging
Processing Services Department
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540



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.

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.

6th AIP In Print

The greatly revised and expanded 6th edition of Alternatives in Print is hot off the press and now available. With over 1,000 new listings, including 750 foreign presses, more than 2,600 publishers are represented in this most complete and current source to alternative literature. Author and title listings provide information on over 20,000 books, pamphlets, broadsides and chapbooks. Title access is provided to over 1,500 audio recordings, films, slide shows and video tapes. The list of more than 1,800 alternative periodicals include publisher, frequency, language and price. 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.

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