

The editor will be grateful for any criticisms and suggestions and hopes that all subscribers will write him freely. Many helpful suggestions have been made from librarians and others who use the Index and for these the editor is very grateful. He wishes to call attention again to his offer to send to any subscriber all of the listings in any particular subject which have appeared in periodicals since the publication of the last quarterly issue. He will be glad to send these by telegram collect or by letter and is prepared to do this up to the time the copy for the new quarterly Index leaves for the printer.

The temporary confusion caused by the issuance of the cumulative number in October instead of January has now disappeared. The labor and cost of preparing the cumulative number in October instead of January has decreased, owing to the fact that a very great many of the most important of the American legal periodicals end their volumes in June and do not resume republication until November. The new system has the additional advantage of enabling us to include within one annual cumulation a whole volume of each of the more important law school legal periodicals.

ELDON R. JAMES  
*Editor*

### REFLECTIONS

By A. J. SMALL, *Iowa State Law Librarian*

This particular session of the American Association of Law Libraries is not, as I understand it, to be one of retrospection altogether nor to take up the serious problems usually considered at other times, but, rather to recall pleasant memories of happenings and events for the last twenty-five years and once again renew friendships and form new acquaintances of those who are engaged in the same or similar work.

This is our silver anniversary, a quarter of a century having passed since we met on the rockribbed shores of New England, and today we are privileged to see some of the same familiar faces and greet in person or receive the written proxies of those who have presided over the association as president, from those memorable days at Narragansett Pier in 1906 to the present time.

How well some of us recall that first meeting in which we sat together in the lobby and parlors of the Hotel Mathewson, with a single purpose in view—that of making librarianship a profession rather than simply holding a job and the betterment of the institutions which we represented. How eagerly we set about to form an organization, having no idea as to its extent and possibilities, but we were firmly convinced that an organization was necessary for the advancement of the libraries and cooperative work among the law librarians. We could find no organization then existing whose principles fitted our particular branch of library work, so we organized a new association and the achievements are in evidence. As a result, librarianship has been stabilized and largely taken from politics. Where appointments are now made they are usually upon merit rather than as political rewards.

The publication of the Law Journal and Index to Legal Periodicals is perhaps one of the outstanding accomplishments,—great credit being due the Committee on publications and to its editors, of which our president, Mr. Schenk, was the first.

Well do some of us remember the post conference at our meeting at Minnetonka where we spent a couple of days in the Minnesota State Library indexing periodicals for the first volume of the Index. For some time thereafter much of the work was done by cooperative efforts and edited by the several editors.

The binding of law books has also had its share of consideration, and through the influence of the association the making and labeling of text books and documents has been improved and a better understanding between librarians and publishers attained.

Along with the serious side and activities of the association, a wide acquaintance has been cultivated which has been of untold value to our libraries as well as creating lasting and mutual friendships among librarians.

During the life of the association thirteen presidents have been honored and served you. I count my successors a fine group of fellows; from the beginning to the present time no difficulties have arisen among us and each is still active in the affairs of the association. It is quite remarkable that all the presidents of this association are living; also, many of the membership are still engaged in library work. As for myself I acknowledge grateful tribute in the honor conferred upon me and highly prize your friendship.

“A glad hello and a hearty grip,  
Are the first beginning of comradeship,  
And Father Time in his kindly way  
Binds us closer day by day.  
We grow from the smile and the kindly hand  
To know each other and understand,  
And I hope this year you will find in me  
The sort of friend that I want to be.”

Our meetings have been held in conjunction with the parent association, the American Library Association, in various parts of the country and the Dominion of Canada. Many of these places are of historic interest or pleasure resorts and now bring back memories of most delightful meetings. Our best conferences have always been held at resorts as there are not so many counter attractions as we find in the cities, and where the meetings have been housed together in the same hotel.

To my mind Bretton Woods, N. H., was the most delightful spot of all. We were in the midst of the White Mountains at the foot of Mt. Washington at the Mt. Washington Hotel. Mackinac was a delightful place with a large hotel overlooking the straits of the Great Lakes. At Asheville, N. C., in the Battery Park Hotel where the mountain scenery was delightful, the southern hospitality was most marked. We were welcomed by a kindly old gentleman, Mr. Miles O. Sherrill, then state librarian, a southerner by birth and tradition. He said he welcomed us now but during the Civil war he had resisted the invasion of the northerner.

In Ottawa and Toronto we had fine conferences and were generously welcomed. At Toronto, as a law association, we had an unusual honor conferred upon us by being banqueted by the Supreme Court at Osgood Hall. The judges were present in person and heartily welcomed us. It was a memorable occasion for us all.

At French Lick we were housed in one of the palatial hotels of that great health resort. The environment of Washington greatly enhanced our meeting there, though the various sections and affiliated associations were scattered throughout the city. At Berkeley we held our meetings in Boalt Hall at the University of California and were chaperoned by our good friend, Miss Rosamond Parma. We were generously treated with an auto ride over San Francisco and a lobster dinner at the Cliff House by the Bancroft-Whitney Company. Minnetonka was a beautiful wooded spot. The meetings were held in an amusement pavilion delightfully located and offering a fine view of the placid waters of the lake. We were entertained at the State Library by Mr. John E. King, then state librarian of Minnesota, and given a dinner by the West Publishing Company of St. Paul. At Louisville we had a splendid session. Though we missed the famous races we made a side trip to the Mammoth Cave where we explored the subterranean passages and saw the wonders of the cave.

While we have never before met at Los Angeles, the great metropolis of the southwest, yet, we did come close when we were at Pasadena in 1911. Some of our sessions were held under the fig trees in the garden of the Maryland Hotel, and we were the recipients of generous hospitalities from our good friend T. W. Robinson of the Los Angeles County Bar Library.

This is the third time we have met in the Golden State, and we are anticipating a splendid conference in this fine city along with the side and post conferences.

May the years that are to come be as fruitful and congenial as they have been in the past.

"Five and twenty years across our path have sped;  
We have reached the silver milestone,  
With its golden days ahead—  
Days that are full of promise,  
Bright days of golden hue,  
May all that is good and joyous  
Come with them, is my wish for you."

June 24, 1930.

## THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE LAW LIBRARY

By GEORGE S. GODARD, *Connecticut State Librarian*

Libraries are no longer luxuries confined to the families and friends of the rich. They are no longer looked upon as a charity nor as a gift from the rich to the poor, but, like the public school and the public highway, they are for the use and benefit of every one. In other words, libraries have become an element of sound public policy, and demand the same careful, intelligent and interested official supervision and assistance as is given by the state to any other branch of its public economy.