

department is still collecting data on this subject and the active work of compiling the same will be undertaken within the next few weeks. As soon as this study is completed we will be pleased to send you a copy of the same.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Arthur A. Schwartz
Bill Drafter and Examiner

A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION
September 11, 1930.

Miss Rosamond Parma, Librarian,
School of Jurisprudence,
University of California,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Miss Parma :

Ever since you were elected President of the Association I have planned to write to you regarding a matter which has occupied my thought and attention for some time, and without any apology I will now do so in the hope that the ideas set forth may be of some constructive value.

While I am a comparatively new member of this Association I have had considerable experience in working with groups and I am, therefore, aware of most of the difficulties which confront the officials of an association such as ours. For this reason I am venturing to suggest that there is a step which we might take, and which would, in my opinion, go a long way toward making our group the cohesive and constructive agency which it should be, if we are to make the most of this profession to which we are devoting the better part of our lives. I hope I will not be misunderstood when I venture the opinion that the Association is not beginning to take advantage of the opportunities which lie before it. This is not a criticism of present or past officials or, in fact, of individuals of any kind. I believe that the reason is to be found solely in the structure of our organization which suffers from an inherent defect that has long since been recognized by many business and trade groups, as well as by all the more established professions.

To come directly to the point, I think you will agree with me that every group organization which has achieved conspicuous results has at least one or more paid full time persons on its staff, and in my opinion this is the most vital step which lies before the American Association of Law Libraries. We members, and this includes the officials, are hard pressed at all times by the tasks which lie before us in connection with our specific libraries, and regardless of what our intentions may be we are not able to think out problems of the group as a whole first, but must relegate them to second place at least, and frequently we dismiss them altogether. In a busy age like our own this is inevitable, and the proof of this lies in the experience of many other groups which have found it necessary to take the step which I am proposing.

To one side of us exists the highly organized and the decidedly effective general library profession, and its organization has certainly suggested some of

the things which we may do for our particular field, although in a specialized way and on a smaller scale. On the other side we have the legal profession, one which has been somewhat reluctant to organize and act cooperatively, but is rapidly passing into a new phase, a notable example of which is the new State Bar movement which is gaining considerable momentum. Still a third professional group come in contact with our daily work, particularly in the case of law school libraries, and this is the teaching profession behind which stands the highly organized academic world. Recent developments in the organized life of the teaching profession have played an important part in the raising of their standards and in obtaining the type of recognition which is more and more coming to them. In the case of all of these three professions we will generally find that the individual members receive higher recognition, both as to standing and as to financial remuneration.

In my opinion all of these things go together and the one thing in which probably all law librarians agree, namely, that they are not adequately paid, depends for its alleviation upon much persistent constructive work including the appropriate education of those to whom we are responsible in order that they may appreciate our needs and give adequate support to our work. In this, all of the active members of our profession should join, but if we are to be intelligent about it we must also create an instrumentality adapted to our needs and to the age in which we live in order that we may confidently expect genuine results.

I do not wish to be misunderstood as advocating the elimination of the voluntary officials, and of the voluntary work, nor am I minimizing the substantial results which have been accomplished in the past. In my opinion all of this voluntary effort could be enhanced one hundred per cent if there were a minimum staff on the job at all times to see that if any initiative were once taken the program proposed should be carried out to its logical conclusion. Under the set up that I envision individual initiative and endeavor would in no case be supplanted, but every effort would be made to encourage the members to undertake necessary tasks, and the Association would only engage in such work as could best be handled from some central headquarters. In other words the policy would be to encourage, augment and coordinate the work of all those engaged in law library administration and development.

I have no doubt that you can visualize the things that you could accomplish this year if you could formulate a general program for your term of office in the knowledge that there would be a staff available to see that the program was carried out. I can think of many things that the Association could do if we had such full time interested officials as I have in mind, but I will only burden you here with the briefest mention of some that occur to me at the moment.

1. Obviously the Journal should be continued as at present, although it might be enlarged to advantage as the scarcity of technical material on law library administration is apparent to anyone who has had occasion to look for information of this kind.

2. In my opinion there is a crying need for a bulletin, preferably in printed form, but if this is impossible mimeographing would serve the purpose. Such a bulletin should contain current notices of interest to law librarians and comments and items regarding libraries where the information would be of interest to other librarians. It should also contain a list of current legal publications,

including pamphlets, giving the author, title, publisher, source and price, and other data whenever possible. If this information were regularly gathered together by some central agency it would save much time and trouble on the part of individual librarians, who must at present scan a vast amount of current material in order to keep themselves posted, and then are bound to overlook many items of interest. We as law librarians should have some means of knowing that everything being published in our field will come to our attention.

Obviously the bulletin published by Mr. Rosbrook has attempted to meet some of these particular needs and I think he deserves a great deal of credit for the work which he has been doing. He has convinced me that, in spite of the evidence of the moment, there is a very real need in this direction, and one which can only be met by the general distribution of a bulletin of some sort. Lack of support and of funds has, of course, made it impossible for him to prepare it in an attractive form, or to give the full bibliographical data which is desirable. This has probably contributed to the difficulty he has encountered in securing subscriptions. Under the centralized plan which I am proposing I believe the difficulties which he has encountered as an individual could be minimized or overcome.

3. Another class of publication in which the Association could very well take a much more active interest is that of indexes, check lists and bibliographies for which there is certainly a crying need such as will probably never be entirely satisfied. Here is an illustration of how the Association could operate at its best, for in my opinion it need not, and perhaps should not undertake this sort of work directly as an organization. The better policy would be to establish conditions encouraging voluntary endeavors in these directions. I mean by this that if the Association would sponsor the publication of indexes, check lists and bibliographies, a great deal of individual initiative might thereby be developed. Under present circumstances the cost of publication has discouraged efforts of this sort since one must be possessed of an almost "unhuman" zeal to be willing to undertake such labors if they are not to see the light of day.

4. It seems to me that we are in great need of a clearing house for general information as well as a place where material on law library administration can be collected. In short, we are in need of some central library on law library administration where all possible data should be gathered and arranged in a manner to be of service to all persons interested. The American Association of Law Libraries should be a clearing house for all such information, and should also be a source to which we could freely write in the confidence that we would frequently receive information of help to us in solving our particular problems. So far as I know, no one has as yet made an attempt to systematically gather material along these lines, and yet the time is coming when we must pass into a phase where law library administration will be a well developed technical field administered by persons extensively trained for this particular purpose. I don't mean to indicate by this expression that there are not law librarians of the first order in the field at the present time, for there are, but there are also many law libraries which are inefficiently administered, either because they are inadequately manned, or because the librarians are untrained and poorly paid.

So much for this very brief discussion of some of the fields of service which lie before the American Association of Law Libraries. Assuming that the

Association and its members are in favor of the addition of one or more full time paid members to the staff, we are confronted by the very important problem of ways and means.

While I have no idea as to a concrete source from which financial assistance may be procured, I can not but believe that we have a very legitimate claim to bring forward when we are ready to act in earnest, and I see no reason why we should not approach the problem of securing financial assistance with some reasonable degree of assurance. Foundations of many kinds are contributing millions of dollars annually in any number of directions, and surely some of us among the law librarians are acquainted with persons who could make approaches for us. As you know, the American Library Association has received substantial assistance from the Carnegie Corporation, which is simply a proof of the fact that similar assistance has been procured. When one considers the immense importance of the legal profession, and the tremendous influence which it exerts upon our respective communities and upon the states and the country, it seems to me undeniably clear that the intelligent and the insistent claim of those who are engaged in providing the absolutely essential library facilities for this profession should be heard and responded to in no less concrete terms than the contribution of the necessary funds to improve our service to our public.

Of course while discussing the question of receiving outside financial assistance, we should not overlook our own resources although they be meager, for we must be willing to give direct assistance ourselves. No doubt there are ways and means of augmenting the income from our group if we can provide an increased service to our own membership. In this connection I submit that assistance from the legal profession in any of its branches should not be considered "outside" assistance. We are merely a part of this group with an absolutely necessary but specialized function to perform.

In spite of the length of this letter I feel that the main considerations have not been adequately treated, and I regret that it is not possible for us to discuss these matters at length. However, as I am urging the adoption of a specific program I am going to conclude with a concrete proposal, namely, that you and your fellow officers consider the advisability of appointing a committee with authority to look into this matter thoroughly.

Thanking you in advance for such consideration as you may be inclined to give this proposal, I am

Yours sincerely,
Wm. R. Roalfe, Librarian.
Duke University Law School

CORRECTION:

The name of Hon. William J. Millard was incorrectly given as Hon. William V. Millard in the List of Life Members on p. 139 of the October 1930 Law Library Journal, also on p. 4 of the January 1931 issue.