

**THE SOUTHERN CHAPTER
OF THE
MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**A FIFTY YEAR HISTORY
1951-2001**

T. Mark Hodges

Professor of Medical Administration Emeritus
and
Former Director
The Annette and Irwin Eskind Biomedical Library
Vanderbilt University

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**For Judith, my wife
and all the other members of the Southern Chapter
past and present
whom I hold dear**

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PREFACE

To mark the centenary of the Medical Library Association (MLA) in 1998 each of its chapters was asked to compile a history of its formation and subsequent activities, and I feel privileged to have been invited to write the story of the Southern Chapter.

My first introduction to regional groups of MLA took place the year after I had entered the profession, when the New England Regional Group (NERG) held its annual meeting at the Countway Library of Medicine (Harvard University) in Boston in the fall of 1965. I was employed by that library at the time and was thus involved, marginally, in the planning of that meeting. It was also the first time that I got to meet other health sciences librarians from outside the Boston area.

At that point, I had never been to a national meeting of MLA (though I had met some of the profession's more prominent members at the Countway Library's dedication in the spring of that year). Only because MLA's annual meeting would be held in Boston in 1966 was I assured that I would have a chance to attend a national meeting in the foreseeable future; otherwise, the possibility of regular attendance at that time seemed remote. Thus did I learn, and appreciate, the value of regional meetings. Here was the opportunity to take part in a professional gathering of some substance and to meet my opposite numbers from other libraries, but without having to attend a national convention.

I attended NERG meetings for the next four years and served as the group's chair in 1968-1969. I was hardly an active chair, because I had very little to do. In fact, my sole task was to represent NERG in its negotiations with the Upstate New York and Ontario Regional Group (UNYORG). That group had invited NERG to join with it in a meeting in Rochester, New York, in the fall of 1969. (It was here that I met, for the first time, a then relatively little known medical librarian, Lucretia McClure. Today, she is among the most widely known medical librarians in the country.)

The Rochester meeting was really UNYORG's, with NERG tagging along and doing little work. Such is generally the case at joint meetings. The host group does most if not all of the organizing, while the visiting group enjoys a free ride. Moreover, joint meetings fly in the face of the purpose of regional meetings. This is to make available in the several regions of the country some of the benefits of attendance at national meetings. This benefit is especially needed for those persons whose chances of attending a national meeting are low or infrequent.

Extending the region by combining the annual meeting of two regional groups diminishes the ability of such people to attend even a regional meeting. Lastly, regional meetings are intended to foster and focus on the particular needs and concerns of a particular region. This too is reduced when there are joint meetings. For all these reasons I have, over the years, generally been opposed to joint meetings

In 1970, I left Harvard and moved South. Here I took up the post of associate director for the Southeastern Regional Medical Library Program (SERMLP) at the A. W. Calhoun Medical Library of Emory University in Atlanta. My boss was Miriam Libbey, who died in 1986. Shortly after my arrival, I received notification of the annual meeting of the Southern Regional Group (SRG).

I discovered on inquiry that I was cordially invited to join it and to attend its annual meeting, scheduled to be held in October that year at the old Shamrock Hilton in Houston, Texas. I went, and I enjoyed the meeting. As a "Limey-Yankee," I remember how pleasantly surprised I was at the welcome I received, and I was even invited to speak at that meeting.

Thus began my romance with SRG (and its successor the Southern Chapter) which has lasted to this day and whose history I am pleased to document in the pages that follow. It is dedicated as you have earlier read to the memory of former members of the chapter and in honor of current members. Remembered especially are those who helped in SRG's establishment and development.

Let me not close without acknowledging the help received from colleagues, family and friends. They include Ann Hodge Macomber, Richard Nollan, Scott Plutchak, and Ada Seltzer, who read the early drafts, and Mary Lynch of the Chapter's Archives at Emory University, who provided information and photocopies. My wife, Judith, read drafts and did the final proofreading.

There are many individuals and departments at Vanderbilt University Medical Center deserving of recognition for their help, hospitality, space, facilities and services. Without these my labor would have been difficult, if not impossible. In no particular order they are Randy Jones and Jeremy Nordmoe of the Medical Center Archives; Nunzia Giuse, Frances Lynch, Dan McCollum, Mary Teloh and Peggy Westlake of the Eskind Biomedical Library; and William W. Stead of the Informatics Center. To the Administration of Vanderbilt Medical Center (John E. Chapman, dean emeritus, Steven G. Gabbe, dean, and Harry R. Jacobson, vice-chancellor) which provides so generously for its emeriti, I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude. And to Susan Taylor, manager of the Emeritus Office, goes much praise for her patience and assistance. To anyone whose name I have inadvertently omitted, I apologize.

While I have made every effort to verify facts and figures, dates and data, errors inevitably creep in, and for these I take full responsibility. Opinions expressed and inferences drawn are strictly my own.

This history probably leaves out as much as it contains, and much more work needs to be done. But a start has been made. Moreover, no effort has been made to identify, weigh and evaluate the outcomes of the chapter's operations during the past fifty years. All of these present a challenge to the chapter's historians of the future.

T. MARK HODGES

Nashville, Tennessee
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INTRODUCTION

REGIONAL GROUPS OF MLA

It is necessary at the outset to say a few words first about the origin of regional groups and about the terms used to designate them. Regional groups of MLA as they exist today did not come into being until the after the mid-point (1948) of the association's first 100 years. Moreover, the Southern Chapter, as it is known today, is not what it was fifty years ago. Firstly, it had a different name—Southern Regional Group (SRG)—and that name held till 1980. Secondly, its geographical configuration has expanded and contracted over the years. Lastly, as this history will show, the character and composition of the organization has changed over time.

The first reference to any form of regional meeting appeared in the July 1943 issue of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association (BMLA)* under the heading “Regional Meeting of Medical Librarians” [1]. It read “Medical Librarians from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Connecticut and Washington, DC, held a regional meeting June 10th at Philadelphia in the meeting rooms of the College of Physicians.”

What led to this meeting is not specified, but it may be assumed that the cause was the suspension of national meetings for the duration of World War II. Frustrated at not being able to meet because of this, the librarians in those states may have decided to get together. No mention is made of any formal organization

Before the war was over, the Chicago Chapter [sic] of MLA is mentioned in *BMLA* as having been “honored on February 7 [1945] by a visit from Colonel Harold W. Jones and Captain Francis St. John-of the Army Medical Library” [2]. (St. John later became head of the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital Library Service and, afterwards, head of the Brooklyn, New York, Public Library. The author served under him in Brooklyn from 1961 to 1963.) Note use of the word *chapter*. Did this presage adoption of the term 35 years later (1981) for use by MLA regional groups?

The report says fifteen local members gathered to greet the two visitors and that they were later regaled most profitably on developments in the Army Medical Library. This suggests an active chapter even if, in reality, it was merely a local librarians group. The author found no more references to it in *BMLA*.

The next reference to a regional meeting in the *BMLA* index came in 1947, two years later [3]. At the annual meeting of MLA in Cleveland that year, at a “Librarians’ Symposia,” Mildred Jordan (of Emory University in Atlanta) presented a report. Its focus was “the problem of regional meetings for the Medical Library Association.” It was based on a survey that had been conducted as to whether the concept of regional meetings (and, by extension, regional groups) was a good thing.

Of the 253 library director members surveyed, 166 replied. Those voting in favor numbered 86; those against, 22. A large group, 58, abstained. It is not clear what led to this survey, but obviously something had transpired to bring it about. And there must have been some contention. How otherwise does one explain “the *problem* [my emphasis] of regional meetings”? Some of the objections quoted in the report included:

Immediately a centralized body divides itself into subsidiary meetings the influence and importance of the central body becomes lessened.

The association is too small.....

There exists the very real danger of become chapterized and losing broader vision.....

Supervision of activities of regional groups would take precious time from officers of MLA.

In the discussion that followed, three influential MLA members from what later became the SRG’s territory spoke in favor. Biographies of these librarians are referenced following their names. They were:

- Eileen Cunningham (Vanderbilt University in Nashville) [4, 5]
- Mildred Crowe Langner (then at the University of Alabama and, later, at the University of Miami) [6]
- Mary Louise Marshall (Tulane University in New Orleans) [4]

Their voices were among the loudest heard. Mildred Jordan, too, who had undertaken the study, was quite vocal (in favor) and later became an active member of SRG.

Nothing more appeared in *BMLA* for a couple years. Then, in January 1949, a request appeared that all groups holding regional meetings present brief reports on them at the MLA annual meeting [7]. It would seem that, in the intervening years, much had occurred as regional groups were formed and started operating. At the 48th annual meeting of MLA that

year, in response to the request, reports were given on “such regional meetings as had been held”[8]. Among them were California (no specified area of the state), New York and San Francisco. Enthusiasm for these new ventures was expressed.

There was, however, no mention of anything “Down South.” Other areas of the country moved faster than did the South. But in 1951, still ahead of some other parts of the country (including New England), the Southern Regional Group was formed. Its subsequent development and expansion and operation are the subject of this essay.

This history of the group (later chapter) might be divided into six epochs: Formation (1951); Expansion (1952-1964); Contraction (1964-1972); Reconstruction (1972-1982); Maturation (1982-1995); and Triumph (1995-2001). Each merits a chapter.

[Author’s Note. From this point on, in the interest of economy of space, not all sources are referenced. In the main, non-referenced sources are announcements in *BMLA* or they are items culled from annual programs, transcripts of meetings and other reports held in the Southern Chapter’s Archives at the Health Sciences Library of Emory University in Atlanta.]

Chapter 1. FORMATION (1951)

Largely due to the efforts of William D. Postell (then at Louisiana State University in New Orleans) and of Mary Louise Marshall (Tulane University), the chapter came into being. On 13 October 1951, Postell respectfully wrote to Marguerite Prime, then president of MLA, saying:

“We would like to have an organizational meeting of the Southern librarians to form a regional group.....and would like your permission to assemble. I hope we can organize as a regional group of the Medical Library Association.”

Two days later (15 October 1951) Prime wrote back:

“Dear Bill:.....You are the doctor and need no one else’s permission to assemble”.

Dutifully, a month or so later (23 November 1951), Postell reported to Prime:

“We had our regional meeting, about thirty-four registered which surprised me very much, and we seem to be on the way to organize. We voted to organize as a regional group of the MLA by following all of the rules.....I think a fine start was made and lets [sic] hope the children (as Mildred Jordan would express it) carry on. The states of Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana were represented.”

And so the Southern Chapter was born—on 17 November 1951. That first meeting was in New Orleans and officers were elected (see Appendixes A & C).

To set the scene in terms of national and world history, Harry Truman was president of the United States, though he was soon to be succeeded by Dwight Eisenhower, who led the nation during most of the group’s first decade.

Elsewhere in the world Winston Churchill had just been returned as Prime Minister of Great Britain and, a few months later (February 1952), Princess Elizabeth succeeded her father and became queen. Thus she has reigned almost contemporaneously with the chapter's existence. A ruthless Joseph Stalin still ruled Russia, and in far-off Korea, the United Nations was waging war against Communist aggression. It was of some concern to an 18-year old who had been inducted into the British Army for National Service just two days before the chapter was founded. Though many of his comrades were sent to Korea, the author was not among them. However, he did spend almost two years in the Suez Canal Zone and was in Egypt when its monarchy was deposed.

Postell himself bowed out of office in the chapter. He was at the time president-elect of MLA and succeeded to the presidency a year later. He was later to become director of the medical library at Tulane University, where he served until retirement in 1972. (It was at this juncture, probably for the first and only time in the annals of American medical librarianship, that a son succeeded his father as director of a library. William D. Postell, Jr., took over the direction of that library. For that reason and to avoid any confusion, the first Postell is referred to henceforward as William D. Postell, Sr.)

William Dosit Postell, Sr., who was born in Louisiana in 1908, was a scholar and a writer and had numerous publications to his credit. From 1946 to 1949 he was editor of *BMLA*. In 1958, he received the Marcia C. Noyes Award, MLA's highest honor. He died on 4 June 1982, at the age of 73, and an obituary for him by Mildred Crowe Langner appeared in *BMLA* [9].

The other activist in the formation of the chapter was Mary Louise Marshall of Tulane University, who served as convention chair. She had been president of MLA at the beginning of World War II and, because there were no MLA meetings during that conflict, remained in that office for the duration of hostilities. She retired in 1959 but lived for many years afterwards and even attended the Washington meeting of MLA in 1980. In private life, she was Mrs. Jack Hutton. She died on 25 January 1986.

Estelle Brodman regarded Marshall as one of MLA's "Triumvirate" when she wrote her obituary later that year. That same obituary explored the contributions of two others, Eileen Cunningham and Janet Doe. She described the trio as "the Medical Library Association's *grande dames* of the mid-20th century" and claimed that they "brought about so many fundamental changes in medical libraries and librarianship that all who work in this field now are legatees of this unusual group, whether they realize it or not"[4].

It is most gratifying that two of the three were from SRG! The third member, Janet Doe, was librarian of the New York Academy of Medicine, and it is for her that the Janet Doe Lectureship is named.

Chapter 2. EXPANSION (1952-1964)

In the history of SRG there have been three calendar years during which no meeting was held. The first of these was 1952, though the deficiency was made up the following year, when there were two meetings. One was held at the end of January 1953 and the other at the end of October.

The January meeting was held in Birmingham, Alabama. (It is worth noting that, in the interim, these additional regional groups of MLA had been formed and recognized: Midwest, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Southern California, Washington-Baltimore, and Connecticut.) Ruth Harlamert from Tulane University was chair. Originally from the Midwest, Harlamert had begun her medical library career at the University of Nebraska. Later, she became librarian of the King County Medical Society Library in Seattle, Washington. She also served on the MLA Board of Directors.

The University of Alabama under the leadership of Mildred Crowe (later Langner) hosted the Birmingham meeting. Subsequently, she was to become first director of the library at the University of Miami Medical School. Later, she served as president of MLA (1966-67), and was the recipient of the Noyes Award in 1976. A profile of Langner at the time she became MLA president appeared in *BMLA* [6].

Among the officers elected were Sarah Brown and Myrl Ebert. Both were later well known as directors of the medical libraries at the University of Alabama and at the University of North Carolina, respectively. Brown, who had received her library degree from the University of Illinois, served as an Air Force librarian before entering medical librarianship at the University of Alabama in 1948. She was president of MLA in 1973-74. A profile of her by Mildred Langner appeared in *BMLA* [10].

Ebert attended George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, where she earned two bachelor's degrees: physical education in 1943 and library science in 1945. Later (1951), she received a master's degree in library science from Columbia University. She began her medical library career as an assistant at Vanderbilt University under the legendary Eileen Cunningham. After a number of positions in New York City, Ebert returned south to head the medical library at the University of North Carolina in 1952. She retired in 1975 and died at age eighty-seven on 5 May 2001. An obituary by Carol Jenkins is scheduled to appear in *BMLA* in January 2002.

The record of the meeting mentions representation from ten states, undoubtedly the original six, with the addition, very likely, of Florida, Georgia and the two Carolinas. Subsequent meetings during the next ten years took place in Atlanta, Austin (twice), Charleston, Charlotte, Gainesville, Galveston, Jackson, Little Rock, Memphis and in New Orleans (also twice). By the time of the second Austin meeting, in 1961, meetings had become annual and regular.

During this epoch, SRG continued to expand and—by the time of the Jackson meeting in 1960—fourteen states were represented. From Louisiana, the group had stretched eastward to the Atlantic, westward to New Mexico and north to Kentucky. As best as can be determined, the fourteen states were: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

During the first ten years of SRG, it would seem that representatives at meetings came from as many as sixteen different states (not all to any given meeting). It is likely that the other two states from which representatives came were Virginia and West Virginia. The District of Columbia, too, was represented.

Note the term “representatives.” Not all the states represented were official constituents of SRG—for there were no formal boundaries. A regional group’s territory was generally regarded as the aggregate of the states represented, and there was some overlapping. Of the sixteen states named above, some seemed to play only a marginal or peripheral role.

SRG meetings were never held in any of these five states: Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Virginia and West Virginia. Nor did any of the group’s officers come from any one of them, except Oklahoma, though a member of the Bylaws Committee (Mildred Blake) is recorded as coming from Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she was librarian of the Lovelace Foundation.

Here begins a look at the activities of the group and its meetings after Birmingham. From this point onwards, the history covers activities from one meeting of the group to the next. Recall that in those early years, they were not necessarily a year apart.

1953 (February – October)

The group’s third meeting was held in Memphis in October 1953, when the first example was seen of cities vying for the honor of hosting the next meeting (in this case, Austin vs. Atlanta, with Austin winning). Incidentally, the chapter has met in Memphis more often than in any other city.

Myrl Ebert succeeded to the chair and Elizabeth Marsh, founding secretary-treasurer, became vice-chair. At this time, Marsh was medical library director at the University of Arkansas. A graduate of Simmons College Library School, she had worked in various library positions in the Northeast and the South.

Ann Hodge (later, on marriage, Macomber) became secretary-treasurer. Macomber stayed with SRG and, later, the South Central Chapter until retirement. She provided much valuable information for this history. Macomber began her career in New Orleans at Louisiana State University (LSU), spent five years (1955-1960) at Emory University, then returned to LSU in New Orleans, where she remained until her retirement. The assembly voted to meet next in January of 1955; in the event, the meeting was held in February, in Austin.

1953-55

The second calendar year without a meeting was 1954 but this was soon rectified with the Austin meeting in February the following year. At this meeting, Helen Holt, predecessor to Sam Hitt, Richard Lyders, Naomi Broering and Elizabeth Eaton as library directors at the Houston Academy of Medicine, was elected chair. Beatrix Jacob of LSU (New Orleans) became vice-chair, and Suzanne Smith Miller was made secretary-treasurer (she served again in that capacity ten years later). Miller, who directed the VA Hospital Library in Nashville, was still at that library when the writer assumed the directorship of the Vanderbilt Medical Library in 1972. She died shortly afterwards.

Dues were discussed at the meeting, and the levying of them was extended beyond those who registered for the meeting. This was perhaps the first recognition that the group was an on-going organization, not just an assembly of those who turned up for meetings.

1955-56

Fourteen months later, the fifth annual meeting was held, in Atlanta, with Emory University (Mildred Jordan, director of its medical library) as the host. The dates were 13-14 April 1956, when the blossoms were probably at their peak. Programs of the first four meetings are not available in the Chapter's archives (nor are those for the meeting in Charleston in the spring of 1957 and Charlotte in the autumn of 1959). Otherwise, all meeting programs are available. Early programs were modest cardstock sheets folded in half. By degrees they expanded to the booklets in use today.

Emory's acting dean, Arthur Richardson, welcomed the group. He later became dean and was still there fourteen years later when Emory became the Regional Medical Library (RML) for the Southeast. Among the speakers was Estelle Brodman, then chief of the reference division at the Armed Forces Medical Library, which shortly afterwards became the National Library of Medicine (NLM). As befits the group and the territory it served, one of the topics for discussion at this 1956 meeting was the preservation of Confederate Medical Literature. Fred Bryant, then at the University of Florida, was elected chair. He was later to leave the region (to head the library at Penn State University in Hershey) but returned in 1972 to head the new medical library at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Born in Texas, Bryant attended the University of Florida and Emory Library School.

Lorraine Neal of Emory was made vice-chair, and Betty Ann Withrow (reference librarian at the University of Alabama) secretary-treasurer. Withrow was later to host the 1966 meeting as director of the library at Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University in

Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Few people have experienced as many libraries as Withrow. A Virginia native and a graduate of Mary Washington College in that state, she received her library degree from Peabody College Library School. She then moved across the street to Vanderbilt, where she served a medical library internship under Eileen Cunningham.

From 1949 to 1953 Withrow was assistant librarian at the Cincinnati General Hospital Library before taking on reference positions at the University of Alabama (1953-55) and the University of Miami (1955-57). She then held these academic health sciences library directorships: University of Vermont (1957-1961), State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo (1961-63), Bowman Gray School of Medicine (1963-67) and University of California at Irvine (1967-72). Later she worked with Estelle Brodman at Washington University in St. Louis before switching to other types of libraries in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia. She concluded her career in VA hospital library posts in Fort Howard, Maryland (1984-87) and Buffalo, New York, before retiring in 1999.

1956-57

In May 1957, the sixth meeting was held—in Charleston, South Carolina—with thirty-three librarians in attendance. The host was the Medical College (later University) of South Carolina whose medical library was then headed by Claire Desmond Koster. One topic for discussion, not for the last time, was “Problems in Medical Libraries.” New officers were elected. Loraine Neal succeeded to the chair (it was not automatic in those days), and Koster became vice-chair.

Koster, generally known as Desmond Koster rather than as Claire Koster, was a Charleston native and, after holding other library positions elsewhere, became director of the library at the then Medical College of South Carolina in 1949. She relinquished the post to Warren Sawyer in 1968 and retired a few years later. She was made an honorary member of the chapter and in retirement lives in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

The new secretary-treasurer was Irene Graham from Mississippi. She was to remain a player in SRG for many more years before her retirement in 1986. She too was later made an honorary member.

1957 (May- November)

That same year, 1957, in November, the group held its seventh meeting and returned to New Orleans for the occasion. Joint hosts were again Louisiana State University and Tulane University. Fittingly, the printed program had on its front a picture of St. Louis Cathedral on Jackson Square, enclosed in an iron grille border.

The J. A. Majors Medical Book Company hosted the cocktail hour (one of many so generously provided by the Majors Company in the ensuing years) that preceded the annual banquet, which was held at Broussard’s Restaurant. There really were banquets in those days, even though the group worked on razor thin budgets in the 1950s (the treasurer reported a balance of \$22.63 in 1957).

Pauline Duffield, that year's MLA treasurer, reported from MLA. In so doing she probably began the tradition of official representation from MLA at SRG meetings. Keep in mind there was no MLA Central Office at that time (this did not come about until 1961). Mildred Jordan reported on the "refresher courses" that were offered at the MLA annual meeting in Rochester, Minnesota, that year; this was the beginning of MLA's Continuing Education (CE) Program.

Desmond Koster advanced to chair and was succeeded as vice-chair by Mrs. Henry Kerr from the VA Hospital in Houston. (Only with some difficulty was it ascertained that she was Helen Kerr—evidently a lady of the old school, or one inordinately proud of her spousal relationship to Henry). Christa Sykes of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston became secretary-treasurer.

1957-59

The group's third calendar year without a meeting was 1958 but, again, a meeting early in the following year soon rectified this. It took place in Galveston, Texas, 6-7 February 1959. Fishing boats adorned the cover of the program for that meeting.

This was SRG's eighth meeting and seems to have been the first time that the group held most of its sessions at a hotel, The Galvez. The University of Texas Medical Branch hosted it. Elisabeth [sic] Runge (pronounced RUN-GHEE), who was born in Galveston in 1897, had become director of that library in 1922 and remained so until her retirement in 1966. This 44-year record of director tenure is probably unbeaten in the South or anywhere in the nation. "Miss Lillie" (as she was known) died on 28 November 1990.

The principal speaker was Alfred N. Brandon, then newly appointed director of the medical library at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He had been charged with the responsibility of establishing and developing a new library at that institution. Brandon was later to become famous as compiler of the "Brandon List" (of basic books and journals for the medical library).

Brandon was later president of MLA, Noyes Laureate and Janet Doe Lecturer. He died in 1996, having retired from a distinguished medical library career at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, and finally at the New York Academy of Medicine. In retirement he lived in Florida and served as a consultant to the Majors Company. Lynn Kasner Morgan covered his life in an obituary that appeared shortly after his death [11].

John Isché, of the University of Florida in Gainesville and a legendary figure in the annals of the group, was elected chair. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, where he had worked for the King's County Medical Society, Isché later headed the medical library at LSU in New Orleans when William Postell, Sr., moved to Tulane University following the retirement of Mary Louise Marshall.

At the time, Isché may have been the only MLA member to have been chair of two regional groups. While working in Brooklyn in 1955 he was chair of the New York Regional Group. (Marie Harvin, a later chair of SRG, became the first chair of the new South Central Regional Group when it came into being in 1973.) Isché died in 1988, and there is a description of his life in an obituary that William Postell, Jr., wrote for *BMLA* [12].

Helen Monahan of the Mecklenburg County Medical Library in Charlotte, North Carolina, became vice-chair, and Maurine [sic] Hughes of the VA Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama, took over as secretary-treasurer.

1959 (March-October)

Still calling it an annual meeting, the group met only eight months later in Charlotte, North Carolina (October 1959). However, from here onwards, group meetings did take place on an annual basis and took on their present autumnal setting—a date in either late September, the month of October, or early November. The host organization was the Mecklenburg County Medical Library. Helen Monahan, previously mentioned, was its director. She died in 1963, and an obituary for her appeared in *BMLA* that year [13].

It is worth noting that the minutes of the meeting record the offering of an invocation (by the rector of an Episcopal church), as do other minutes of some of the meetings of the early years. It is interesting to speculate when and why this practice was later dropped. The group's own Mildred Jordan (Emory University) was MLA president that year and brought the Association's greetings to the group. Al Brandon, recently mentioned, became chair, to be aided by vice-chair Virginia Parker and secretary-treasurer Ruth Baxter.

Virginia Parker had recently become director of the Texas Medical Center Library in Houston, having come there from the Texas Medical Branch Library in Galveston. She later moved to Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, and remained there until her retirement in 1981. Born in Mississippi in 1916, Parker died on 7 January 2000, in Athens, Georgia, at the age of 83. The newspaper account of her death, reprinted in *BMLA*, lists her as Virginia Parker Dillon [14].

Ruth Baxter was head of the VA hospital library in Jackson, Mississippi. A former high school teacher and librarian, she became assistant, and later, director of the VA library in Jackson in 1953.

1959-60

A program showing a magnolia on a map of Mississippi proclaimed the location of the next annual meeting, which was held in Jackson, Mississippi, a year later (October 1960). Three institutions jointly hosted the meeting: the University of Mississippi, the Mississippi Board of Health, and the VA Center. Louise Williams of the Board of Health was the coordinator. An important feature of the conference was a symposium on "Training for Medical Librarianship," moderated by William K. Beatty, then of the University of Missouri, and later

at Northwestern University in Chicago. Subsequently, with his wife, Virginia, he was for many years MLA's archivist. One of the participants was Maxine Kennedy (later Hanke) who spoke on her experiences as an intern at the NLM. Louise Darling, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), also contributed.

John Majors, along with his brother-in-law, Jack McClendon, both representing the Majors Company, hosted the cocktail hour. Majors and his brother, Bill, were to be made honorary members of MLA at its centenary meeting in Philadelphia in 1998. The sons of John Majors and Jack McClendon ("Jam" and "Al", respectively) are the current directors of the company.

At the dinner that followed, at the King Edward Hotel, Dr. Walter E. Johnson of Vicksburg bemoaned that "The South Ain't Southern Anymore". The officers elected at this meeting were Ann Hodge as chair, Hilda Harris as vice-chair, and Dorothy Thompson as secretary-treasurer. (The last two were on the staffs of the medical libraries at the University of Alabama and Vanderbilt University respectively.)

1960-61

Moving into its second decade, the group met in 1961 in Austin, Texas, with Pauline Duffield and her library (Texas Medical Association) serving as host. She was later to serve the group and MLA in several capacities. Duffield, born in West Virginia in 1910 and whose original training was in physical education, began her medical library career as assistant librarian at Vanderbilt University in the mid 1940s. From there she moved to be librarian of Medical and Chiro-surgical Faculty of Maryland in Baltimore, and moved to Texas in 1952.

A more modest printed program gave details of the meeting. It concluded with these words from the staff of the Texas Medical Association Library, "It was pleasure to have you with us, and we hope you will return," but SRG never did return to Austin.

Elections resulted in vice-chair Dorothy Thompson becoming chair, former secretary-treasurer Christa Sykes, vice-chair, and Marie Harvin, secretary-treasurer. Harvin had recently been appointed director of the University of Arkansas Medical Library, where she remained until 1966 before going on to the M. D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas. She retired from that post in 1984 and died in Houston on 18 November 2000.

Around this time, the size of some of the regions was of some concern to the MLA Regional Group Coordinator. This was an office that had been created in the early years of regional groups. The duties of the office holder were to oversee the several regional groups, to coordinate their activities, and to receive from them an account of their actions and a list of their officers.

At the Austin meeting, in a discussion on the bylaws, the then regional group coordinator raised a question about the basis on which new states are added to membership in the group. She expressed the opinion that the group was getting too large in area to fulfill the purpose set up by its constitution and bylaws. She felt that, if the regional groups were to be true to their purpose of providing easy access for all librarians in the region, they should be reduced

in geographical size. After expressing her concern, she was informed that the matter had previously come up at the New Orleans meeting (1957) and a proposal to split the region had been voted down.

But the group took her concern to heart and, at the meeting in Gainesville the following year, discussed a second proposal to divide itself into smaller geographic areas. The vote, however, was to continue as is. This meeting was probably the first at which geographical boundaries were tackled in such depth.

1961-62

The group held its first meeting in Florida, in Gainesville, in the midst of the Cuban Missile Crisis. (The crisis lasted from 22 October through 2 November 1962.) In a touch of institutional promotion, the printed program shows a picture on its front cover of the J. Hillis Miller Health Center. This was not unreasonable, for the Medical Library at the University of Florida, under the direction of Fred Bryant, was host.

Interestingly, this booklet gives some data that suggests it doubled as promotional advertising for the meeting. Rooms at the convention hotel (The University Inn) were \$7.50 single and \$9.50 double. The registration fee was \$2.00 (of which \$1.00 was for dues). Those who planned to imbibe at the social hour incurred a surcharge of \$1.50, whereas those who would settle for soft drinks paid only 50 cents. Railways (the Atlantic Coast Line RR and the Seaboard Airline RR) were given prominence as the suggested means of transport; Eastern Airlines, now defunct, was the suggested air carrier.

At this meeting, the SRG's scholarship fund was established and, as a result of a study of the geographical composition of the region, previously mentioned, the group voted to remain as is. Mayo Drake, then of the University of Florida, Dorothy Long of the University of North Carolina, and Mary Trammell of the University of Tennessee were elected to the posts of chair, vice-chair and secretary-treasurer respectively.

Drake later became director of the Louisiana State University Medical Library in Shreveport. He and his co-frère at Louisiana State University in New Orleans, John Isché, became a legendary pair who, until their deaths, were regarded as the lives and souls of the party. Drake's life is told in the obituary for him written by his old friend, John Isché [15].

Dorothy Long came to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a cataloger in 1952, after previous posts at medical and non-medical libraries. She became assistant librarian there in 1964 and retired as associate director emeritus in 1973. Mary Trammell had held a number of positions at academic and medical and military libraries before becoming assistant librarian at the University of Tennessee in Memphis in 1953.

1962-63

Another first took place in 1963, when the group held its first meeting in Arkansas, hosted by Marie Harvin and her library at the University in Little Rock. Heavily featured, perhaps

for the first time, were reports on automation projects. James (Jim) Parrish of the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston reported on the use of computer tapes in a rapidly expanding library, not inappropriately because the nation was just then in the era of manned space flight. (Parrish, a protégé of Eileen Cunningham, later moved to Hawaii then to the University of Illinois in Chicago, where he now lives in retirement.)

Elections brought these people to the fore: as chair, Lora Frances Davis (Fort Sam Houston); as vice-chair, Erdeal Moore (serials librarian at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, from 1953 until the 1980s); and as secretary-treasurer, Mary Ann Brown. Brown was a graduate of Peabody College Library School, who worked first at Emory then Duke, where she remains.

On 15 September that year (1963) a black Baptist church was bombed in Birmingham, Alabama, killing four little girls. Sadly this occurred in SRG's territory.

1963-64

The SRG year opened with the assassination, on 22 November 1963, of President Kennedy in Dallas, Texas. Sadly, this too occurred in SRG's territory, though interestingly, no SRG meeting was ever held in Dallas. A Texan, Lyndon Johnson, succeeded to the presidency. It was he who signed into law the Medical Library Assistance Act, which was to affect the profession and SRG in the years immediately ahead.

For its fourteenth meeting, the group came to Memphis for the second time, meeting in the legendary Peabody Hotel—famous for its ducks—in September 1964. The newly appointed director of the NLM, Dr. Martin M. Cummings, was scheduled to address the conference but was unable to do so because of illness. A film, however, “The MEDLARS Story”, was shown. The final evening's program was dinner aboard *The Memphis Queen*.

Irene Graham of the University of Mississippi was elected chair; Helen Irene Jones of the VA Hospital in Memphis, vice chair; and Flora Wellington of the University of Miami, secretary-treasurer. (Helen Irene Jones should not be confused with M. Irene Jones of the University of Tennessee, also in Memphis.)

A graduate of the College of William and Mary, Wellington began her career as a library intern at Tulane. From there she went to the University of Tennessee in Memphis and then to the Florida State Board of Health. From 1972 until her retirement in 1984 she was associate director and head of technical services at the University of Miami.

A month later the group's extensive territorial empire began to show the first signs of diminishing; the era of contraction was about to begin.

Chapter 3. CONTRACTION (1964-1972)

Largely due to the Regional Medical Library Program (RMLP), which began in 1965 and which is covered more fully below, the size of the region began to diminish. However, the record shows that, even before the advent of the RMLP, some libraries and librarians in Kentucky were leaning toward affiliation with the Midwest Region. When Kentucky became part of the East Central RML Program—as it was then called—in April 1969, it left SRG completely and became part of the Midwest Group. The 1964 meeting of the Midwest Regional Group actually took place in Kentucky, in Louisville, hosted by the University of Louisville, and its director, Joan Titley (later Joan Titley Adams). Titley, who passed away on 25 October 1986, was never a senior officer of SRG. Her life is chronicled in an obituary by Irene Graham, which appeared in *BMLA* [16].

Louisville's hosting of the Midwest group's meeting in 1964 did not discourage the University of Kentucky, in not-too-distant Lexington, from hosting SRG's 1965 meeting in that city in October. Omer Hamlin was its director. (The chapter met once more in Kentucky, at Louisville in 1969, but only as a matter of expediency. As will be recorded later, it combined its meeting that year with the annual meeting of MLA.)

1964-65

There were 115 in attendance at the Lexington meeting in October 1965, the one-hundred mark being reached and surpassed for the first time. Poignantly, at that meeting, the deaths of two venerable members were commemorated; they died within a month of one another – Eileen Cunningham of Vanderbilt (she had retired in 1956) and Mildred Jordan of Emory (who died while still in office). Obituaries for Cunningham appeared in *BMLA* [4, 5], and one for Jordan also appeared in that journal [17].

Nominated and elected were Omer Hamlin as chair, Desmond Koster as vice-chair, and Jean Lee as secretary-treasurer. Hamlin, born in Kentucky, spent most of his life in that state and rose through the ranks to become director of the Medical Center Library at the

University of Kentucky, where he also received his library degree. He served MLA as chair of its then Dental Group and as a member of the Legislation Committee. He has since retired. Lee, then acquisitions librarian at Emory, later became assistant director, in which post she served from 1968 until her retirement in 1976.

Earlier that year, on 21 March 1965, the famous march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, took place. This struggle for Civil Rights was to change the South.

Digression: The RML Program, 1965-1970

A few months prior to the Lexington meeting of 1965, an event occurred that was to change the shape and size of MLA regions across the country. The catalyst was passage of the Medical Library Assistance Act (MLAA) in June of that year. Contraction of SRG was about to begin in earnest, even though it took until 1981 before it was fully and finally accomplished.

As is generally known, MLAA created the Regional Medical Library – RML—Program. This called for dividing the country into regions and the creation of regional medical libraries. The official story of how this was accomplished is well told in Alison Bunting’s 1987 history [18]. However, to learn of the politicking and jockeying that went on, one has to be read between the lines or seek the “real” story from legend and lore. Further accounting of this saga was contained, in passing, in Betsy Humphreys’ Janet Doe Lecture delivered at the MLA annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, in May 2001 [19]. The remainder of this chapter shows how things played out in the southern region.

Firstly, the RML program gave rise to the notion that MLA regions should be congruent with RML regions. But traditions die hard, and there was resistance to any change in most parts of this region. Moreover, it took several years before the Regional Medical Library Program was fully set in place. It was not until February 1970 that the program was finalized nationally, its boundaries completed, and its regional libraries designated.

The original RML program resulted in the creation of eleven regions, five of them (listed below) affecting to some degree the states that made up SRG (as it was at its greatest territorial extent). The names and Roman numbers of the original regions, the originally designated RMLs, the dates they became operational, and the states they comprised, are given below. (Arabic numbers were given to the reconfigured regions when the RML program was overhauled in 1981). In some regions there was competition for the role of RML, and this was the case in the Southeast. In other regions, there was only one applicant.

Mid-Atlantic (Region IV). National Library of Medicine. October 1968.

(District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia)

Later, January 1983, Region IV and Region VI were merged to form the Southeastern/Atlantic Medical Library based at the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

East Central (Region V). Wayne State University. April 1969.

(Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan)

Later called Kentucky-Ohio-Michigan (or KOM) for the states it contained.

Southeastern (Region VI). Emory University. January 1970.

(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands)

Also competing for the role of RML in the Southeast were the University of Alabama, Duke University and Vanderbilt University. (North Carolina was initially a participant in the planning for Region VI but later opted for Region IV.)

Mid-Continental (Region VIII). University of Nebraska. July 1970.

(Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

South Central (Region IX). University of Texas, Dallas. February 1970.

(Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)

It was known later as TALON, from the initials of the constituent states, but subsequently reverted to its original name when the role of RML was assumed by the Houston Academy of Medicine/Texas Medical Center Library in May 1991.

1965-66

Even though North Carolina was to leave SRG three years later, that state was host to the 1966 meeting, which took place in Winston-Salem at the end of September, with Bowman Gray School of Medicine (Betty Ann Withrow, medical library director) as local host. For those interested in program design, this year's was a triptych. "High Tech" was the order of the day. Estelle Brodman gave a telelecture from St Louis on "Machines in Libraries" and Warren Bird of Duke gave a demonstration entitled "TWX and Libraries." (This resulted in the "Bird Manual," which for several years was to be the national standard of procedure for interlibrary loan activity among medical libraries using teletype.)

Two speakers, Scott Adams, from the NLM, and Dorothy Mueller, from the regional MEDLARS Search Center at the University of Alabama, related the state of MEDLARS, and their experience with it. (End-user searching had not yet come about, and professional librarians conducted searches in behalf of library users. A good many more years were to pass before end-user searching became generally available.) For the first time, a Continuing Education (CE) Course ("New Reference Tools and Their Use") was offered. It was taught by Miriam Libbey who, at this point, had recently succeeded Mildred Jordan as director of the medical library at Emory.

Distinguished visitors at the conference were the immediate-past president of MLA, the current one, and the president-elect of MLA. They were: Alfred Brandon, who was by this time at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore; Mildred Crowe Langner from Miami, and Scott Adams from NLM. Also at the meeting was MLA's first salaried officer and executive secretary, Helen Brown Schmidt.

Schmidt, incidentally, worked in the Southern Region between 1940 and 1946, when she was head of the gifts and exchanges department of the Joint University Libraries (the libraries of Vanderbilt University, Peabody College and Scarritt College, in Nashville). Later, Schmidt joined the staff of the Midwest Inter Library Center (now the Center for Research Libraries) in Chicago. There she was assistant under Ralph Esterquest (who later became first

director of the Countway Library of Medicine at Harvard). Her profile, at the time of her appointment, appeared in *BMLA* [20].

Elected to lead the group for the ensuing year were Christa Sykes as chair, Leonard Eddy as vice-chair and Susanne Smith Miller as secretary-treasurer. Sykes, who was now at Louisiana State University in New Orleans, was rounding out service in all three offices of the group (earlier she was secretary-treasurer and vice-chair).

Eddy (pronounced EEDIE) was from the University of Oklahoma. After many years there he moved to the University of Louisville, from which school he retired in the 1990s. Miller, from the VA Hospital in Nashville, filled the role of secretary-treasurer for a second time (she had held it ten years previously).

1966-67

Notable this year was the venue of the MLA Annual Meeting. For the first time since SRG's formation, it took place in the group's territory, in Miami (11-15 June 1967). Those present remember the meeting for its torrential rains. (There had been earlier annual meetings of MLA in the South, but they predated the group's founding. They took place in Galveston in 1949 and in New Orleans in 1931 and 1942.)

In the fall of 1967, New Orleans was for the third time the locale of the annual meeting—the group's seventeenth—with the two academic medical libraries of the Crescent City (LSU and Tulane) again serving as hosts. The illustration of St. Louis Cathedral, which had appeared on an earlier printed program, gave way to that of a French Quarter courtyard.

Among the distinguished guests was Mary Louise Marshall, librarian emerita at Tulane. Leonard Eddy took over as chair, Sadie Hill Rainsford (Medical College of Georgia), as vice chair, and Patricia Greenfield (Touro Infirmary School of Nursing in New Orleans), secretary-treasurer. The group voted to make a contribution to the Janet Doe Lectureship, which had recently been established (and which Gertrude Annan had delivered at the Miami meeting of MLA earlier in the year).

William Postell, Sr., warmed the hearts of everyone in his talk "Reminiscences of the Southern Regional Group." Though there had been earlier Continuing Education (CE) courses, this was the first time that one was listed in the printed program. Offered that year was MLA's CE Course No.11 "Techniques of Interlibrary Loan". The instructor is not named.

1967-68

April 1968 marked the assassination in Memphis of Dr. Martin Luther King. That city commemorates the event with one the most important historical museums in the country, the National Civil Rights Museum.

In the fall of that year, the group met in Augusta, Georgia, for the first time, with the health sciences library at the Medical College of Georgia, under the directorship of Sadie Rainsford,

as host. Rainsford, who received her library degree from Emory, had earlier accepted the position of assistant director of that library. She became director in 1950 and, at the time of her retirement in 1973, had served in that library for thirty-three years. She continued to live in Augusta until her tragic death in a fire at her home in 1996. This was mentioned in her obituary that appeared in *BMLA* [21].

The entire Saturday morning general session was given over to The Regional Medical Program (RMP) and the Regional Medical Library (RML) Program and the relationships and roles of medical libraries within the RMP-RML Context. The Regional Medical Program, a national effort to combat heart disease, cancer, and stroke was established around the same time as the Regional Medical Library Program in 1965. It called for the establishment of a number of Regional Medical Programs around the nation, based on medical referral centers.

The areas of the RMPs varied. Some were a state, some were a combination of two or more states. Still others were a part of a state or parts of more than one state. In the SRG region of that era there were these RMPs:

Alabama	Memphis	Oklahoma
Arkansas	Mississippi	South Carolina
Florida	New Mexico	Tennessee Mid-South
Georgia	North Carolina	Texas

Some had active library components, others had collaborative relationships and agreements with selected libraries to provide information and document delivery services. A more detailed story is to be found in two works, one published when the RMPs were flourishing [22] and the other as a retrospective [23]. The RMP was to last only till the mid 1970s, whereas the RML Program, now the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM), is here to this day.

Among the speakers in Augusta was Charles Colby, associate director of the Countway Library at Harvard, which, the previous year, had begun operation as the nation's first RML. Also on the program was Elliott Morse from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, whose library had a few months earlier established the Mid Eastern RML. Speaking for two of the Regional Medical Programs in the Southern Region were Patricia Smith from the Oklahoma RMP and Dr. J. W. Culbertson from the Memphis RMP.

The minutes of the meeting, which for several years had spoken of the *Checklist of Periodical Titles Currently Received by Medical Libraries in the Southern Region*, tell of a third edition, which had recently been published. In a sign of the times, Robert Tannehill from Vanderbilt asked that computers be used to produce the fourth edition. He was program chair that year. Subsequently he became library manager with Chemical Abstracts Service.

Marie Harvin, a former secretary-treasurer (now at the M.D. Anderson Hospital) was named chair. Marcel Carol (Baylor University) was elected vice-chair, and Pauline Duffield of the

Texas Medical Association became secretary-treasurer. Carol, formerly with the Dallas Public Library, had become director of the medical library at Baylor in Dallas in 1965.

1968-69

The following year there was no conference, due to a clash with MLA's annual meeting, which that year took place in the fall, in Louisville, Kentucky. (The Third International Congress on Medical Librarianship, held in Amsterdam in June 1969, precluded MLA's holding its usual spring meeting.) There was, however, a business meeting of SRG, which took place, also in Louisville, on 29 October 1969. (The typed minutes say 22 October 1969, but this cannot have been the case because the MLA meeting was 27-30 October 1969.)

Lorraine Webb of the University of Texas Dental Branch was elected chair; also elected were David House of the University of Tennessee in Memphis, as vice-chair, and Martha Warder Andreasen from Vanderbilt, as secretary-treasurer. Before assuming the directorship of the dental library in 1952, Webb had received her library degree at Texas Women's University and then served as a school librarian.

At this business session, the group sought to avoid the "tyranny" of bylaws, and a motion was made to discard them and function as an informal group. The motion was defeated, however.

Marie Harvin who a few years previously had raised the question about the size of the group did so again, and a committee was asked to report at the next meeting on whether the region should be split. Jean Collier, who had succeeded Virginia Parker at the Texas Medical Center Library in Houston, asked that the same committee consider the relationship of SRG to the various regional medical libraries now operating in the region.

This was none too early, for when Kentucky became part of the East Central RML Program—as it was then called—in April 1969, it left SRG completely and became part of MLA's Midwest Group. (This group encompassed two RML programs: East Central and Mid Western.) In North Carolina, when that state became part of the Mid-Atlantic RML Program, its librarians, under Myrl Ebert of the University of North Carolina, petitioned MLA to be allowed to become a part of the Washington Area Regional Group (now Mid-Atlantic Chapter).

Even if there was no annual meeting that year, there was one great and memorable event, the first landing of a human on the moon (20 July 1969). Two states in SRG's territory were important in this endeavor: Florida (where the launch took place at Cape Canaveral) and Texas (where the program was directed from Mission Control in Houston). The group would convene for the first time in Houston the following year

1969-70

Despite the departure of the medical librarians of Kentucky and North Carolina, the librarians in the remaining states were not going to allow this "new fangled" RML program to break up the remainder of the original Southern Region—at least not initially.

When the matter of a split was again considered, this time at the Houston meeting in 1970, it was soundly rejected – though not without a hint that the issue would be resurrected. The author remembers it well; it was his first meeting with SRG. The issue did indeed come up again – only two years later – at the Charleston meeting in 1972. And more on that shortly, but now back to the Houston meeting.

As with the printed program for the 1966 meeting, that of the 1970 meeting was also a triptych, except that it was fan-folded and, when opened, twenty inches long. The text was superimposed longitudinally on a cigar-chomping Texan cowboy proclaiming “A Real Honest-to-Texas Welcome, to the 20th Meeting of S.R.G!” The meeting was held at the since demolished Shamrock-Hilton Hotel, which was also the site of the MLA Annual Meeting in May 1983. This was the last time SRG was to meet in Texas.

A New Englander, Barbara Hill of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, was imported to teach the CE Course “Recent Advances in the Literature of Pharmacy”. RML programs were again featured, with speakers from the two that operated in the Southern Region’s territory speaking on their respective programs—Donald Hendricks on the South Central RML and Mark Hodges on the Southeastern RML.

Hendricks was new to medical librarianship and was director of libraries at Sam Houston State University in Texas before assuming the post of RML director at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Library in 1970. Later (1978) he left medical libraries and became dean of library services at the University of New Orleans. Hodges had come to his position from a similar post in New England. Originally from Sheffield, England, Hodges held positions at Hamilton College and Swarthmore College and at the Brooklyn (New York) Public Library before entering health sciences librarianship at Harvard in 1964. He was later to become director of the medical library at Vanderbilt University, where he remained until his retirement in 1995.

At the business meeting, with Richard Eimas of Vanderbilt as parliamentarian, these persons were elected to office: Ted Srygley as chair, Sara Jean Jackson (University of Tennessee, Memphis) as vice-chair, and Isabel Caballero (University of Miami) as secretary-treasurer. Srygley was director of the medical library at the University of Florida, a post he held for most of his career, from 1966 until his retirement in 1994. Jackson headed the library component of the Memphis Regional Medical Program based at the University of Tennessee in that city. She later moved to Houston and became head of the library at the M. D. Anderson Hospital Library and has since retired. Caballero was a staff member under Mildred Langner at the Calder Memorial Library at the University of Miami.

For the second time since SRG’s founding, MLA’s annual meeting was held in the group’s territory, this time in New Orleans (18-21 May 1970). MLA was to meet once more in New Orleans, in 1988, but by this time Louisiana was no longer a part of the Southern Region.

1970-71

The group came to Nashville for its 1971 meeting, the first time the group had met in “Music City, USA.” A four-page booklet, featuring a fiddle-playing cowboy on the cover, gave details of the program. The program included two CE courses, one of them taught by

an up-and-coming medical librarian from the University of Louisville, Nancy Lorenzi, who had just been appointed director of the medical library at the University of Cincinnati. Her subject was “General Biomedical Reference Tools.” Lorenzi was later—in 2000—to return to Nashville as assistant vice-chancellor for health affairs at Vanderbilt University. In the meantime she was elected president of MLA and served in that capacity during 1982-83. Ronald Watterson wrote her professional profile up to that point in *BMLA* [24].

Reflecting the importance of hospital libraries and librarians, a whole session was devoted to “The Hospital Library in Perspective”, and a certain Jane Lambremont from the Earl K. Long Memorial Hospital Library in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, came to the group’s attention. Lambremont was later to become a member of the MLA Board of Directors and was honored with fellowship in the association around the time of her retirement.

The banquet speaker was Frances Neel Cheney of the Peabody College Library School. (Cheney was the long-time reviewer of reference books for *Wilson Library Bulletin* and an acknowledged authority on reference works.) John Isché gave his first “Potpourri of Practical Ideas from a Variety of Sources in the Southern Region”; this was to be a feature of SRG meetings for the next few years.

The Holiday Inn Vanderbilt was the meeting site, with Vanderbilt University as the host. Richard Eimas was convention chair and program chair. He left Vanderbilt shortly afterwards to become director of the medical library at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and later moved to the University of Iowa, where he is now in charge of the historical collection.

At the business meeting, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were invited to join the group because of their affiliation with the Southeastern RML Program. David House of the University of Tennessee was elected chair, Rose Hogan of the University of Arkansas, vice-chair, and Mary Ann Knotts, University of Alabama in Birmingham, secretary-treasurer. Hogan was the last person to be elected vice-chair. The post of vice-chair was discontinued, and a newly created post of chair-elect absorbed its duties. This office, as the name implies, carried with it the right of automatic succession to the chair. Hogan, who had been elected as vice-chair, became chair-elect.

As a part of its democratization process around this time, MLA changed its bylaws. Among other things, this would allow each regional group and each special interest group to propose a name for a slate of candidates from whom the MLA membership might select a nine-member Nominating Committee. (Previously, the MLA Nominating Committee had been pretty much a committee whose members were appointed by the MLA Board of Directors.) Regional groups were not required to name someone, though this group did so, and Mildred Crowe Langner was selected for this role. (A list of persons from SRG and, later, the Southern Chapter, who were successful in their bid for a seat on the MLA nominating committee is in Appendix D.)

1971-72

In 1972, the group’s 22nd annual meeting was held in Charleston. Meeting at the Mills Hyatt

House in October that year. Warren (Buzz) Sawyer was convention chair and program chair, and his library (at the now Medical University of South Carolina) was host. The dominant feature of the program was the “Theory and Philosophy of Networks and Networking”, but the session of most significance at this meeting was the Business Meeting.

Here, C. Lee Jones, president of the Texas Council of Health Sciences Librarians, announced that his group was planning on establishing a new regional group, to be composed of the states that made up the South Central RML Program. As earlier told, this program now used the acronym TALON, from the initial letters of its constituent states: Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. The four other states in the South Central RML Program acquiesced, two of them (Arkansas and Louisiana), one suspects, somewhat reluctantly. Louisiana, however, opted to be part of both regions, and remained in both camps for the next eight years. It was, after all, the “native state” of SRG. There was some opposition to Lee’s proposal, resulting in a demand for a secret ballot among the affected states to determine those states’ reaction to the secession petition.

There was another interesting development at that meeting. It was a resolution directing the group’s nominating committee to be cognizant of the fact that all MLA health sciences librarians are eligible for office. It asked the committee that, when making its selection, it pay particular attention to those health sciences librarians who are not employed by or associated with the medical schools of the region. This, no doubt, was an attempt to lessen the heretofore dominance of academic health sciences librarians, as distinct from those in hospitals and other institutions, in the affairs of the group.

Rose Hogan (University of Arkansas) succeeded to the chair. Dorothy Mueller of the University of Alabama in Birmingham became chair-elect and Paula Wykoff [now Craig] (MD Anderson Hospital), secretary-treasurer. Mueller, who had begun her medical library career at Duke University in 1962, came to the University of Alabama in 1967 and became associate director of its medical library in 1970. She moved from the library to become assistant to the vice-president in 1976 and assistant to the provost in 1994. She retired from that post in 2001.

Chapter 4.

RECONSTRUCTION (1972-1982)

The departure of the five “TALON States” was not a disaster and, in retrospect, the move was rational and reasonable. Up to this point, the Southern Region was, geographically, the largest in the nation. It stretched from the Appalachians to the Rockies. Even today, it covers a substantial landmass – from Memphis to Miami it is over a thousand miles. Moreover, the group was now to officially encompass Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. An enthusiastic welcome was extended to colleagues in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands when they asked to join the group, which they did officially in 1977.

Consolidation could now begin, and the best years of the group lay ahead. To show that this was the original region, the group retained its title of “Southern Regional Group” and did not adopt the more specific “Southeastern.”

1972-73

The 1973 meeting was held in Memphis at the Holiday Inn, Rivermont, on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. This was the third time the group had met in Memphis. Host for the meeting was the University of Tennessee (UT) in Memphis, whose library was now under the direction of Jess Martin. He had come to the region a couple of years earlier from Temple University in Philadelphia and succeeded UT’s long-time director, Irene Jones. Previously, Martin had been director at the NIH (National Institutes of Health) Branch Library in Bethesda (1963-68) and at Ohio State University Medical Library (1960-63).

Martin was program and convention chair, a role he was to fill six years later, when Memphis was again host to the group. He was also to become the group’s chair. Before his retirement in 1989, Martin presided over the design and construction of a new library, and afterwards he was made an honorary member of the chapter. Martin was succeeded at UT first by John Patruno and then by Tom Singarella.

“Management by Objectives” was the major topic at the meeting. The banquet was billed as “cocktails and dinner” aboard the “Memphis Queen”. There were indeed both, of a sort -- beer, followed by beans and barbecue, served buffet style. The beginning of the end had come to the previous tradition of an elegant cocktail hour, a formal sit-down dinner and, often, a speaker or an entertainment to follow. There were to be a few more formal banquets, but a tradition had been broken.

Dorothy Mueller succeeded to the chair, and Blondell Strong (Meharry Medical College in Nashville) was elected vice-chair. Strong may have been the first African-American to hold a leadership post in SRG. Jane Bumgarner of Piedmont Hospital Library in Atlanta was elected secretary-treasurer.

1973-74

The following year, the group met in Atlanta at the Fairmont Colony Square Hotel. Times had changed, and Miriam Libbey was now at the helm of Emory University's A. W. Calhoun Medical Library, which acted as host, and she was convention chair. Libbey, who had begun her career as Miriam Hawkins, under Mildred Jordan at Emory, had left the region and held appointments at the National Library of Medicine and the State University of New York at Buffalo before returning to Emory as head of its medical library in 1966. In 1969 she won for Emory the coveted role of Regional Medical Library for the Southeast. Along the way she met and married Fred Libbey and took his name. He died in 1979 and was mourned by the group on his passing; such was the degree of affection in which he was held by the membership.

Interestingly, this was the only time Libbey held office in the group (although she was the group's successful candidate for membership on the MLA Nominating Committee). Moreover, she was not program chair, which up to this point had been coterminous with convention chair. That role was filled by Margaret Johnson from NMAC (the National Medical Audiovisual Center which, although under the jurisdiction of NLM, was located in Atlanta at that time).

Sadly, Miriam Libbey was to be felled by a stroke nine years later (1983), from which she never fully recovered. She died on 5 December 1984. To show its appreciation for her efforts in behalf of the profession MLA had made her a fellow earlier that year. An obituary, by Mildred Langner, appeared in *BMLA* the following year [25].

Libbey's successor at Emory was Carol Burns, on whom more later. However, in the announcement later of her own impending (and early) retirement several years later, Burns noted that all three of her predecessors as medical library directors at Emory were stricken while in office and died soon afterwards. She was not going to allow the same fate to overtake her!

This was the first annual meeting that had a theme, which was "It's a Two-Way Street: Communication." In a session moderated by Dorothy Mueller, "Communication" was explored—with respect to Staff (by Martha Jane Zachert), to Users (by Dr. J. Willis Hurst), to MLA (by Julie Virgo, then director of education at MLA HQ), and to Other Libraries (by Bettye Stilley).

Blondell Strong succeeded to the chair, and Tom Basler (Medical College of Georgia) was elected vice-chair. Shortly afterwards Blondell Strong took a leave of absence from Meharry to work on a doctorate. She never returned to Meharry and has since left the profession. Jewel Garvin, a staff member at the University of Florida in Gainesville, became secretary-treasurer.

A couple of years earlier, Basler had become director of the library at the Medical College of Georgia, having come there from New York City where, briefly, he had been library director at the New York Academy of Medicine. He remained in the Georgia post for several years until becoming director of the library at the Medical University of South Carolina.

1974-75

After an interval of thirteen years, the group returned to Gainesville, Florida, for its 25th (1975) Annual Meeting. No special mention was made in the printed program, or in the minutes, of this significant milestone. Carolyn Hall and Ted Srygley, both of the University of Florida, were program chair and convention chair respectively. This gathering was the first joint meeting with another medical library organization (though it was not with another regional group, as was to happen the following year). In this case, it was the fall meeting of the Florida Health Science Library Association, an organization of state health science librarians.

The Florida Medical Librarians was probably the first such association to have been founded in this region -- it started in 1961, and others were to follow. They include (with dates of founding in parentheses):

Georgia Health Sciences Library Association (1976)
Tennessee Health Science Library Association (1977)
Alabama Health Library Association (1980)
Health Sciences Round Table of South Carolina (1991)

At one point some wondered whether the activity of these state organizations might undermine enthusiasm and support for the regional group and diminish its usefulness and effectiveness, its purpose even. However, any such fears turned out to be groundless, and state associations and the chapter have continued to flourish side by side. A greater threat was to come from the Southeastern Conference of Hospital Librarians, and more on this later.

The meeting in 1975 was held at the Gainesville Hilton, and two CE courses were offered. Doris Bolef, the first library director at the then new College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, spoke on OCLC (originally the Ohio College Library Center, later Online Computer Library Center, and now simply OCLC). At the business session, later in the meeting, Bolef introduced a resolution proposing a name change for MLA, to Health Science Library Association. It was defeated. Bolef left the South shortly afterwards to head the library at Rush University in Chicago and retired in 1988.

Sessions at that meeting covered "Implications of Patient Education for the Library" and "Development of Health Science Libraries at the Local Level." The banquet entertainment was a concert of early music played on period instruments, presented by an ensemble from the University of Florida.

At the business session, the recently appointed executive director of MLA, John LoSasso, was recognized. He served the association in this capacity until 1979. (LoSasso was MLA's first executive director. His predecessor, Helen Brown Schmidt, previously mentioned, had held the title of executive secretary.) John Isché was to again entertain the group with his potpourri of practical ideas at the final professional session.

These new officers were elected: R. Thomas (Tom) Lange, chair-elect, and Neeta Shah, secretary-treasurer. Lange, who began his health sciences library career at the College of Optometry in Memphis, had recently become library director of the new school of medicine at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Previously Lange had been first library director of the new school of medicine at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He retired in 1997. Shah, then as now, was at the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, also in Columbia.

A special resolution honored David House on his retirement. House had served as vice-chair in 1969-70 and chair in 1971-72. (Like President Franklin Roosevelt, House had been stricken by polio earlier in life and carried out his duties at work and conducted the affairs of the group from a wheel-chair.) Two other retired members were honored with resolutions: Sadie Rainsford and Elizabeth Eaton. (Eaton should not be confused with another MLA member of the same name. This other Elizabeth Eaton was, until recently, director of the medical library at Tufts University in Boston. She is now about to become director of the Houston Academy of Medicine/Texas Medical Center Library in Houston.)

1975-76

There was no theme for the 26th annual meeting, which was the first joint meeting with another regional group—in this case the South Central Regional Group—at the Sheraton Hotel in Bossier City, Louisiana. And it was the first outside SRG's territory. (Arguably, the group was not outside its turf because, four years earlier, Louisiana, while opting to join the new South Central Regional Group, had also chosen to remain in the Southern Regional Group.) Realistically, however, this was a South Central Regional Group meeting on its newly created turf. Unfortunately, this started a trend, and SRG was to engage in a number of joint meetings with other groups or chapters, always outside its territory and never within it.

Although there was no theme for this meeting, the meeting had a racing motif. This, no doubt, was due to its location in Bossier City (across the river from Shreveport, Louisiana) and its racing connections with nearby Louisiana Downs. Segments of the program had such titles as "Post Time", "And They're Off", "Daily Double", and "Backstretch". The social event was billed as a "Red River Romp", which took place at the Louisiana Hayride Barn. (The author recalls hearing, possibly for the first time, and singing, a spirited rendition of *Wildwood Flower*.)

The principal session was devoted to "Library Schools and the Education of Librarians," with representation from library school faculty and students. Among the former was Virginia Algermissen of the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and among the latter, Judith Caruthers of Louisiana State University in New Orleans.

Algermissen later became director of the Lister Hill Library at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, following the departure of Richard Fredericksen, and Caruthers became director of the medical library at Louisiana State University in New Orleans following the retirement of John Isché. Ill health later forced Caruthers' early retirement, and she died on 27 June 2001.

Another speaker, at a session on “Copyright,” was Richard Lyders, who had recently been named to succeed Sam Hitt as director of the Houston Academy of Medicine Library. Lyders was later to become president of MLA and of AAHSLD (Association of Academic Health Sciences Library Directors), now AAHSL. It was he who later wrested from the University of Texas in Dallas the role of RML for the South Central Region and who dropped the acronym TALON as the name of the program. Ruth Wender, from the University of Oklahoma, spoke on “Hospital Accreditation.” She was later to be elected to the MLA Board of Directors.

At the business session, Mark Hodges was named parliamentarian, a post he held, with only short breaks until 1998. He spoke about the possible restructuring of MLA that was then under consideration by an ad hoc committee of MLA, on which he served. This restructuring was to have a bearing on this and the other regional groups of MLA.

Elected were Jess Martin, as chair-elect, and Marylyn Gresser, as secretary-treasurer. Not unexpectedly, because it was joint meeting, the conference drew a large crowd—190, probably the largest attendance to date.

1976-77

A Georgian, Jimmy Carter, was elected to the presidency of the United States in November 1976. Though three later presidents were from what was then SRG’s territory (the Bushes—father and son—and Clinton) the group had split by the time they served.

In 1977 the group assembled for the first time in Columbia, the state capital of South Carolina; it was its 27th meeting and took place at the Wade Hampton Hotel. Host was the University of South Carolina. Its director, Tom Lange, was convention chair, who doubled as chair of the group that year. Lange must have felt the stress of this, for at the business session he recommended that the group’s chair not also be the convention chair. At least he did not have to serve as program chair, a role that was filled by Charletta Felder from the VA Hospital in Columbia.

This was one of the few meetings where the banquet menu was spelled out in the printed program: a 10-ounce slab of prime rib, followed by strawberry cheesecake. It was held at the Capstone House.

There was no official theme, but an unofficial one was image projection and promotion. The concluding session was “Oh, To See Ourselves As Others See Us” (a psychodrama with performers from the Department of Theater and Speech at the University of South Carolina).

Directing Section One was Martha Jane Zachert from the library school at Florida State University. Section Two was directed by William F. Summers, Ph.D., predecessor of Fred Roper as dean of the College of Librarianship at the University of South Carolina. Summers was later elected to the presidency of the American Library Association. He also

subsequently served as a member of the Regional Advisory Council of the Southeastern/Atlantic RML

Elected that year were Marylyn Gresser of the VA Hospital in Gainesville, Florida, as chair-elect, and Ada Seltzer (then Bowen) as secretary-treasurer. Jess Martin assumed the chair. Seltzer, originally from Pennsylvania, had moved south to attend library school at Florida State University and had begun her library career in the main library of the University of South Florida in Tampa. From here she gravitated to its then new medical library in the early 1970s. Later, on the retirement of Irene Graham, she became director of the medical library at the University of Mississippi. She held many important offices in the group, and in MLA, as the subsequent history will show.

The minutes of the business session record that a report was given on a meeting of the group's executive committee that had taken place at the MLA national meeting in Seattle earlier the year. This may have been the first such meeting between annual meetings of the group, and it suggests that the group was now involved in sufficient activity to warrant such a gathering. At this meeting an ad hoc committee was established to study the structure and future of the Southern Regional Group.

1977-78

On 10 January 1978, the ad hoc committee met in Atlanta, and among its recommendations was one that the group not disband, as had been suggested. One reason was given: The value of social intercourse. It further recommended that the group remain essentially the same geographically (though, as has been heard, Louisiana was later to leave).

As previously stated, MLA had, earlier in the decade, embarked on a study of its group structure, which resulted in MLA's current organizational format. (Mark Hodges had spoken on this at the 1976 meeting.) An outline of the new structure was presented at 28th annual meeting, held in Jackson, Mississippi, in October 1978. Lois Ann Colaianni, MLA's president-elect, laid out the plans that had been formulated by the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the MLA Group Structure. She added that plans for its implementation were now being discussed.

Among the recommendations of the ad hoc committee were the establishment of some degree of conformity and the fixing of regional boundaries so that each state would be a constituent of only one MLA region.

As a result of this, Louisiana was forced to choose between the SRG and the South Central Regional Group that had broken away in 1972. (As noted earlier, it had elected to remain in both groups.) Reluctantly, and bowing to reality and practicality, Louisiana opted for the latter. So the "Sportsman's Paradise" was lost to the Southern Region and, with it, two of its most venerable and colorful members, Mayo Drake and John Isché. For sure, they would love to know they are still held in veneration—and recalled as colorful characters!

The year 1978 also marked the formation of the Southeastern Conference of Hospital Librarians (SCHL), a librarians' subsidiary of the Southeastern Hospital Conference

(SHC). It comprised Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, of which six were in SRG's region. One of the founders of SCHL was Martha Childs Watkins, on whom more later.

The establishment of this group posed a potential threat to attendance at SRG's meetings, if not to SRG itself. If all, or a majority, of the hospital librarians in SRG's area of the country elected to attend SCHL meetings rather than SRG meetings, there would be a devastating effect on SRG. Such was the level of hospital librarian membership at this point. (In an earlier era this would not have mattered so much, for the dominant faction within the group was academic librarians.) Moreover, if the time and talents of hospital librarians were used in the service of SCHL rather than SRG, this too could weaken SRG. In the event, the fear proved groundless and enthusiasm for SCHL waned as the years went by. Eventually SHC was dissolved and with it SCHL (1995). When the dissolution took place, the funds of SCHL were transferred to the Southern Chapter and used by it to establish a scholarship honoring Martha Watkins.

The Jackson meeting was Mildred Langner's last SRG meeting as director of the Calder Memorial Library at the University of Miami, and a dinner was held in her honor. The University of Mississippi, under the direction of Irene Graham, was host. Perhaps the most distinguished presenter at the meeting was Scott Adams, former deputy director at the National Library of Medicine and now a consultant to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). He took the title of his talk from a poem by T. S. Eliot, no less apropos then than it is today: "Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?"

Another speaker was Michael Torrente who, a couple of years earlier, had taken over from Eloise Foster the post of assistant director of the Southeastern RML Program. He had come from the Countway Library of Medicine at Harvard, where he was an officer with the New England RML Program. He spoke on the program he now directed. Torrente later left the profession and became a furniture craftsman.

The slate of officers presented for election was Anne Kabler for chair-elect and Lynn Fortney as secretary-treasurer. Kabler then, and until her January 2000 retirement, was on the staff of the library at the Medical University of South Carolina, where she spent her entire medical library career. Earlier, following graduation from the College of William and Mary, she had been a public welfare officer. She later married Ken Robichaux, a sales representative with the Majors Company, and took his name.

Fortney originally from Macon, Georgia, attended Grinnell College, Iowa, where she received her bachelor's degree. She obtained her library degree at Emory and, after appointments elsewhere joined the staff of the University of Alabama in Birmingham, where she was at this time. She was later to move to a senior position with EBSCO Subscription Services and become the chapter's 51st chair. She is married to T. Scott Plutchak (current director of the Lister Hill Library at the University of Alabama at Birmingham) but retains her name.

1978-79

There was no theme for the 1979 meeting, which was held in Memphis, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the beltway that runs around the city, several miles from downtown. It was the group's fourth meeting in the Bluff City. For the first time in the group's history, the meeting was presented in honor of a librarian, M. Irene Jones, retired director of the library at the University of Tennessee. Jones had served as program and convention chair twice, in 1953 and in 1964. She was introduced as the guest of honor at the banquet on the Friday night.

Two CE courses were offered, one of them ("Basic Media Management Software") taught by Michael Homan, then of the Upjohn Company, but now of the Mayo Medical Library. He was later appointed editor of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* and elected MLA president in 1999 [26].

A panel discussion on the Friday afternoon, sponsored by a Junior Members Round Table, focussed on "Beginning Librarians in Medical Libraries." Panelists included Joan Marcotte of the University of Tennessee (now Joan Gregory, she is at the University of Utah) and Jan Hawkins of LeBonheur Children's Hospital, Memphis. (Now Jan LaBeause, she is medical library director at Mercer University.)

The banquet speaker was Alfred Brandon who reminisced in a talk called "Looking Back." Entertainment followed, provided by the Memphis State University (now University of Memphis) Singers, whose cockney accents in the selections they sang from *Oliver* sounded quire authentic. Ballen Books underwrote cocktails that year. At the business meeting on the Saturday morning, the minutes record that the year opened with a balance of \$1000 in the treasury and that the dues were now \$2.00 per annum.

Mark Hodges drew attention to the parlous state of the MLA Cunningham International Fellowship Fund, which was nearing depletion. This later lead to the creation by MLA of an ad hoc committee to address the problem and to the group's generously supporting the fund in the 1980s and 1990s.

Marcia Davidoff, then director of the medical library at the University of South Alabama in Mobile became chair-elect. She had come to Mobile from various positions in upstate New York and at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Davidoff later moved to a post at the Naval Establishment in Orlando, from which she has since retired. Her successor at the University of South Alabama was Robert Donnell, who too has since retired. Linda Garr Markwell then, as now, at the Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta was named secretary-treasurer. She was later to hold many other offices in the group, as will be noted. Markwell had joined the Emory team in 1975 after an earlier career as a high school Latin teacher.

Following tradition at SRG meetings, all persons nominated were elected. In those days, the nominating committee presented a single slate of candidates. Then the chair would invite additional nominations from the floor. As far as can be ascertained, none were ever made, and candidates have always been elected by acclamation.

Later in the group's history, the nominating committee presented its candidates in writing, again a single slate, and the nominees were then subjected to a secret mail ballot. Although an opportunity is provided on the ballot for write-in candidates, and there have been some, no write-in candidate has ever been elected.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Fred Libbey, husband of Miriam Libbey, who had died recently. Although not a librarian, nor even a paid up member, Fred Libbey was a frequent attendee at chapter meetings and generally acknowledged as *animateur and raconteur extraordinaire*. Also memorialized was Wilhelm Moll of the University of Virginia who, although from outside the region, frequently attended the group's meetings. He had died following the MLA annual meeting in Honolulu earlier that year.

1979-80

The next meeting of the group was billed as a "Second Joint Conference." At this gathering, the 30th annual meeting of SRG was held jointly with 9th annual meeting of the South Central Regional Group. The previous joint conference had been held in Shreveport/Bossier City four years earlier. The location and site were the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans.

As with the previous joint conference, this was on "neutral" territory, in that the state of Louisiana was still in both camps. But realistically, once again, it was a South Central Regional Group meeting on its turf and basically organized by it, though with some input from SRG. It was the fourth time SRG had met in New Orleans. Perversely, the program for that meeting does not list the organizers. Indeed the printed program as a whole is not up to the standards of those at previous and subsequent meetings. Only the New Orleans fleur-de-lis adorns it.

A whole general session was devoted to reports from the two RML Programs; Jean Miller of the University of Texas in Dallas spoke for TALON, Miriam Libbey for SERMLP. (Jean Miller died on 1 May 2000, and an obituary appeared in *BMLA* the following year [27].)

Possibly emulating the 1979 meeting, which honored M. Irene Jones, the second general session of the 1980 meeting was a tribute to Mary Louise Marshall, formerly of Tulane University. It was a panel presentation on "Continuing Education of the Health Professional."

What was probably a first at one of SRG's meetings, was a program of parallel sessions. (These had begun at MLA annual meetings in Chicago in 1978.) A good thing about this development was that it accommodated more papers at the annual meeting and permitted more members to make presentations. The downside to this arrangement was (and is) the fragmenting of the program, resulting in conference goers having to make choices. Also, considerable distraction is generated as members flit for from one session to another.

William Postell, Jr., was declared chair-elect. This had an interesting twist, for the following year, the new MLA group structure was to take effect. This required states to choose one

chapter, and only one. Louisiana opted for the South Central Chapter (it had earlier voted to stay in both camps). Postell, Jr., was, of course, from Louisiana, but allowed his election to stand, and there were no objections. The secretary-treasurer was Laura Huff Koch, then at Emory University. (For the record, Koch is the sister of June Huff Fulton from the Philadelphia area, who later became president of MLA. The incidence of siblings in MLA is rare.)

Not unreasonably, Thomas Basler was named convention chair and program chair for the 1981 meeting, which was scheduled to take place in his city, Augusta, where he headed the library at the Medical College of Georgia.

Another first at this meeting was the election of representatives to the MLA Chapter Council. This body had been created as part of the restructuring of MLA and consisted of a representative and an alternate from each of the MLA chapters. The Council first met at MLA's Montreal meeting in 1981. Selected were Ted Srygley, as the representative, and Martha Jane Zachert, as the alternate.

Also, whereas previously each chapter had selected one of its members to be a candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee, at this meeting the person chosen was only a "potential candidate." Under MLA's restructuring, the actual candidates would be chosen by the newly created Chapter Council, and drawn from the potential candidates offered by each of the chapters. Miriam Libbey was selected as the potential candidate and later became an actual candidate. She was subsequently elected to the MLA nominating committee.

Finally, this was the last meeting of the Southern Regional Group as such. Henceforward it would be the Southern Chapter (SC), and the state of Louisiana would no longer be in its ranks.

1980-81

The 1981 meeting of the now Southern Chapter (its first as a chapter, its 31st as the Southern Regional Group) was held at the invitation of Tom Basler in the Augusta Hilton in Augusta, Georgia. The chapter had met here once before, in 1968. The modest printed program records the usual pattern of a Southern Regional Group meeting, with pre- and post-conference CE courses, a welcome reception on the Thursday evening (at the Old Medical College on Telfair Street) and a Banquet (buffet style on the Friday evening). Those who planned on flying out of the Augusta Airport the following evening were disappointed. The airport runway lights failed, and all flights were cancelled.

Ada Seltzer who had earlier served as secretary-treasurer was named chair-elect, and Susan Selig, secretary-treasurer. Selig received her bachelor's degree from the University of Central Arkansas in 1969 and four years later earned her library degree at Peabody Library School in Nashville. Between times she was hired by the University of Tennessee (UT), to which she returned on completion of her library degree. Her entire career has been spent at UT's library in various capacities in rising degrees of importance, including that of Acting Director.

Buzz Sawyer who had invited the chapter to Charleston for its 1982 meeting was decreed program and convention chair. He had served in this role ten years earlier. Sadly, Sawyer died from lung cancer at the early age of fifty-two in November 1989. His life is summarized in his obituary, which appeared in *BMLA* the following April [28]. Ted Srygley and Martha Jane Zachert continued as the chapter's representatives to MLA's Chapter Council. Selected as potential candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee was Irene Graham.

1981-82

One always expects graciousness in Charleston, and members were not disappointed when the (now) Southern Chapter met for its 32nd annual meeting in this South Carolina city (the group had met here twice before). Warren Sawyer was host.

An interesting development in the pre-conference proceedings was a meeting of potential members of a proposed Consortium of Southern Biomedical Libraries (later known as CONBLS). Members of this group anticipated the possibility that the reconfigured RML program structure (which merged the old Southeastern RML Program with the Mid-Atlantic RML Program) might not be to its liking. Wishing to be sure that its interests would be fully protected and represented in the new order, the group formed CONBLS toward this end. (Henry Lemkau later explained this to the chapter membership at the business meeting on the Saturday morning.)

Following the welcome reception, members enjoyed the Tradd Street Candlelight Tour whereby, at their own pace, they could visit the historic homes on that street that were open to the public. The following night saw a grand farewell party, with a lavish cocktail hour and a banquet that was followed by "A Charleston Twenties Party."

At the business meeting on the Saturday morning, the incoming chair, Ada Seltzer, formally announced that, because Louisiana had been forced to choose between the South Central Chapter and the Southern Chapter, the majority of librarians in that state had opted for the former. Accordingly it would be leaving the Southern Chapter. Bill Postell, Jr., expressed his sorrow at this but said he had to accept the majority decision. Irene Graham was later to call for honorary membership for all those Louisiana health sciences librarians who had maintained their SRG membership since the founding of the South Central Regional Group in 1972.

Resolutions honored the memory of SRG founder William Postell, Sr., who had died earlier in the year, and former NLM Deputy Director Scott Adams, who had died earlier in the month (3 October 1982). Adams had been a featured speaker at earlier SRG meetings. Later in life Adams had married Joan Titley of the University of Louisville Medical Library. (His obituary, by Brad Rogers, former NLM director, appeared the following year [29].)

A question was asked whether Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands should remain in the chapter (This following their assignment to the New York RML in the reconfigured RML Program). The health sciences librarian at the University of Puerto Rico replied they desired to remain in the Southern Chapter.

New officers elected were Karen Graves (chair-elect) and Janet Fisher (secretary-treasurer). At the time. Graves was at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. but was later to leave the state to take up an appointment at the library of the American Medical Association in Chicago.

Fisher, then as now, was at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. She had served at academic medical libraries in Maryland, Utah and North Carolina before coming to East Tennessee in 1975 upon the opening of the medical school at ETSU. Initially she served as assistant director under Doris Bolef but became director in 1978 when Bolef moved to Rush University in Chicago.

Henry Lemkau was named potential candidate for the MLA nominating committee and was subsequently elected to it. Lemkau had joined SRG on assuming the directorship of the Calder Memorial Library at the University of Miami in 1979 (following the retirement of Mildred Crowe Langner). Previously, for a number of years, he had headed the medical library at the University of Rochester in upstate New York; earlier he served under Gertrude Annan at the library of the New York Academy of Medicine.

Chapter 5.

MATURATION 1982-1995

During the next fifteen years the Southern Chapter really reached maturity. Its meetings reached a high standard, both socially and professionally, and the level of participation of its members increased.

1982-83

The first meeting of this new era was held in Birmingham. It was thirty years since the group had met here (for its second meeting in 1953). The host institution was the University of Alabama at Birmingham under the direction of its recently appointed head, Richard Fredericksen, who had succeeded Sarah Brown in 1978. He had come to Alabama from Memorial University in St John's Newfoundland. Prior to that he had served in libraries in California, where he also attended college and library school.

A co-host of the meeting was the Jefferson County Health Librarians. Other local groups that subsequently co-hosted annual meetings include:

- Association of Memphis Area Health Science Libraries
- Mid-Tennessee Health Science Librarians (Nashville)
- Atlanta Health Sciences Libraries Consortium
- Tampa Bay Medical Library Network
- Tri-Cities Area Health Science Library Consortium (Eastern Tennessee)

In the future, the role and influence of state and local health science library groups might well be explored.

A mirror-like cover adorned the printed program, which appropriately proclaimed the conference theme "Self-Reflections '83." For the first time at a Southern Chapter meeting there were exhibits—twenty-one of them.

Among the sessions was one entitled "Double Vision: Intimate Insights," in which two librarian couples revealed their experiences as man and wife in health sciences library employment. The couples were Mary Ann & Robert Donnell and Judith & Mark Hodges. Nancy Lorenzi was moderator. The finale was "A Banquet in the Southern Tradition & Wit's Other End--A Satiric Musical Review of the Medical Profession and the South."

At the business meeting in Birmingham there began an event that was to become a regular feature at SC business sessions: the report of the chapter's representative to the MLA Chapter Council. Three invitations were issued for future meetings. The first was from the University of Miami for the 1984 meeting to be held in that city. The second invitation came from the Mid-Atlantic Chapter for a joint meeting to be held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in 1985. The third was a joint invitation, from Meharry Medical College and

Vanderbilt University, to hold the 1986 meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. All were gratefully accepted.

On a sad note, members expressed the chapter's good wishes to Miriam Libbey for a speedy recovery from a stroke that she suffered earlier in the year. Members also stood for a moment of silence in memory of Ann Smallwood (Alabama Hospital Association) who had died since the previous meeting.

Officers for the year were announced. Jean Williams (later Sayre—she married in 1987) of Mercer University became chair-elect, and Gwen Walters of the University Community Hospital in Tampa, Florida, became secretary-treasurer. Walters, a 1974 graduate of the University of South Florida library school, had previously served as a librarian trainee at the Tampa VA Hospital. Judith Hodges was voted potential candidate for the MLA nominating committee, and was successful in her candidacy.

Williams, whose library career began in the Upper Mid-West, had come to Mercer in 1981. She subsequently moved to the University of Mississippi before leaving the region to serve in senior posts at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in Rootstown, Ohio, and at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Most recently she has been appointed director of the health sciences library at the University of Iowa. In 1992, together with Jocelyn Rankin, she was the recipient of the ISI/Frank Bradway Rogers Information Advancement Award.

Judith Hodges was librarian at the Tennessee Hospital Association in Nashville, a post she held from 1975 to 1994, when she was appointed librarian of the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia. She retired in 2000.

1983-84

In March 1984 the first real membership directory was issued and mailed out to the membership. Previously, a makeshift list was distributed only to those present at the annual meeting. Initially, this membership directory was just that, but over the years it improved and now includes comprehensive information about the chapter, including its bylaws, history, officers, meetings and other useful data.

Elaborate plans were made during the year for the chapter's 34th annual meeting which, for the first time, was held in the Miami area (at the Sonesta Beach Hotel and Tennis Club in Key Biscayne). Due to its location, a nautical theme was adopted: "Catching the Crest of the Wave".

One of the featured speakers was Estelle Brodman, who opened the professional sessions with a paper on the "Yesterday, Today but Probably Not Tomorrow" of American hospitals and their libraries. Brodman was the recently retired director of the medical library at Washington University in St. Louis and a former president of MLA. She was accompanied

by Gertrude Annan, librarian emerita of the New York Academy of Medicine and the first presenter of the Janet Doe Lecture (given at the MLA annual meeting in Miami in 1967).

A splendid banquet honoring MLA past presidents from the Southern Chapter was the highlight of the meeting (and against which all future banquets would be judged).. The record shows that the cost of this meeting exceeded \$25,000.

At the business meeting honorary memberships were conferred on Fred Bryant, Miriam Libbey, Erdeal Moore, Flora Wellington and Martha Jane Zachert. All had held offices in the chapter. The new officers were inducted: Henry Lemkau as chair-elect, Ellen McDonnell as secretary-treasurer. Anne Kabler Robichaux was declared potential candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee.

McDonnell was from the Technical Information Center of the Buckman Research Laboratories in Memphis. Originally from Mississippi, McDonnell had earlier been serials librarian in the medical libraries at the University of Mississippi and at the University of Tennessee. The time had come for the initial full term representatives to the Chapter Council (Anne Kabler Robichaux and Tom Lange) to be replaced. Suzetta Burrows (as principal) and Ada Seltzer (as alternate) took their place. Later, at her retirement, Robichaux was made an honorary member, and Seltzer, because of her many contributions to the chapter, was made an honorary member before her retirement. Burrows and Seltzer would serve from 1985 to 1988. This was the year that a strategic planning committee was inaugurated and a strategic plan for the chapter formulated.

A new appointive position was created this year—that of bookkeeper—which would relieve the burden of the person holding the post of secretary–treasurer. It was filled initially by Susan Selig of the University of Tennessee in Memphis and then, from 1986 to 1996, by Lauren Benevich of the health sciences library at Emory University. Benevich accomplished this largely unglamorous chore with care and distinction. Subsequent bookkeepers are named in the chronological list of officers (Appendix C).

1984-85

This year saw the launching of the chapter's newsletter *Southern Expressions*, under the editorship of Diane Ream (later Rourke). The year also marked the passing of one of the greats of the Southern Region. Though not a librarian, his career and achievements had a tremendous effect on the profession and practice of health sciences librarianship across the nation. Senator Lister Hill of Alabama died a few years before his 90th birthday in December 1984. The story of his life and its effect on medical librarianship is told in an obituary written by NLM Director Martin Cummings [30].

The 35th annual meeting was a joint one with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter and was held on its turf in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in mid-November (this was the latest date that an

annual meeting had been held since regular fall meetings had begun around 1957). Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University was the host. This was the chapter's third joint meeting and had as its theme "Designs for the 80's." In addition to exhibits, this meeting also featured a poster session: "Microcomputers in Libraries."

The meeting was basically a Mid-Atlantic Chapter meeting, with its officers being largely responsible for the arrangements and the program. However, SC members had some say in the professional program and participated in it. There was also a separate business meeting to address the affairs of the chapter. Among other things the annual dues were raised to ten dollars.

Honorary memberships were conferred on retired or about-to- retire members: Elizabeth Eaton, Jewel Garvin, Desmond Koster, Dorothy Herrin and Dora Louise (Dee) Platt. The first three were former officers; of the other two, Herrin was at the Medical College of Georgia and Platt at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville. (Dee Platt died on 16 August 2001, in California, and her death notice will appear in the November/December 2001 issue of *MLA News*.) On a sad note, the chapter commemorated the deaths of two members, who had died since the previous meeting: Mary Jane Crutchfield and Miriam Libbey.

A memorable event at this meeting was the banquet entertainment. Entitled "George M", it featured members of both chapters in a musical and dance extravaganza, which was very well received and afforded an evening of pleasurable entertainment. Stars of the show were Jim Boyer and Ada Seltzer, but it is worth recording the other cast members, who were: Sherry Anderson, Carol Burns, Gary Byrd, Pat Craig, Barbara Doughty, Donna Flake, Lynn Fortney, Dick Fredericksen, Phil Gallina, Anne Kabler, Virginia Miller, and Lisa Rains Russell.

1985-86

The Chapter held the 36th meeting in Nashville—its second time in "Music City, USA." Appropriately, its theme was "Information Country." This was inscribed in a phonodisc logo that adorned the front cover of the printed program (which, for the first time, advertised the following year's annual meeting, to be held in Tampa). This was a joint meeting with the Tennessee Health Science Library Association (THESLA), which was holding its tenth annual meeting.

The meeting was co-hosted by Meharry Medical College Library and Vanderbilt University Medical Center Library, in cooperation with the Mid-Tennessee Health Science Librarians Consortium. The locale was the recently completed and very luxurious Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel. (The organizers were able to get a good deal because they signed up for the hotel, sight unseen, while the building was under construction.)

Memorable social events were the opening reception (which was held at the Country Music Hall of Fame—the first time this museum had been opened for a private group reception that was not related to the country music industry) and the banquet entertainment. This last was presented by the cowboy trio "Riders in the Sky" (and graciously underwritten by the Majors Company).

In addition to welcome remarks from the chapter chair, Henry Lemkau, the president of THESLA, Mary Evelyn Lynn, made some of her own. (Lynn was librarian at East Tennessee Baptist Hospital in Knoxville.) The keynote speaker, John Kerin of McGraw Hill, spoke on "The Information Age."

This was "Homecoming Year" in Tennessee, and Governor Lamar Alexander, in a letter to the membership, welcomed medical librarians back to the state after an absence of fifteen years. He noted the great contributions made by a former Tennessee medical librarian, Eileen Cunningham. Alexander was later a candidate in the Republican primaries for the presidency of the United States

To mark this homecoming, Mark Hodges was speaker at a Nostalgic Luncheon and traced the history of the chapter from 1971 to 1986 in an address "Fifteen Years Forward." An honored guest at the lunch was Frances Neel Cheney, by this time professor emerita of library science at Peabody College (which was now a part of Vanderbilt University); she had been a speaker at the previous meeting in Nashville, in 1971.

At the business and executive committee meetings a number of interesting topics came up that were to set or seal the path of the chapter in the years ahead. One proposal was to consider a merger with the Mid-Atlantic Chapter. Giving rise to this was the previous year's successful joint meeting and the fact that the Southern Chapter and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter now shared the same RML Program. (This had been the reason for mergers or realignments of regional groups during the years that the RMLs were being launched in the late 60s and early 70s.) After the pros and cons were weighed, the decision was in favor of the status quo.

The relationship of the chapter to the Southeastern Conference of Hospital Librarians (SCHL) was also considered, and some thought was given to a joint meeting with it. This was scratched, however, because SCHL met under the umbrella of its parent body, the Southeastern Conference of Hospitals, which typically met in the spring. However, it was agreed that ties should be strengthened.

A division of the labor involved in the organization of the chapter's annual meeting was also considered. This resulted in the current order, whereby the Program Committee and the Convention Committee would be discrete units. This business meeting also saw the launching of what is now the Strategic Planning Committee. Its formation has been discussed earlier. Lastly, the chapter began its tradition of supporting the Eileen Cunningham International Fellowship, named for one of the chapter's most illustrious members. Because the meeting had turned a profit it was moved that the advance it had received (\$500) be donated to MLA for this cause.

Gail Waverchak (now Russell) was elected secretary-treasurer and Richard Fredericksen, chair-elect. Waverchak had become director of the library at St. Joseph Hospital in Atlanta in 1978. Earlier she had served as an outreach librarian at a geriatric center in Syracuse, New York, where she also received her library degree in 1977. She now lives and works in Whangarei, New Zealand. Fredericksen's earlier career has previously been mentioned.

1986-87

For the first time ever, the chapter held its 1987 annual meeting (the 36th) in Tampa, Florida, and the library at the University of South Florida Medical Center took its turn as a convention host for the first time. A strutting pink flamingo, with black cane and top hat, adorned the cover of the printed program. The theme proclaimed what was in store: "Sun, Fun and the Basics." Among the fun parts of the meeting was a cocktail cruise aboard the "Belle of St Petersburg". (This, by the way, gave rise to a suggestion at the business session that a future meeting might be held aboard a cruise ship. It never did come to pass.) The inclusive conference fee was \$80.

Elections resulted in these officers for the ensuing year: Linda Garr Markwell (who had previously served as secretary-treasurer) as chair-elect, and Joy Hunter as secretary-treasurer. Hunter was librarian at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She later moved to a non-library administrative post at the VA Hospital in Nashville.

At the business session a definite commitment was made to supporting the Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship. Mark Hodges told how an ad hoc committee was working on raising an endowment to continue the fellowship, which otherwise would have to be discontinued through lack of funds.

1987-88

"The Shape of Thing to Come" was the theme of the 38th annual meeting, held at the Omni Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida, in November 1988. A magician (Merlin perhaps) was featured on the program cover, casting spells. And a magician (The Great Zucchini definitely) performed at the banquet. This was the first time the chapter had met in Northeast Florida and the first time the chapter had met two years in a row in the same state. It was also the first time the chapter had met in a city that does not have an academic medical center, although the University of Florida Library (Gainesville) was the convention host, and its director, Ted Srygley, the convention chair. (This was the first of three meetings to be held in a city different from that of the host institution. The two subsequent ones were Orlando in 1994 and Savannah in 1997.) The Borland Library, a unit of the University of Florida, handled local arrangements.

A report after the meeting told of the division of duties for this conference. Although convention management was in the hands of the convention hosts, that responsibility excluded vendor participation and program content. Chair Dick Fredericksen handled the former and Chris Jones (VA Hospital in Biloxi, Mississippi) the latter.

In a departure from tradition, the opening session (with the keynote speaker) was held in the evening, and the business meeting was the first order of business the following morning. The cost of the meeting was \$23,000. To offset this cost, in part, there were contributions and sponsorships of events which totaled around \$5000. There were 21 exhibitors.

At this meeting the chapter was pleased to have present Eloise Foster, MLA president. Foster was a former member of the chapter and one who had maintained her membership.

Previously associate director of the Southeastern RML Program (SERMLP) at Emory University, Foster was now director of library services at the American Hospital Association in Chicago. A profile of Foster appeared in *BMLA* at the time of her MLA presidency [31].

Among the topics considered at the business session was the possibility of annual meetings being held over a weekend. Two reasons were given:

- to avoid missed work on weekdays (very important for one-person libraries)
- to take advantage of the low fares offered by the airlines when a Saturday overnight stay is included in the itinerary

Also discussed was an invitation to MLA to consider holding its annual meeting in Nashville in the mid-nineties. Mark Hodges pointed out that, in its long history, MLA had met only in two southern cities (Miami and New Orleans). He received support for this and he acted on it. Unfortunately, although Nashville was considered for the 1996 meeting, it lost out to Kansas City.

Richard Fredericksen shocked the chapter when he announced that he would be leaving the University of Alabama at Birmingham (he was to be succeeded as director by Virginia Algermissen). Linda Garr Markwell succeeded him as chair of the chapter. Martha Childs Watkins became chair-elect and Nancy Clemmons assumed the post of secretary-treasurer.

Watkins at this point had recently assumed the post of assistant director of the medical library of Mercer University in Macon, but she had made a name for herself as a hospital librarian at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. In the 1990s she was stricken with cancer and died at the age of 48 on 29 December 1995.

To honor Watkins' memory a scholarship fund was established the following year The Martha Childs Watkins Scholarship provides funding to current Southern Chapter members who work in a hospital library and who wish to take a course or a workshop at a chapter meeting. As earlier told, the initial funding for this came from monies of the dissolved SCHL. But it was necessary to raise an endowment if the scholarship was to be sustained. Towards this end, and recognizing Watkins' talents as an embroiderer and quilter, chapter members made quilted Christmas tree ornaments and embroidered objects for sale or raffle. Chapter members also contributed reminiscences to this writer for an obituary that appeared in *BMLA* [32]. As will be related shortly, the establishment of this scholarship was to contribute to the chapter's later triumph.

Clemmons, who had held positions at Samford University and Louisiana State University, had joined the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 1977 and there remained, rising through the ranks to become deputy director (she also served as acting director).

1988-89

The South's most recently established medical school library became the host for the meeting in 1989. East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in Johnson City had earlier invited the chapter to meet in the most northeastern corner of the state (and of the region),

the first and only time so far. The theme was “A Mountain Harvest: Reaping the Bounty.” Co-hosts were the Tennessee Health Science Library Association and the Tri-Cities Area Health Science Library Consortium. Conference Headquarters was the Sheraton Plaza Hotel.

That year’s MLA president, Frances Groen from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, was one of two distinguished Canadian visitors (she was accompanied by MLA business manager Ray Naegele). The other Canadian visitor was keynote speaker, Dr. Brian Haynes, from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, who spoke on “The End User; Myth and Truth.” Both Canadians felt right at home because, for the first (and probably the only) time at a Southern Chapter meeting, it snowed!

As in the previous year, the meeting opened in the evening with the keynote address. This was followed, appropriately for Tennessee, by a showing of Robert Altman’s movie *Nashville*. The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) long known for its breakfast presentations at MLA National Meetings hosted a similar gathering at this meeting.

At the business meeting, Martha Watkins assumed the chair, and Suzetta Burrows was declared chair-elect; Nancy Smith took over as secretary-treasurer. Burrows had come to the South in 1977, to the University of Mississippi, and later moved to the University of Miami, where she was in 1989 and remains to this day. Previously, among other appointments, Burrows held one with the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Nancy Smith was employed at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, where she remains. For the record, this was the last meeting to follow the traditional pattern of meetings during the business week, the chapter having agreed to hold meetings over a weekend.

1989-90

“Arrivals and Departures: Making Connections for the 90s” was the theme for the 40th annual meeting, held in the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in Atlanta in early November 1990. Sixteen years had passed since the chapter had last met in Georgia’s capital. Emory University (under its medical library director Carol Burns) was host, with the Atlanta Health Science Libraries Consortium serving as co-host. This was the first meeting to be held under the newly adopted policy of meeting over a weekend, with CE courses on the Saturday and the opening session starting at 11 a.m. on the Sunday morning.

Atlanta, whose original name was Terminus, came into being mainly because many railways terminated there, and a railroad motif was adopted for the program. At random, these were some of the expressions used in the program: “All Aboard”; “Getting Aboard a Moving Train”; “The Write [sic] Track” and “Track Conductor”. And the banquet was held in the Old Georgia Railroad Depot.

Much emphasis was placed on the fact that this was the chapter’s 40th annual meeting. A special booklet, compiled by an ad hoc anniversary committee under Girija Vijay, as chair, was included in the Registration Packet. It was entitled “Colleagues and Friends Making Connections” and included a chronology of annual meetings and of significant events in the library world in the forty years from 1950 to 1990. It also contained remembrances

quotations from members and probably the first chapter list of “MLA Notables”. (An updated version has been included as Appendix D.)

The meeting was graced by the presence of Lucretia McClure, that year’s MLA president, who also spoke at a session on journals. One of her fellow speakers was Dr. Nicholas E. Davies, chair-elect of the American College of Physicians, and a former chair of the Board of Regents at the NLM. Earlier in the year he had been made an Honorary Member of MLA for his contributions to the aims and goals of the association. Tragically, he was killed in a plane crash shortly afterwards (5 April 1991) and a tribute to him by Alice DiVierno appeared in *BMLA* later that year [33].

Chris Jones became chair-elect, and Dixie Fulton Williamson became secretary-treasurer. Jones, Mississippi born and educated, was the long-serving director of the library at the VA Hospital in Biloxi, Mississippi, and later became Chief Information Officer of the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System. She also served as a member of the MLA Board of Directors, of the JCAHO Information Management Task Force, of the JCAHO Liaison Network, and of the faculty for the JCAHO Education Program.

Williamson has spent most of her career in the library at St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, of which, then, as now, she is director. She is a graduate of Peabody College library school and worked briefly in the medical library at Vanderbilt before moving to St Thomas.

1990-91

The chapter went to its southwestern corner for the 41st annual meeting—Jackson, Mississippi. This was the third time the chapter had met in the capital of the Magnolia State. (A magnolia adorned the printed program, which also proclaimed the theme of the meeting “Leadership: Values and Vision.”) Hosts were the Mississippi Biomedical Library Consortium and the University of Mississippi Medical Center. It was the second “over-a-weekend” meeting, but this time the proceedings began on Saturday morning and ended on the Sunday afternoon. CE courses were offered on the Friday. “A Touch of Elegance” was the name given to the Welcome Reception held at the Fairview House. It was very elegant indeed.

Over the years the registration fee at SC meetings had gradually increased. Some remember when it was \$5 or less. This year, for the first time, it reached \$100. It should be noted, however, that the fee now included the cost of social events. These events, if listed or paid for separately, often excite the unwanted attention of budget minded administrators and are sometimes denied. The hotel price, however, at the Downtown Holiday Inn, was still a bargain: \$52 a night, single or double.

A complaint often voiced by vice-presidents of the United States is that they do not have a real role. This complaint may also have been uttered by SC’s chairs-elect, for they are the de facto vice-chairs, but this year the problem, if one did exist, was rectified. From hereon the chair-elect became also the program chair. Chris Jones filled this role—for a second time (because she served in that capacity in 1987-88).

One of the speakers that the program committee secured was Herbert White, distinguished professor at the library school of Indiana University and sometime controversial columnist of *Library Journal*. One of the general sessions was devoted to “Librarian Roles in Desert Storm,” which was a reminder of the campaign in the Middle East the year before. An honored visitor at this meeting was Guy St. Claire, that year’s president of the Special Libraries Association. MLA’s own president, Richard Lyders, was also in attendance.

Four issues of *Southern Expressions* were published during the year, and Bonnie Owen took over as editor (from Camilla Reid). As part of the fund raising effort for the Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship, Martha Watkins introduced the idea of inviting chapter members to acknowledge a mentor by making a contribution in his or her honor. The honorees were later notified, and many were grateful for the tribute. The idea was a great success.

Susan Woods took over as secretary-treasurer and Carol Burns as chair-elect. Burns, by this time, was director of the medical library at Emory University in Atlanta, having come there as audiovisual librarian in 1974 from the medical library at the University of Michigan (where she also received her library degree). Later, Burns was associate director for services to the public. She became acting director in 1983, following the debilitating illness of Miriam Libbey, and was named director in 1984. As previously told, she took early retirement in 2000 and was made an honorary member of the chapter. Woods was the AHEC Librarian at the medical library of the University of Florida. She left librarianship in 1996 and went to work as a church counselor. Janet Fisher became the potential candidate for the MLA nominating committee and was later successful.

1991-92

Mindful of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus, the chapter’s 42nd annual meeting had as its theme “Discovery: Education-Research-Reality”. Appropriately, it was held in Columbia, South Carolina. A stately Spanish galleon was featured on the front of the printed program. Hosts for the meeting, held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, were the Columbia Area Medical Librarians Association and the Medical Library at the University of South Carolina. Again, this was an over-the-weekend affair. Present at the meeting were Jackie Bastille, MLA’s president that year, and Carla Funk, the newly appointed executive director of MLA (she had succeeded Ray Palmer earlier in the year).

New officers taking over at the conclusion of the meeting were Jett McCann, as chair-elect, and Lisa Rains Russell, as secretary-treasurer. The potential candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee was Anne Kabler Robichaux. McCann, a graduate of the library school at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, began his medical library career as serials librarian in 1979 at East Carolina University and later moved to the University of Maryland (Baltimore County), an academic library. He came to the southern region in 1982, when he accepted headship of the Serials Department in the health sciences library at the Medical College of Georgia. This put him in good stead for his next appointment, at EBSCO Subscription Services in Birmingham, Alabama, where he took an appointment in 1995.

It might be noted that McCann is a partner in one of the few married couples in which both partners are both active in the chapter. His wife, Linda Flavin, is data supervisor for the chapter.

Russell, a graduate of the University of Alabama Library School, had been, since 1983, at the health sciences library of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Previously, she had been departmental librarian at the Graduate Program of Hospital Administration, University of Alabama in Birmingham, and director of the medical library, Southeast Alabama Medical Library in Dothan. She is now retired.

1992-93

Birmingham was the venue for the 43rd annual meeting, ten years later since the chapter had previously met in that city. The site was the Wynfrey Hotel at a large shopping mall in the suburbs. (Generally, throughout its history, chapter meetings have been held at downtown or near-downtown hotels, though there have been other exceptions, such as Memphis in 1979.)

After the theme “Discovery” as the chapter’s endeavor in 1992, the theme and endeavor for 1993 was “Charting New Horizons.” Host for the meeting was the University of Alabama at Birmingham, then under the temporary (acting) direction of Nancy Clemmons, who incurred this responsibility when Virginia Algermissen (successor to Richard Fredericksen) left the post in 1992, after a short tenure. Scott Plutchak eventually succeeded Algermissen, coming to the position from St. Louis University in Missouri.

Among the CE courses offered that year was one by Laura Gasaway, law librarian at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. An expert on copyright, the subject of her course was “Copyright Law in the Age of Technology.”

An amusing memory of the Birmingham meeting was the recognition given Ted Srygley on the occasion of his retirement. Instead of a roast, it took the form of a striptease act, with Ada Seltzer as the stripper! He was also declared an honorary member of the chapter. All this took place at the banquet held in the Carraway-Davie House. Officers confirmed at this meeting, to serve during the ensuing year, were Jan Hawkins LaBeause, chair-elect, and Lisa Rains Russell, secretary-treasurer

1993-94

Jett McCann served as chair this year, with Jan LaBeause as his deputy (chair-elect and program chair). Alice DiVierno was secretary-treasurer. Orlando was chosen as the site for the 1994 annual meeting, with the University of South Florida (now under the direction of Beverly Shattuck) as principal host. The Tampa Bay Medical Library Network was co-host. Shattuck had come from the University of Massachusetts in the early 1990s.

In keeping with the locale of the conference, the Hilton at Disney World, its theme was “The Magic of Tomorrowland.” Seven years later MLA was to hold its annual meeting at Disney World, with the theme “Information Odyssey 2001.”

1994-95

The chapter became a legal body during the course of this year. Although the chapter had been founded over forty years previously, and recognized as such by MLA for most of that period, the chapter had never been officially incorporated until 1995. Causing it to be so was a request from MLA that all its chapters be legally incorporated as sub groups of the parent organization (MLA). The task of accomplishing this was delegated to a firm in Chicago (JB Corporate Services), and a certificate of incorporation was issued by the Office of the Secretary of State of Illinois on 12 April 1995.

This same year, almost twenty years since Puerto Rico had formally joined the Southern Chapter, the chapter finally held a meeting in that commonwealth's capital, San Juan, in October 1995. The chair was Jan LaBeause, assisted by Diane Rourke as chair-elect, who also served as program chair. The secretary-treasurer was Sandra Franklin.

LaBeause had begun her health sciences library career as a hospital librarian at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis but in the late 1980s moved to Mercer University as associate director. Later, when Jocelyn Rankin retired from the directorship, LaBeause succeeded her. Diane Rourke was chair-elect. She had previously been a children's librarian and a branch librarian in the Miami Public Library but came into health sciences libraries in 1977 at Baptist Hospital in Miami. Sandra Franklin was associate director at Emory Medical Library. Ana Isabel Moscoso, director of the University of Puerto Rico Health Sciences Library, was convention chair.

This was the year when one of the chapter's own served as president of MLA. Fred Roper was president of MLA in 1994-95 and had the honor of being the association's president during the 7th International Congress on Medical Librarianship, which was held in Washington, DC, in May 1995. His profile appeared that year in *BMLA* [34]. He was the recipient of the Marcia C. Noyes Award in 1998.

Chapter 6

TRIUMPH 1995- 2001

In 1995, the Majors Scientific Book Company established an award, the Majors/MLA Chapter Project-of-the-Year Award. This general award recognizes excellence, innovation, and contributions to the profession of health sciences librarianship collectively made by one of MLA's chapters. These attributes must be shown through special projects beyond the normal operational programming of the chapter.

In 1996, at the MLA annual meeting in Kansas City, the Southern Chapter was the first recipient of this award. It was made in recognition of the work it did (and the method it used) in raising money for the Eileen R. Cunningham Memorial International Fellowship. Receiving the initial award was quite a triumph for the chapter.

An even greater triumph came two years later, at the MLA centennial conference in Philadelphia in 1998, when the chapter won the award a second time. This time it was for the chapter's Journal Usage Study. A report on the project was published in *BMLA* that year [35].

And in the fiftieth year of its existence, at MLA's annual meeting in Orlando, the Southern Chapter again won the award. The prize was conferred on the chapter for its establishment, fund raising and administration of the Martha Watkins Scholarship to provide continuing education for hospital librarians. Triumph, indeed!

Also during this triumphal era, the chapter felt sufficiently confident about itself and its members to begin conferring honors and awards beyond that of honorary membership. Among the awards were academic-librarian-of-the-year and hospital-librarian-of-the-year. And there was a research award.

Now back to the chronology.

1995-96

Almost twenty years after he died, the chapter paid tribute to Elvis Presley by holding its 1996 meeting in Memphis! This was the fifth time the chapter had met in Memphis, which now made it the city where the chapter has gathered most often. Principal host was the University of Tennessee at Memphis.

The convention chair, who doubled as The King, was Thomas Singarella. The printed program contained locks of Elvis's hair, with a note that on the black-market they "can go for big bucks." Tests have failed to determine whether this was Presley's hair or Singarella's.

Singarella, an early baby boomer from New England, received his bachelor's degree (sociology) from Southern Connecticut State University. From the same school he received a master's degree in instructional media. Later (1981) he received a Ph.D. in adult and continuing education from the University of Nebraska. In an earlier incarnation, Singarella was in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era, then served from 1972 to 1974 as audiovisual coordinator at the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven, Connecticut.

He moved to the University of Nebraska in 1974 as a media specialist, staying there until coming to Tennessee in 1984, where he held instructional technology posts at UT Memphis. In 1990 he became Chair of the Department of Health Informatics, and the library was placed under his jurisdiction. In 1993, following John Patruno's departure on disability leave, he assumed the role of acting executive director of the Health Sciences Library and Education Center. Finally, from 1994 onwards, his title was director of the Health Sciences Library and Biocommunications Center. Singarella, the chapter's 50th chair, is one of the few chapter officers not to have held a degree in library science.

In charge of the program was the chair-elect, Dixie Fulton Williamson, who had earlier served as the chapter's secretary-treasurer. She was instrumental in devising the theme of the conference, appropriate for the locale, "Catch the Rhythm; Jammin' with the Information Flow." And the chair was Diane Ream Rourke, previously mentioned.

The other officer that year was Donna Doelling, secretary-treasurer. Doelling, who had received her bachelor's in sociology from Rutgers University in New Jersey and her MLIS from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, was on the staff at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Earlier, until 1990, she had been assistant director of the library at Baton Rouge General Hospital. This was Lauren Benevitch's last year as bookkeeper. She had held this position since 1986.

The meeting was held at the Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis and was co-hosted by the Association of Memphis Area Health Science Libraries (AMAHSL) and the Tennessee Health Science Library Association (THeSLA). Holding the meeting in The Peabody, famous for its disciplined ducks, necessitated a one-time appointment to the office of "Master of the Ducks." This honor went to Henry Lemkau, who handled his charges with martial precision.

The printed program contained a letter from the Vice-President of the United States, Al Gore, at that time still a favorite son in Tennessee. Regrettably or otherwise, depending on one's politics, he ceased to hold his state's affection four years later in his bid for the presidency. George W. Bush carried the state. As previously recalled, another Tennessean, Lamar Alexander was a presidential aspirant but, unlike Gore, he didn't even receive his party's nomination.

1996-97

In 1994, author John Berendt wrote a best seller set in Savannah, Georgia. The book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* was an instant best seller. In no time, people could not get enough of Savannah, of its lore, and of its mystique. The novel was later made into a movie, which further excited interest in the city. So when it was Georgia's turn to host a meeting and Mercer University in Macon had agreed to be host institution, what better place to convene than the beguiling city on the banks of the Savannah, with the theme "Information in the Garden of Good and Evil; Balancing the Forces of Change."

The convention chair was Jocelyn Rankin. Rankin had served as director of the library at Mercer University since 1974, having previously served at the Medical College of Georgia and Georgetown University (where briefly she was acting director). She served on the MLA Board of Directors and, in 1992, together with Jean Williams Sayre, was the winner of the ISI/Frank Bradway Rogers Information Advancement Award. In "retirement" she became director of the library at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Her library, the medical library at Mercer University was the host institution. Co-hosts were GaIN (Georgia Interactive Network for Medical Information) and the Georgia Health Sciences Library Association (GHSLA). Because none of these were located or headquartered in Savannah, much commuting was involved on the part of the organizers.

Officers that year were Dixie Fulton Williamson, chair, Nancy Clemmons, chair-elect and program chair, and Ellen Cooper, secretary-treasurer. Janet Fisher was selected as potential candidate for the MLA nominating committee, and Sharon Cann was appointed bookkeeper.

So popular was Savannah that those who failed to book their hotel rooms early ended up having to pay a high premium for a room at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront, where the convention was held. A bus tour ("The Book" Tour) was provided for those who wished to see the architectural gems and other localities featured in the novel.

Another pleasant aspect of the meeting was a ramble along the Sandpiper Trail at nearby Skidaway Island, organized and scouted out by Carol Burns. This was to become a feature of later gatherings. Happily the rain held off for the hike, but much of the weekend was very wet. As a matter of fact, the banquet at Old Fort Jackson almost reached saturation point. And a box lunch social planned for Merrill Park had to be held indoors.

At the business session Ken Robichaux paid tribute to former chapter member Al Brandon, who had died earlier in the summer. Election results brought Nancy Clemmons to the fore as chair-elect and Ellen Cooper as secretary-treasurer. Clemmons certainly deserved this position, having previously served the chapter in many heavy-duty capacities. In order to keep the chapter solvent, and take into account the inroads made by inflation, the membership voted to raise the dues to \$20.

1997-98

As previously trumpeted, the chapter was winner, for the second time, of the Majors Chapter-of-the-Year Award. It was a reward for its "Journal Use Study" that had been conducted during the previous three years. This was a great boost to the chapter's ego, coming as it did in the centennial year of MLA. Chapter members present at the MLA awards lunch in Philadelphia in May 1998 cheered mightily and waved napkins as chapter chair Nancy Clemmons stepped forward to accept the award on behalf of the chapter.

The other officers in 1997-98 were Rosalind Lett, chair-elect, and Martha Cook, secretary-treasurer. Because the convention that year was a joint one (see more below) Lett, who would normally have been the program chair, served as the chapter's representative to the joint program committee. And she was the nearest equivalent that year to the chapter's convention chair. Sharon Lee Cann took over as bookkeeper and Tom Williams became the chapter's potential candidate for the MLA nominating committee.

The annual meeting was a joint one and was held in Lexington, Kentucky, in October 1998. It was the chapter's 48th meeting. However, for the fourth time, it was held under joint auspices, and for the first time, in conjunction with the Midwest Chapter, on its turf. There was no institutional convention host per se, but the medical center library at the University of Kentucky was its nearest equivalent. "Weaving our Future" was the convention theme, and the conference hotel was the Radisson Plaza in downtown Lexington. The chapter had last met in Lexington, for its 15th meeting, in 1965, when Kentucky was still part of SRG.

As earlier noted, this was the year of MLA's Centenary. This was recognized in the program with a session entitled "Threads of the Past/MLA Update." Speakers included MLA President Jacqueline Doyle, who gave the MLA Update, Ken Robichaux, who spoke for the Southern Chapter, and Logan Ludwig, who spoke for the Midwest Chapter.

A welcome visitor at this conference was Omer Hamlin, retired director of the medical library at the University of Kentucky. Hamlin had hosted the last meeting of the former SRG in the Blue Grass State. This took place in 1965, not too long before Kentucky left SRG. It was occasioned by the establishment the KOM RML Program, which included Kentucky, but the two other states were in MLA's Midwest Region.

1998-99

The city of Greenville, South Carolina, was the locale for the chapter's 49th annual meeting. This was the first time the chapter had ever met in that city. Moreover, for the first time since the early years of SRG, the host for the conference was a non-academic library. The host institution was the health sciences library of the Greenville Hospital System, under the direction of Fay Towell, who served as convention chair.

Towell, who was a music major at Salem College in North Carolina, received her library science degree from the University of Iowa in 1970. From 1976 to 1986, she was director of library services at Spartanburg (South Carolina) General Hospital. In 1986 she became director of the health sciences library of the Greenville Hospital System.

Towell and her library were the first non-academic health sciences librarian and institution to be fully responsible for hosting a southern chapter meeting since 1961. And it was the first time a hospital library had this distinction. The two previous non-academic health sciences libraries that had hosted meetings were two association or society libraries: the library of the Texas Medical Association in Austin (in 1955 and 1961), and the Medical Library of Mecklenburg County in Charlotte, North Carolina (1959).

The meeting took place in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. With the theme “Millennium to the Future,” it was billed as “celebrating our last meeting of the century” (though purists might quibble over that claim).

Principal officers of the year were Rosalind Lett, as chair, and Mary Fran Prottzman, as secretary-treasurer. Lett was then librarian at the library of Crawford Long Hospital of Emory University in Atlanta, but in 2001 she accepted the directorship of the library at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, succeeding Cheryl Hamberg. Previously, Lett was with the Georgia Mental Health Institute. Mary F. Prottzman was and is librarian at Lister Army Community Hospital, in Fort Rucker, Alabama. Taking over, briefly, as the chapter’s bookkeeper, from Sharon Cann, was Reeta Sinha.

A nature hike to Paris Mountain State Park, organized by the chapter’s great outdoors girl, Carol Burns, was one of the offerings of this conference. This was her last before retirement. Other excursions offered were to the Vanderbilts’ Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, and to Bob Jones University’s Art Gallery.

1999-2000

The chapter’s 50th annual meeting was held in Mobile, Alabama, in October 2000. Although the city had had an academic medical library (at the University of South Alabama) since 1972, this was the first time it had invited the chapter to meet there. Tom Williams, who was its fourth director, made every effort to ensure that this meeting should be held in his city. This was a joint meeting with the host state’s health sciences library organization Alabama Health Libraries Association (ALHeLA). It was designated as the “50th Anniversary Jubilee.” Strictly speaking, this was incorrect, for the chapter’s golden jubilee takes place on the fiftieth anniversary of the chapter’s founding, the fall of 2001, but no one begrudged Williams his chosen theme. It was a highly successful meeting, with an attendance of 233, and took place at the Adam’s Mark Hotel on the waterfront.

Tom Williams restored the grandeur of yesteryear by holding a traditional banquet. It took place at the Bragg-Mitchell Mansion and featured live jazz and a superb meal by Chef Fillio Milone. The officers, hostesses and some members wore elegant period costumes.

In charge of the chapter that year were Thomas Singarella as chair and Lynn Fortney as chair-elect. Their careers have been mentioned previously. Both had previously held office in the Chapter. Martha Earl served as secretary-treasurer and Sarah Gable had become representative to the MLA Chapter Council (after serving three years as alternate).

Gable is a staff member at the medical library of the University of South Carolina. Her successor as alternate was Jan Hawkins LaBeause. Scott Plutchak was selected as the chapter's potential candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee and Marilee Mason Creelan took over as the chapter's bookkeeper.

During the year a member of the chapter was appointed to the prestigious post of editor of *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*. Scott Plutchak of the University of Alabama at Birmingham was named to this position. An editorial describing his career and qualifications appeared in *BMLA*[36].

2000-01

The year was capped by the chapter's receiving, for the third time, The Majors Award. It was presented at the MLA annual meeting in Orlando. This was the fourth time that MLA had met in the chapter's territory since SRG was founded in 1951, and the first time since SRG became the Southern Chapter.

Another notable event during the year was the celebration of the 90th birthday of Mildred Crowe Langner, on 30 July 2001.. At the Orlando conference MLA members who knew her were invited to sign a card, which was hand delivered to her at her retirement home in Signal Mountain, Tennessee, a few days before her birthday. Several years earlier she had been made one of the chapter's honorary members.

As this history concludes, plans are underway for a Tri-Chapter meeting in 2001, which is also the fiftieth anniversary of the chapter's founding. Alas, less than two months before its scheduled date, a terrible tragedy occurred, with a terrorist attack on the United States. The events of 11 September 2001 are seared in everyone's memory and need no recounting here. While they raised patriotic fervor to a degree not experienced since Pearl Harbor, they also dampened spirits and cast a cloud of doubt and fear over the nation. Questions were even asked about whether the annual meeting should take place. But the Southern Chapter will celebrate the anniversary of its founding.

Appropriately, the 2001 meeting will be held in New Orleans, where the chapter's inaugural meeting took place fifty years ago. Fittingly, the states of the two chapters (Southern and South Central) that made up the original Southern Regional Group will come together for this occasion. Joining them will be the states of the Mid-Continental Chapter, one of which, Missouri, had a tenuous connection with the Southern Chapter in its early years. Because of this reunion, your historian had dropped his perennial opposition to joint meetings, but it is strictly *ad hoc!* The convention chair, William Postell Jr., is the son of the founder of the Chapter, William Postell, Sr. This is, after all, the chapter of tradition.

In the most recent issue of the chapter's newsletter *Southern Expressions*, Lynn Fortney avers that "the Southern Chapter is simply the BEST" [37]. To this, a loud "Hear, hear," and may it ever be so.

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Appendix A

Annual Meetings

of the

The Southern Chapter

(Formerly Southern Regional Group)

of the

Medical Library Association

1951-2000

During its first eight years the then Southern Regional Group held eight meetings, though not at twelve-month intervals. This did not become the norm until the fall of 1959. However, for the purposes of this list, all meetings, including the inaugural meeting, are regarded as “annual meetings.”

In the ensuing pages, this information is given:

ordinal number

year

city and state

place of assembly

date(s)

theme, if any (in italics)

principal host institution

co-host(s)

attendance, if known additional or

explanatory notes

1. 1951 New Orleans, LA
Jung Hotel

17 November 1951
Louisiana State University
Tulane University
Attendance: 34 from 6 states

2. 1953 Birmingham, AL
University of Alabama

30-31 January 1953
University of Alabama
Attendance: 54 from 10 states

3. 1953 Memphis, TN
University of Tennessee

31 October 1953
University of Tennessee
Attendance: 37 from 9 states

4. 1955 Austin, TX
Hotel Driskill

(also at host institution)
5 February 1955
Texas Medical Association Library
Attendance: 39 from 8 states

5. 1956 Atlanta, GA
Biltmore Hotel

(also at host institution)
13-14 April 1956
Emory University
Attendance: 46 from 8 states

6. 1957 Charleston, SC
Hotel Fort Sumter

(also at host institution)
8-9 March 1957
Medical College of South Carolina
Attendance: 33 from 10 states
and District of Columbia

7. 1957 New Orleans, LA
Jung Hotel

(also at Louisiana State University)
15-16 November 1957
Louisiana State University and
Tulane University (co-hosts)
Attendance: 68 from 12 states

8. 1959 Galveston, TX
Hotel Galvez

6-7 February 1959
University of Texas Medical Branch
Attendance: 49

9. 1959 Charlotte, NC
Hotel William R. Barringer

(also at host institution)
16-17 October 1959
Medical Library of
Mecklenberg County
Attendance: 55

10. 1960 Jackson, MS
King Edward Hotel

(also at State Board of Health Building
and at University of Mississippi)
20-23 October 1960
Co-hosts:
Mississippi State Board of Health
University of Mississippi
Veterans Administration Center
Attendance: 55 from 14 states

11. 1961 Austin, TX
Driskill Hotel

(also at host institution)
20-21 October 1961
Texas Medical Association
Attendance: 69

12. 1962 Gainesville, FL
University Inn

25-27 October 1962
University of Florida
Attendance: 44

13. 1963 Little Rock, AR
Albert Pike Hotel

24-26 October 1963
University of Arkansas
Attendance: 60

14. 1964 Memphis, TN
Peabody Hotel

(also at host institution)
11-12 September 1964
University of Tennessee
Attendance: 78

15. 1965 Lexington, KY
Phoenix Hotel

7-9 October 1965
University of Kentucky
Attendance: 110
*Last meeting in Kentucky, and with it,
as a full, active member state*

16. 1966 Winston-Salem, NC
Hotel Robert E. Lee
30 September-1 October 1966
Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Attendance: 82
*Last meeting in North Carolina
with it as a full, active member*

17. 1967 New Orleans, LA
Jung Hotel
(also at host institutions)
12-14 October 1967
Louisiana State University
and Tulane University
Attendance: 145 from 15 states
First listing of a CE course

18. 1968 Augusta, GA
Augusta Town House
10-12 October 1967
Medical College of Georgia
Attendance: 127
*Last meeting with North Carolina
as a member state*

19. 1969 Louisville, KY
Brown Hotel
29 October 1969
Business meeting only
*Held in conjunction with
MLA Annual Meeting*

20. 1970 Houston, TX
Shamrock-Hilton Hotel
1-3 October 1970
Houston Academy of Medicine/
Texas Medical Center
and others.
Attendance: 125

21. 1971 Nashville, TN
Holiday Inn Vanderbilt
30 September – 2 October 1971
Vanderbilt University
Attendance: 112

22. 1972 Charleston, SC
Mills Hyatt House
5-7 October 1972
Medical University of South Carolina
Attendance: 133
*Last meeting before **formation** of
South-Central Regional Group,
which split the Group into
two geographical entities*

23. 1973 Memphis, TN
Holiday Inn Rivermont
4-5 October 1973
University of Tennessee
Attendance: 138

24. 1974 Atlanta, GA
Fairmont Colony Square Hotel
3-5 October 1974
*It's a Two-Way Street:
Communication*
Emory University
Attendance: 153
First meeting with a stated theme

25. 1975 Gainesville, FL
Gainesville Hilton Hotel
2-3 October 1975
University of Florida
Co-host: Florida Health Science
Library Association Librarians
Attendance: 152

26. 1976 Shreveport/Bossier City, LA
Sheraton-Bossier City
7-9 October 1976
Louisiana State University
Attendance: 190
*First joint meeting with another
group (South-Central), mainly
under its auspices, and held on
what might be considered "joint turf"*

27. 1977 Columbia, SC
Wade Hampton Hotel
5-7 October 1977
University of South Carolina
Attendance: 147

28. 1978 Jackson, MS
Holiday Inn
18-20 October 1978
University of Mississippi
Attendance: 135

29. 1979 Memphis, TN
Hyatt Regency Hotel
11-13 October 1979
University of Tennessee
Held in honor of M. Irene Jones

**30. 1980 New Orleans, LA
Fairmont Hotel**

15-19 October 1980

Louisiana State University

Tulane University

Attendance: 280

Second joint meeting with another group (South-Central), mainly under its auspices, and second with that group on what might still be considered "joint turf." Also, last meeting as Southern Regional Group.

31. 1981 Augusta, GA

Hilton Hotel

8-10 October 1981

Medical College of Georgia

Attendance: 118

First meeting as Southern Chapter

32. 1982 Charleston, SC

Mills House Hotel

14-16 October 1982

Medical University of South Carolina

Attendance: 165

33. 1983 Birmingham, AL

Hilton Hotel

18-22 October 1983

Self-Reflections '83

University of Alabama

Co-Hosts:

Alabama Health Libraries Association

Jefferson County Health Librarians Association

Attendance 156

First meeting with Exhibits (21 of them)

34. 1984 Key Biscayne, FL

Sonesta Beach Hotel

10-13 October 1984

Catching the Crest of the Wave

University of Miami

Co-Host:

Miami Health Sciences Library Consortium

Attendance: 173

35. 1985 Winston-Salem, NC

Winston Plaza Hotel

12-16 November 1985

Designs for the 80's

Bowman Gray School of Medicine

Third joint meeting with another chapter (Mid Atlantic), under its auspices, and first with that chapter, on its turf.

36. 1986 Nashville, TN

Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel

5-8 November 1986

Information Country

Vanderbilt University

Co-Hosts: Meharry Medical College

And Mid-Tennessee Health Science Librarians Consortium

Attendance: 229

Joint meeting with

Tennessee Health Science Library Association

37. 1987 Tampa, FL

Hilton Hotel

13-17 October 1987

Sun, Fun, and the Basics

University of South Florida

Attendance: 156

38. 1988 Jacksonville, FL

Omni Hotel

1-5 November 1988

The Shape of Things to Come

University of Florida

Attendance: 140

39. 1989 Johnson City, TN

Sheraton Plaza Hotel

17-21 October 1989

A Mountain Harvest: Reaping the Bounty

East Tennessee State University

Co-Hosts : Tennessee Health Science Library

Association

Tri-Cities Area Health Science Library Consortium

Attendance: 137

40. 1990 Atlanta, GA

Omni Hotel

2-6 November 1990

Arrivals and Departures:

Making Connections for the 90's

Emory University

Co Host:

Atlanta Health Science

Libraries Consortium

Fortieth Anniversary Meeting

First meeting in recent times

to be held over a weekend

41. 1991 Jackson, MS

Holiday Inn Downtown

18-21 October 1991

Leadership: Values and Vision

University of Mississippi

Co-Host:

Mississippi Biomedical Library Consortium

Attendance: 160

- 42. 1992 Columbia, SC**
Embassy Suites Hotel
 3-6 October 1992
Discovery: Education; Research; Reality
 University of South Carolina
 Co-Host:
 Columbia Area Medical Librarians Association
- 43. 1993 Birmingham, AL**
Wynfrey Hotel
 9-12 October 1993
Charting New Horizons
 University of Alabama
- 44. 1994 Orlando, FL**
Hilton at Disney World
 22-25 October 1994
The Magic of Tomorrowland
 University of South Florida
 Tampa Bay Medical Library Network
- 45. 1995 San Juan, PR**
Condado Plaza Hotel
 11-14 November 1995
Explorando nuestras fronteras
(Exploring our frontiers)
 University of Puerto Rico
- 46. 1996 Memphis, TN**
Peabody Hotel
 12-15 October 1996
Catch the Rhythm;
Jammin' with the Information Flow
 University of Tennessee
 Co-Hosts:
 Association of Memphis Area
 Health Science Libraries
 Tennessee Health Science Library Association
- 47. 1997 Savannah, GA**
Marriott Riverfront Hotel
 24-28 October 1997
Information in the Garden of Good and Evil;
Balancing the Forces of Change
 Mercer University
 Co-Hosts:
 Georgia Interactive Network for
 Medical Information (GaIN)
 Georgia Health Sciences Library Association
- 48. 1998 Lexington, KY**
Radisson Plaza Hotel
 10-13 October 1998
Weaving our future
 University of Kentucky
Fourth joint meeting with another chapter
(Mid-West), this time under joint auspices,
and the first with that chapter, on its turf
- 49. 1999 Greenville, SC**
Hyatt Regency Hotel
 15-19 October 1999
Millenium to the Future
 Greenville Hospital System
 Health Sciences Library
- 50. 2000 Mobile, AL**
Adam's Mark Hotel
 20-24 October 2000
50th Anniversary Jubilee
 University of South Alabama
 Attendance: 233
Joint Meeting with
Alabama Health Libraries Association (ALHeLA)

Appendix B

Alphabetical List of Officers and Other VIPs of the Southern Chapter (Formerly Southern Regional Group) of the Medical Library Association

1951-2001

The persons listed in this appendix held senior offices in the chapter or group during the dates shown. Mostly the offices were elective, though some were appointive. Those listed were employed, at the time, in the Health Sciences, Medical Center, or Professional Library at the Institution or Organization named, unless otherwise stated. If an officer held an office while serving at a different institution, this is indicated.

The holding of an office was about one year, usually lasting from one autumn meeting until the next. However, in the early years of the group, meetings were not always held in the fall, and the intervals between them were sometimes more, or less, than twelve months.

In the early years of the group, the office of convention chair and program chair did not exist. Generally, the chief executive of the host library filled these roles. For the sake of consistency, he or she who ran the convention and/or who organized the program is described as chair of that function.

Most persons who served as Representative or Alternate Representative to the Chapter Council served for longer than a year, and this is noted. Because there is a lack of congruency between a “chapter year” and a “MLA year,” the editor has had to compromise between the two.

Certain officers were appointed, and their appointments were often for longer than a year.

Adebonojo, Leslie Goodale

Meharry Medical College
Nashville, TN

Convention Co-Chair 1985-86

Anderson, Sherry

Wake Forest University
(Bowman Gray
School of Medicine)
Winston-Salem, NC

*Though not a SC officer, served during
1984-85 as Convention Chair for the joint
meeting of 1985*

Andreasen, Martha

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN

Secretary-Treasurer 1969-70

Basler, Thomas (Tom)

Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, GA

Chair-Elect 1974-75

Chair 1975-76

Convention Chair 1980-81

Program Chair 1980-81

Baxter, Ruth

VA Hospital
Jackson, MS

Secretary-Treasurer 1959-60

Convention Co-Chair 1959-60

Benevich, Lauren

Emory University
Atlanta, GA

*Bookkeeper 1986-87
through 1995-96*

Bowen, Ada *see*

Seltzer, Ada

Brandon, Alfred N.

University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY

Chair 1959-60

Brown, Mary Ann

Duke University
Durham, NC

Secretary-Treasurer 1963-64

Brown, Sarah

University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL

Chair 1953-53

Bryant, Frederick (Fred)

University of Florida
Gainesville, FL

Chair 1956-57

Convention Chair 1961-62

Program Chair 1961-62

Bumgarner, Jane

Piedmont Hospital
Atlanta, GA

Secretary-Treasurer 1973-74

Burns, Carol

Emory University
Atlanta, GA

Convention Chair 1989-90

Chair-Elect 1991-92

Program Chair 1991-92

Chair 1992-93

Burrows, Suzetta

University of Miami
Miami, FL

Chapter Council Representative 1985-88

Chair-Elect 1989-90

Chair 1990-91

Caballero, Isabel

University of Miami.
Miami, FL

Secretary-Treasurer 1970-71

Cann, Sharon

Georgia Baptist
Atlanta, GA

Bookkeeper 1996-97 through 1997-98

Carol, Marcel

Baylor University
Dallas, TX

Vice-Chair 1968-69

Clemmons, Nancy

University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL

Secretary-Treasurer 1988-89

Chapter Council Alternate 1991-94

Convention Chair 1992-93

Chapter Council Representative 1994-97

Chair-Elect 1996-97

Program Chair 1996-97

Chair 1997-98

Cooper, Ellen

Research Information Center
Solvay Pharmaceuticals
Marietta, GA

Secretary-Treasurer 1996-97

Craig, James Pat

University of South Florida
Tampa, FL

Convention Chair 1986-87

Program Chair 1986-87

Craig, Paula Wykoff

University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, OK

Secretary-Treasurer 1972-73

Crowe, Mildred *see*

Langner, Mildred Crowe

Davidoff, Marcia C.

University of South Alabama
Mobile, AL

Chair-Elect 1979-80

Chair 1980-81

Davis, Lora-Frances
Brooke General Hospital
Ft. Sam Houston, TX
Chair 1963-64

DiVierno, Alice
Centers for Disease Control
Atlanta, GA.
Program Chair 1989-90
Secretary-Treasurer 1993-94

Doelling, Donna
University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
Secretary-Treasurer 1995-96

Drake, Mayo
Louisiana State University
Shreveport, LA
Chair 1962-63
Convention Chair 1975-76
Program Chair 1975-76

Duffield, Pauline
Texas Medical Association
Austin, TX
Convention Chair 1953-55
Program Chair 1953-55
Convention Chair 1960-61
Program Chair 1960-61
Secretary-Treasurer 1968-69

Ebert, Myrl
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC
Vice-Chair 1953-53
Chair 1953-55

Eddy, Leonard
University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, OK
Vice-Chair 1966-67
Chair 1967-68

Eimas, Richard
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN
Convention Chair 1970-71
Program Chair 1970-71

Felder, Charletta
VA Hospital
Columbia, SC
Program Chair 1976-77

Fisher, Janet
East Tennessee
State University
Johnson City, TN
Secretary-Treasurer 1982-83
Convention Chair 1988-89
Program Chair 1988-89
Chair-Elect 2000-01
Program Chair 2000-01

Fortney, Lynn
University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL
Secretary-Treasurer 1978-79
EBSCO Information Services
Birmingham, AL
Chair-Elect 1999-2000
Program Chair 1999-2000
Chair 2000-01

Franklin, Sandra
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Secretary-Treasurer 1994-95

Fredericksen, Richard
University of Alabama
Birmingham AL
Program Chair 1982-83
Convention Chair 1982-83
Chair-Elect 1986-87
Chair 1987-88

Gable, Sarah
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC
Chapter Council Alternate 1997-2000
Chapter Council Representative 2000-

Garvin, Jewell
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL
Secretary-Treasurer 1974-75

Givens, Mary King
University of Tennessee
Memphis TN
Chapter Council Alternate 1988-91
Chapter Council Representative 1991-94

Goldstein, Cynthia
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA
Convention Chair 1979-80

Goodale, Leslie *see*
Adebonojo, Leslie Goodale

Graham, Irene
University of Mississippi
Jackson, MS
Secretary-Treasurer 1957-57
Convention Chair 1959-60
Program Chair 1959-60
Chair 1964-65
Convention Chair 1977-78
Program Chair 1977-78

Graves, Karen
University of Tennessee
Memphis, TN
Chair-Elect 1983-84
Chair 1984-85

Green, Brenda Faye
University of Tennessee
Memphis, TN
Secretary-Treasurer 2000-01

Greenfield, Patricia
Touro Infirmary
School of Nursing
New Orleans, LA
Secretary-Treasurer 1967-68

Gresser, Marylyn
VA Medical Center
Gainesville, FL
Secretary-Treasurer 1976-77
Chair-Elect 1977-78
Chair 1978-79

Hall, Carolyn
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL
Program Chair 1974-75

Hamlin, Omer, Jr.
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY
Convention Chair 1964-65
Program Chair 1964-65
Chair 1965-66

Harlamert, Ruth E.
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA
Chair 1951-53

Harris, Hilda
University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL
Vice-Chair 1960-61

Harvin, [Janice] Marie
University of Arkansas
Little Rock, AR
Secretary-Treasurer 1961-62
Convention Chair 1962-63
Program Chair 1962-63
M.D. Anderson Hospital
Houston, TX
Chair 1968-69

Hawkins, Jan *see*
LaBeause, Jan Hawkins

Hawkins, Miriam *see*
Libbey, Miriam Hawkins

Hodge, Ann *see*
Macomber, Ann Hodge

Hodges, T. Mark
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN
Convention Chair 1985-86

Hogan, Rose
University of Arkansas
Little Rock, AR
Chair-Elect 1971-72
Chair 1972-73

Holt, Helen
Houston Academy
of Medicine/
Texas Medical Center
Houston, TX
Chair 1955-56

House, David, Jr
University of Tennessee
Memphis, TN
Vice-Chair 1969-70
Chair 1971-72

Hughes, Maurine
VA Hospital
Birmingham, AL
Secretary-Treasurer 1959-59

Hunter, Joy
VA Medical Center
Murfreesboro, TN
Program Chair 1985-86
Secretary-Treasurer 1987-88

Isché, John
Louisiana State University
New Orleans, LA
Chair 1959-59
Convention Co-Chair 1966-67
Program Co-Chair 1979-80

Jacob, Beatrix
Louisiana State University
New Orleans, LA
Vice-Chair 1955-56

Jackson, Sara Jean
University of Tennessee
Memphis, TN
Vice-Chair 1970-71

Johnson, Margaret
National Medical Audiovisual Center
Atlanta, GA
Program Chair 1973-74

Jones, Christiane
VA Medical Center
Biloxi, MS
Program Chair 1987-88
Chair-Elect 1990-91
Program Chair 1990-91
Chair 1991-92

Jones, Helen
VA Hospital
Memphis, TN
Vice-Chair 1964-65

Jones, M. Irene
University of Tennessee
Memphis, TN
Convention Chair 1953-53
Program Chair 1953-53
Convention Chair 1963-64
Program Chair 1963-64

Jordan, Mildred
Emory University
Atlanta GA
Convention Chair 1955-56
Program Chair 1955-56

Kabler, Anne *see*
Robichaux, Anne Kabler

Kerr, Helen (Mrs. Henry)
VA Hospital
Houston, TX
Vice Chair 1957-59

Knotts, Mary Ann
University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL
Secretary-Treasurer 1971-72

Koch, Laura Huff
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Secretary-Treasurer 1980-81

Koster, (Ms.) C. Desmond
Medical College
of South Carolina.
Charleston, SC
Convention Chair 1956-57
Program Chair 1956-57
Vice-Chair 1957-57
Chair 1957-59
Vice Chair 1965-66

LaBeause, Jan Hawkins
LeBonheur Children's
Medical Center
Memphis, TN
Secretary-Treasurer 1985-86
Mercer University
Macon, GA
Chair-Elect 1993-94
Program Chair 1993-94
Chair 1994-95
Chapter Council Alternate 2000-

Lange, R. Thomas (Tom)
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC
Chair-Elect 1975-76
Chair 1976-77
Convention Chair 1976-77
Chapter Council Alternate 1982-85
Convention Chair 1991-92

Langner, Mildred Crowe
University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL
Convention Chair 1951-53

Lee, Jean Stokes
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Secretary-Treasurer 1965-66

Lemkau, Henry, Jr.
University of Miami
Miami, FL.
Convention Chair 1983-84
Chair-Elect 1984-85
Chair 1985-86

Lett, Rosalind
Emory University
(Crawford Long Hospital)
Atlanta, GA
Chair-Elect 1997-98
Convention Chair 1997-98
(Joint meeting with
Midwest Chapter)
Program Chair 1997-98
(Joint meeting with
Midwest Chapter)
Chair 1998-99

Libbey, Miriam Hawkins
Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Convention Chair 1973-74

Long, Dorothy
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC
Vice-Chair 1962-63

Macomber, Ann Hodge
Louisiana State University
New Orleans, LA
Secretary-Treasurer 1953-55
Chair 1960-61

Markwell, Linda Garr
Emory University
(Grady Hospital)
Atlanta, GA
Secretary-Treasurer 1979-80
Chair-Elect 1987-88
Chair 1988-89
Chapter Council Alternate 1994-97
Chapter Council Representative
1997-2000

Marsh, Elizabeth
University of Arkansas
Little Rock, AR
Founding Secretary-Treasurer 1951
Secretary-Treasurer 1951-53
Vice-Chair 1953-55

Marshall, Mary Louise

Tulane University
New Orleans LA
Convention Co-Chair 1951
Convention Co-Chair 1956-57
Program Chair 1956-57

Martin, Jess

University of Tennessee
Memphis, TN
Convention Chair 1972-73
Program Chair 1972-73
Chair-Elect 1976-77
Chair 1977-78
Convention Chair 1978-79

Program Chair 1978-79

McCann, Jett

Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, GA
Chair-Elect 1992-93
Program Chair 1992-93
Chair 1993-94

McDonell, W. Ellen

Buckman Laboratories
Memphis, TN
Secretary-Treasurer 1984-85
Chair, 1986-87

Miller, Suzanne

VA Hospital
Nashville, TN
Secretary-Treasurer 1955-56
Secretary-Treasurer 1966-67

Monahan, Helen

Medical Library of Charlotte
and Mecklenburg County
Charlotte, NC
Vice-Chair 1959-59
Convention Chair 1959-59
Program Chair 1959-59

Moore, Erdeal

University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL
Vice-Chair 1963-64

Moscoso, Ana Isabel

University of Puerto Rico
San Juan, PR
Convention Chair 1994-95

Mueller, Dorothy

University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL
Chair-Elect 1972-73
Chair 1973-74

Neal, Loraine

Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Vice-Chair 1956-57
Chair 1957-57

Parker, Virginia

(later Dillon, Virginia Parker)
Texas Medical Center
Houston, TX
Vice-Chair 1959-60

Postell, William D., Sr.

Louisiana State University
New Orleans, LA
Founding Chair 1951
Convention Chair 1951
Convention Chair 1956-57
Program Chair 1956-57

Postell, William D., Jr.

Tulane University,
New Orleans, LA
Program Chair 1979-80
Chair-Elect 1980-81
Chair 1981-82
Convention Chair 2000-01
(for Tri-Chapter Meeting)

Prottzman, Mary Fran

US Army Aeromedical Center
Fort Rucker, AL
Secretary-Treasurer 1998-99

Rainsford, Sadie Hill

Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, GA
Vice-Chair 1967-68
Convention Chair 1967-68

Rankin, Jocelyn

Mercer University
Macon, GA
Convention Chair 1996-97

Robichaux, Anne Kabler

Medical University
of South Carolina
Charleston, SC
Chair-Elect 1978-79
Chair 1979-80
Chapter Council Representative 1982-85

Rourke, Diane Ream

Baptist Health System
Miami, FL
Chair-Elect 1994-95
Program Chair 1994-95
Chair 1995-96

Runge, Elisabeth

University of Texas
Medical Branch
Galveston, TX
Convention Chair 1957-59
Program Chair 1957-59

Russell, Lisa Rains

University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL
Secretary-Treasurer 1992-93

Sawyer, Warren A (Buzz)

Medical University
of South Carolina
Charleston, SC
Convention Chair 1971-72
Program Chair 1971-72
Convention Chair 1981-82
Program Chair 1981-82

Sayre, Jean Williams

Mercer University
Macon, GA.
Chair-Elect 1983-84
Chair 1984-85

Selig, Susan

University of Tennessee
Memphis, TN
Secretary-Treasurer 1981-82
Bookkeeper 1983-84 through 1985-86
[First holder of this post]

Seltzer, Ada

University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
Secretary-Treasurer 1977-78
Chair-Elect 1981-82
Chair 1982-83
University of Mississippi
Jackson, MS
Chapter Council Alternate 1985-88
Chapter Council Representative 1988-91
Convention Chair 1990-91

Shah, Neeta

W. S. Hall Psychiatric Inst.
Columbia, SC
Secretary-Treasurer 1975-76

Shattuck, Beverly

University of South Florida
Tampa, FL
Convention Chair 1993-94

Singarella, Thomas (Tom)

University of Tennessee
Memphis TN
Convention Chair 1995-96
Chair-Elect 1998-99
Program Chair 1998-99
Chair 1999-2000

Sinha, Reeta

Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Bookkeeper 1998-99

Smith, Nancy

Medical University
of South Carolina
Charleston, SC
Secretary-Treasurer 1989-90

Srygley, Ted

University of Florida
Gainesville, FL.
Chair 1970-71
Convention Chair 1974-75
Convention Chair 1987-88
Chapter Council Representative 1980-81

Strong, Blondell

Meharry Medical College
Nashville, TN
Chair-Elect 1973-74
Chair 1974-75

Sykes, Christa

M.D. Anderson Hospital
Houston, TX
Secretary-Treasurer 1957-59
University of Florida
Vice-Chair 1961-62
Louisiana State University
New Orleans, LA
Chair 1966-67

Tannehill, Robert S.

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN
Program Chair 1967-68

Thompson, Dorothy

Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN
Secretary-Treasurer 1960-61
Chair 1961-62

Torrente, Michael J.

Emory University
Atlanta, GA
Chapter Council Alternate 1982-85
*(Elected but resigned before serving;
replaced by Tom Lange)*

Towell, Fay

Greenville Hospital System
Greenville, SC
Convention Chair 1998-99

Trammell, Mary

University of Tennessee
Memphis, TN
Secretary-Treasurer 1962-63

Walters, Gwen

University Community
Hospital
Tampa, FL
Secretary-Treasurer 1983-84

Watkins, Martha Childs

Mercer University
Macon, GA
Chair-Elect 1988-89
Chair 1989-90

Waverchak, Gail

St. Joseph Hospital
Atlanta, GA
Secretary-Treasurer 1986-87

Webb, Lorraine

University of Texas
Dental Branch
Houston, TX
Chair 1969-70
Convention Chair 1969-70
Program Chair 1969-70

Wellington, Flora (Flo)

University of Miami
Miami, FL
Secretary-Treasurer 1964-65

Williams, Jean *see*

Sayre, Jean Williams

Williams, Louise

State Board of Health
Jackson, MS
Vice-Chair 1951-53
Convention Co-Chair 1959-60

Williamson, Dixie Fulton

Nashville, TN
St. Thomas Hospital
Secretary-Treasurer 1990-91
Chair-Elect 1995-96
Program Chair 1995-96
Chair 1996-97

Withrow, Betty Ann

University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL
Secretary-Treasurer 1956-57
Bowman Grey
School of Medicine
(Wake Forest University)
Winston Salem, NC
Convention Chair 1965-66
Program Chair 1965-66

Woods, Susan E.

University of Florida
Gainesville, FL
Secretary-Treasurer 1991-92

Wykoff, Paula *see*

Craig, Paula Wykoff

Zachert, Martha Jane

University of South Carolina
College of Librarianship
Columbia, SC
Chapter Council Alternate 1980-81

Appendix C

**Chronological List
of
Officers and Other VIPs
of the
Southern Chapter
(Formerly Southern Regional Group)
of the
Medical Library Association**

1951-2001

On the succeeding pages, in chronological order, is a list of persons who have held a major office in the chapter. The holding of an office was about one year, usually lasting from one fall meeting until the next. However, in the early years of the chapter, meetings were not always held in the fall, and the intervals between them were sometimes more or less than twelve months. This accounts for some unusual time intervals in the early years of the chapter. Some offices are appointive and/or are held for more than a year. In some cases, only the beginning year is shown.

YEAR 01. 1951

Founding Chair William D. Postell, Sr.
Founding Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Marsh
Convention Chair William D. Postell, Sr.
Convention Co-Chair Mary Louise Marshall.

YEAR 02. 1951-53

Chair Ruth Harlamert
Vice-Chair Louise Williams
Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Marsh
Convention Chair Mildred Crowe Langner
Program Chair Mildred Crowe Langner

YEAR 03. 1953

Chair Sarah Brown
Vice-Chair Myrl Ebert
Convention Chair M. Irene Jones
Program Chair M. Irene Jones

YEAR 04. 1953-55

Chair Myrl Ebert
Vice-Chair Elizabeth Marsh
Secretary-Treasurer Ann Hodge Macomber
Convention Chair Pauline Duffield
Program Chair Pauline Duffield

YEAR 05. 1955-56

Chair Helen Holt
Vice-Chair Beatrix Jacob
Secretary-Treasurer Suzanne Miller
Convention Chair Mildred Jordan
Program Chair Mildred Jordan

YEAR 06. 1956-57

Chair Fred Bryant
Vice-Chair Loraine Neal
Secretary-Treasurer Betty Ann Withrow
Convention Chair Desmond Koster
Program Chair Desmond Koster

YEAR 07. 1957-57

Chair Loraine Neal
Vice-Chair Desmond Koster
Secretary-Treasurer Irene Graham
Convention Chair William D. Postell, Sr.
Convention Co-Chair Marshall. Mary Louise
Program Chair William D. Postell, Sr.

YEAR 08. 1957-59

Chair Desmond Koster
Vice-Chair Helen (Mrs. Henry) Kerr
Secretary-Treasurer Christa Sykes
Convention Chair Elisabeth Runge
Program Chair Elisabeth Runge

YEAR 09. 1959

Chair John Isché
Vice-Chair Helen Monahan
Secretary-Treasurer Maurine Hughes
Convention Chair Helen Monahan
Program Chair Helen Monahan

YEAR 10. 1959-60

Chair Alfred Brandon
Vice-Chair Virginia Parker
Secretary-Treasurer Ruth Baxter
Convention Chair Irene Graham
Convention Co-Chairs
 Louise Williams
 Ruth Baxter
Program Chair Irene Graham

YEAR 11. 1960-61

Chair Ann Hodge Macomber
Vice-Chair Hilda Harris
Secretary-Treasurer Dorothy Thompson
Convention Chair Pauline Duffield
Program Chair Pauline Duffield

YEAR 12. 1961-62

Chair Dorothy Thompson
Vice-Chair Christa Sykes
Secretary-Treasurer Marie Harvin
Convention Chair Fred Bryant
Program Chair Fred Bryant

YEAR 13. 1962-63

Chair Mayo Drake
Vice-Chair Dorothy Long
Secretary-Treasurer Mary Trammell
Convention Chair Marie Harvin
Program Chair Marie Harvin

YEAR 14. 1963-64

Chair Lora-Frances Davis
Vice-Chair Erdeal Moore
Secretary-Treasurer Mary Ann Brown
Convention Chair M. Irene Jones
Program Chair M. Irene Jones

YEAR 15. 1964-65

Chair Irene Graham
Vice-Chair Helen Jones
Secretary-Treasurer Flora Wellington
Convention Chair Omer Hamlin, Jr.
Program Chair Omer Hamlin, Jr.

YEAR 16. 1965-66

Chair Omer Hamlin Jr.
Vice-Chair Desmond Koster
Secretary-Treasurer Jean Stokes Lee
Convention Chair Betty Ann Withrow
Program Chair Betty Ann Withrow

YEAR 17. 1966-67

Chair Christa Sykes
Vice-Chair Leonard Eddy
Secretary-Treasurer Suzanne Miller
Convention Chair John Isché
Convention Co-Chair William Postell, Sr.
Program Chair John Isché

YEAR 18. 1967-68

Chair Leonard Eddy
Vice-Chair Sadie Rainsford
Secretary-Treasurer Patricia Greenfield
Convention Chair Sadie Hill Rainsford
Program Chair Robert S. Tannehill

YEAR 19. 1968-69

Chair Marie Harvin
Vice-Chair Marcel Carol
Secretary-Treasurer Pauline Duffield
Convention Chair [No Convention]
Program Chair [No Program]

YEAR 20. 1969-70

Chair Lorraine Webb
Vice-Chair David House, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer Martha Warder Andreasen
Convention Chair Lorraine Webb
Program Chair Lorraine Webb

YEAR 21. 1970-71

Chair Ted Srygley
Vice-Chair Sara Jean Jackson
Secretary-Treasurer Isabel Caballero
Convention Chair Richard Eimas
Program Chair Richard Eimas

YEAR 22. 1971-72

Chair David House Jr.
Chair-Elect (formerly Vice-Chair)
 Rose Hogan
Secretary-Treasurer Mary Ann Knotts
Convention Chair Warren Sawyer
Program Chair Warren Sawyer

YEAR 23. 1972-73

Chair Rose Hogan
Chair-Elect Dorothy Mueller
Secretary-Treasurer Paula Wykoff [Craig]
Convention Chair Jess Martin
Program Chair Jess Martin

YEAR 24. 1973-74

Chair Dorothy Mueller
Chair-Elect Blondell Strong
Secretary-Treasurer Jane Bumgarner
Convention Chair Miriam Libbey
Program Chair Margaret Johnson

YEAR 25. 1974-75

Chair Blondell Strong
Chair-Elect Thomas Basler
Secretary-Treasurer Jewell Garvin
Convention Chair Ted Srygley
Program Chair Carolyn Hall

YEAR 26. 1975-76

Chair Thomas Basler
Chair-Elect Thomas Lange
Secretary-Treasurer Neeta Shah
Convention Chair Mayo Drake
Program Chair Mayo Drake

YEAR 27. 1976-77

Chair Thomas Lange
Chair-Elect Jess Martin
Secretary-Treasurer Marylyn Gresser
Convention Chair Thomas Lange
Program Chair Charletta Felder

YEAR 28. 1977-78

Chair Jess Martin
Chair-Elect Marilyn Gresser
Secretary-Treasurer Ada Bowen [Seltzer]
Convention Chair Irene Graham
Program Chair Irene Graham

YEAR 29. 1978-79

Chair Marilyn Gresser
Chair-Elect Anne Kabler [Robichaux]
Secretary-Treasurer Lynn Fortney
Convention Chair Jess Martin
Program Chair Jess Martin

YEAR 30. 1979-80

Chair Anne Kabler [Robichaux]
Chair-Elect Marcia C. Davidoff
Secretary-Treasurer Linda Garr Markwell
Convention Chair Cynthia Goldstein
Program Chair William Postell, Jr.
Program Co-Chair John Isché

YEAR 31. 1980-81

Chair Marcia C. Davidoff
Chair-Elect William D. Postell, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer Laura Huff Koch
Convention Chair Thomas Basler
Program Chair Thomas Basler
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Ted Srygley
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Martha Jane Zachert

YEAR 32. 1981-82

Chair William D. Postell, Jr.
Chair-Elect Ada Seltzer
Secretary-Treasurer Susan Selig
Convention Chair Warren Sawyer
Program Chair Warren Sawyer
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Anne Kabler [Robichaux]
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Thomas Lange

YEAR 33. 1982-83

Chair Ada Seltzer
Chair-Elect Jean Williams Sayre
Secretary-Treasurer Janet Fisher
Convention Chair Richard Fredericksen
Program Chair Richard Fredericksen
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Anne Kabler [Robichaux]
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Thomas Lange

YEAR 34. 1983-84

Chair Jean Williams Sayre
Chair-Elect Karen Graves
Secretary-Treasurer Gwen Walters
Convention Chair Henry Lemkau, Jr.
Program Chair Henry Lemkau, Jr.
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Anne Kabler [Robichaux]
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Thomas Lange
Bookkeeper (new post) Susan Selig

YEAR 35. 1984-85

Chair Karen Graves
Chair-Elect Henry Lemkau, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer W. Ellen McDonnell
Convention Chair Sherry Anderson
Program Chair Sherry Anderson
(Though not a SC officer, Anderson served during 1984-85 as Convention Chair and Program Chair for the Joint Meeting of 1985)
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Suzetta Burrows
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Ada Seltzer
Bookkeeper Susan Selig

YEAR 36. 1985-86

Chair Henry Lemkau, Jr.
Chair-Elect Ellen McDonnell
Secretary-Treasurer Jan Hawkins LaBeause
Convention Chair T. Mark Hodges
Convention Co-Chair Leslie Goodale Adebonojo
Program Chair Joy Hunter
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Suzetta Burrows
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Ada Seltzer
Bookkeeper Susan Selig

YEAR 37. 1986-87

Chair Ellen McDonnell
Chair-Elect Richard Fredericksen
Secretary-Treasurer Gail Waverchak
Convention Chair James Pat Craig
Program Chair James Pat Craig
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Suzetta Burrows
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Ada Seltzer
Bookkeeper Lauren Benevich

YEAR 38. 1987-88

Chair Richard Fredericksen
Chair-Elect Linda Garr Markwell
Secretary-Treasurer Joy Hunter
Convention Chair Ted Srygley
Program Chair Christiane Jones
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Ada Seltzer
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Mary King Givens
Bookkeeper Lauren Benevich

YEAR 39. 1988-89

Chair Linda Garr Markwell
Chair-Elect Martha Childs Watkins
Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Clemmons
Convention Chair Janet Fisher
Program Chair Janet Fisher
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Ada Seltzer
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Mary King Givens
Bookkeeper Lauren Benevich

YEAR 40. 1989-90

Chair Martha Childs Watkins
Chair-Elect Suzetta Burrows
Secretary-Treasurer Carol Burns
Convention Chair Carol Burns,
Program Chair Alice DiVierno
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Ada Seltzer
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Mary King Givens
Bookkeeper Lauren Benevich

YEAR 41. 1990-91

Chair Suzetta Burrows
Chair-Elect Christiane Jones
Secretary-Treasurer Dixie Fulton Williamson
Convention Chair Ada Seltzer
Program Chair Christiane Jones
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Ada Seltzer
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Mary King Givens
Bookkeeper Lauren Benevich

YEAR 42. 1991-92

Chair Christiane Jones
Chair-Elect Carol Burns
Secretary-Treasurer Susan E. Woods
Convention Chair Thomas Lange
Program Chair Carol Burns
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Mary King Givens
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Nancy Clemmons
Bookkeeper Lauren Benevich

YEAR 43. 1992-93

Chair Carol Burns
Chair-Elect Jett McCann
Secretary-Treasurer Lisa Rains Russell
Convention Chair Nancy Clemmons
Program Chair Jett McCann
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Mary King Givens
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Nancy Clemmons
Bookkeeper Lauren Benevich

YEAR 44. 1993-94

Chair Jett McCann
Chair-Elect Jan Hawkins LaBeause
Secretary-Treasurer Alice DiVierno
Convention Chair Beverly Shattuck
Program Chair Jan LaBeause,
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Mary King Givens
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Nancy Clemmons
Bookkeeper Lauren Benevich

YEAR 45. 1994-95

Chair Jan Hawkins LaBeause
Chair-Elect Diane Ream Rourke
Secretary-Treasurer Sandra Franklin
Convention Chair Ana Isabel Moscoso
Program Chair Diane Ream Rourke
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Nancy Clemmons
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Linda Garr Markwell
Bookkeeper Lauren Benevich

YEAR 46. 1995-96

Chair Diane Ream Rourke
Chair-Elect Dixie Fulton Williamson
Secretary-Treasurer Donna Doelling
Convention Chair Thomas Singarella
Program Chair Dixie Fulton Williamson
MLA Chapter Council Representative
 Nancy Clemmons
MLA Chapter Council Alternate
 Linda Garr Markwell
Bookkeeper Lauren Benevich

YEAR 47. 1996-97

Chair Dixie Fulton Williamson
Chair-Elect Nancy Clemmons
Secretary-Treasurer Ellen Cooper
Convention Chair Jocelyn Rankin
Program Chair Nancy Clemmons
MLA Chapter Council Representative
Linda Garr Markwell
MLA Chapter Council Alternate Sarah Gable
Bookkeeper Sharon Cann

YEAR 48. 1997-98

Chair Nancy Clemmons
Chair-Elect Rosalind Lett
Secretary-Treasurer Martha Cook
Convention Chair Rosalind Lett,
(Divided responsibility)
(No host institution per se:
role filled by University of Kentucky,
Lexington)
Program Chair Rosalind Lett
MLA Chapter Council Representative
Linda Garr Markwell
MLA Chapter Council Alternate Sarah Gable
Bookkeeper Sharon Lee Cann

YEAR 49. 1998-99

Chair Rosalind Lett
Chair-Elect Thomas Singarella
Secretary-Treasurer Mary Fran Prottzman
Convention Chair Fay Towell
Program Chair Thomas Singarella
MLA Chapter Council Representative
Linda Garr Markwell
MLA Chapter Council Alternate Sarah Gable
Bookkeeper Reeta Sinha

YEAR 50. 1999-2000

Chair Thomas Singarella
Chair-Elect Lynn Fortney
Secretary-Treasurer Martha Earl
Convention Chair Tom Williams
Program Chair Lynn Fortney
MLA Chapter Council Representative
Sarah Gable
MLA Chapter Council Alternate Jan LaBeause
Bookkeeper Marilee Mason Creelan

YEAR 51. 2000-2001

Chair Lynn Fortney
Chair-Elect Janet Fisher
Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Faye Green
Convention Chair William D. Postell, Jr.
Program Chair Janet Fisher
MLA Chapter Council Representative
Sarah Gable
MLA Chapter Council Alternate Jan LaBeause
Bookkeeper Marilee Mason Creelan

Appendix D

NOTABLES FROM THE REGION COVERED BY THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL GROUP AND THE SOUTHERN CHAPTER:

MLA AWARD RECIPIENTS AND MLA OFFICE HOLDERS 1951-2001

A list of persons from the region served by the Southern Regional Group of MLA (1951-1972) and by the Southern Chapter of MLA (1972-2001) who were recipients of MLA awards or who held a major office in MLA.

(Arranged by Award and by Office.)

Not all these award recipients or office holders held a library position in the territory of the Southern Regional Group or the Southern Chapter at the time the award was conferred or the office held. Some were previously employed in the area and others were later employed in it. Some others were “detached” when the South Central Region began in 1972. Eileen Cunningham was MLA president and recipient of the Noyes Award before the Southern Regional Group was established, but continued to work and reside in the region until her death in 1965, fourteen years after the group was formed. .

Award recipients and office holders identified exclusively with the area covered by the South Central Regional Group from 1972 to 1980 (except those employed in Louisiana) and by the South Central Chapter from 1980 onwards are not included.

HONORS AND AWARDS

**Estelle Brodman Award for the
Academic Medical Librarian of the Year**
Scott Plutchak

Fellowship

Doris Bolef
Alfred N. Brandon
Sarah C. Brown
Carol Burns
Eileen R. Cunningham
Mayo Drake
Myrl Ebert
Irene Graham
T. Mark Hodges
John Isché
Irene Jones
Mildred C. Langner
Miriam Libbey
Ann Hodge Macomber
Mary Louise Marshall
Jess A. Martin
William D. Postell, Sr.
Martha Jane Zachert

**Frank Bradway Rogers
Information Advancement Award**

Jocelyn Rankin
Jean Williams Sayre

Honorary Membership

Nicholas Davies
John Majors
William Majors

Ida and George Eliot Prize

Alfred N. Brandon
Judith Burnham
Carol Burns
Lora Frances Davis
Cheryl Rae Dee
Eloise Foster
Frances Lynch
Mary Charles Lasater
Jocelyn Rankin
Jean Williams Sayre

HONORS AND AWARDS

Janet Doe Lectureship

Alfred N. Brandon
T. Mark Hodges
Martha Jane Zachert

Centennial 1998

MLA's 100 Most Notable

Alfred N. Brandon
Sarah C. Brown
Holly Shipp Buchanan
Eileen R. Cunningham
Eloise C. Foster
T. Mark Hodges
Mildred Jordan
David A. Kronick
Mildred C. Langner
Mary Louise Marshall
William D. Postell, Sr.
Fred W. Roper
Charles W. Sargent
Martha Jane Zachert

**Research, Development and
Demonstration Project Grant**

Mary C. Congleton
Shelley Paden
Bobbie Carlson
Bob Poyer

Murray Gottlieb Prize

Mary McCarl

Noyes Laureates

Alfred N. Brandon
Eileen R. Cunningham
T. Mark Hodges
Mildred Jordan
Mildred C. Langner
Mary Louise Marshall
William D. Postell, Sr.
Fred W. Roper

President's Award

Fred W. Roper

ELECTIVE AND APPOINTIVE OFFICES

Presidency

Alfred N. Brandon

Sarah C. Brown

Holly Shipp Buchanan

Eileen R. Cunningham

Eloise C. Foster

Mildred Jordan

Mildred C. Langner

Mary Louise Marshall

William D. Postell, Sr.

Fred W. Roper

Board Membership

Alfred N. Brandon

Sarah Brown

Holly Shipp Buchanan

Pauline Duffield

Myrl Ebert

Janet Fisher

Lynn Fortney

Eloise Foster

Marie Harvin

John Isché

Christiane Jones

Mildred Jordan

Irene Jones

David Kronick

Mildred Crowe Langner

Henry Lemkau

Julie Johnson McGowan

William D. Postell, Sr.

Jocelyn Rankin

Fred Roper

Ada Seltzer

Eleanor Steinke

Betty Ann Withrow

ELECTIVE AND APPOINTIVE OFFICES

Chapter Council Chair

Ada Seltzer

Section Council Chair

Janet Fisher

Nominating Committee Membership

Thomas Basler

Doris Bolef

Holly Shipp Buchanan

Nancy Clemmons

Mayo Drake

Janet Fisher

Lynn Fortney

Eloise Foster

Judith Hodges

T. Mark Hodges

Christiane Jones

Mildred Crowe Langner

Henry Lemkau

Miriam Libbey

Faith Meakin

Dorothy Mueller

Jocelyn Rankin

Fred Roper

Ada Seltzer

Dorothy Spencer

Martha Jane Zachert

Bulletin Editorship

Alfred N. Brandon

Mildred Crowe Langner

T. Scott Plutchak

William D. Postell, Sr.

Parliamentarian

T. Mark Hodges