

Jan 1997
9

Newsletter

ANNALS OF TIME PAST:

JOHN FALL 1907-1996
A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE
by Edward Di Roma

There is no plaque on a wall nor yet a book fund in his memory, but John Fall, who died on April 10, 1996 at the age of eighty-nine, was one of a number of eminent but uncelebrated administrators who have guided The Research Libraries to newer and higher ground since the beginning of World War II.

This quiet, self-effacing, and complex man came from Chicago in 1933 and joined the staff as a reference librarian in what is now called the General Research Division. After transferring to the Acquisitions Division and serving there in several positions of increasing importance, he was appointed its chief in 1944. Nine years later he was promoted again to be head of the old Economics Division, a post he held until his retirement in 1965. In his thirty-two year career John Fall made several contributions to the preeminence of The Research Libraries. Two of the most important were in the areas of collection development and personnel management, or as we say today, human resources.

Because of his extensive knowledge of the publishing and book-dealing businesses, John Fall was able to improve an already good Acquisitions Division and make it one of the best among research libraries in the country. In fulfilling the acquisition requests of the division chiefs, Mr. Fall's unit was not ordering merely the newest books of standard American publishers. Indefatigable and resourceful, it also was identifying and tracking down government documents from all over the world and publications of private organizations not listed in the regular bibliographic sources here or abroad. Besides obtaining numerous items in languages other than English, the unit was successful in acquiring many materials in non-book formats.

Rollin A. Sawyer preceded John Fall as chief of the Economics Division and was one of the Library's great collectors. When he trained his staff in collection development, he always included a laudatory description of the Acquisitions Division. He used to say that "John Fall's people" not only were able to locate and order the most elusive publications, but they "also made it look easy."

After World War II, Mr. Fall played an important role on behalf of The New York Public Library in two cooperative acquisition programs for research libraries in the United States. The first was the Cooperative Acquisition Project for Wartime Publications, which was spearheaded by the Library of Congress and which endeavored to obtain as many as possible of the research materials that could not be acquired during the world conflict. The second project was the Farmington Plan sponsored by the Asso-

continued on page two

PERFORMANCE COLA

by Belle Weinberg

In the recent past, retirees have been compelled to go to the Legislature and Governor year after year seeking an improved benefit. The most recent experience was when a 1995 supplementation bill was vetoed by the Governor and then replaced by a less generous bill, coupled with an unconstitutional attempt to raid Retirement System funds.

Ad hoc supplementation is not the norm among public employee pension systems. Of the 451 public plans which responded to the 1994 Public Pension Coordinating Council survey, 80% provided some sort of supplementation, and 55% of these provided a regular fixed rate of supplementation. Even though private sector plans are less likely to supplement pension benefits, 50% of large corporate plans report having improved benefits between 1990 and 1995, a period when new York's public retirees saw no increase at all.

State Comptroller Carl McCall believes New York State can do better for its public retirees. For the last 18 years, as a result of a very successful investment rate of return, retirement costs to State and local government employers have declined steadily. Of the 20 largest state retirement systems, New York costs are the lowest.

McCall is, therefore, proposing a 'Performance COLA' which

continued on page three

Issue Number 9, January 1997

ANNALS OF TIME PAST

continued from page one

ciation of Research Libraries. Its goal between 1948 and 1972 was to acquire and place at least one copy of each foreign publication of possible research value into an American library specializing in that subject.

When John Fall left the Acquisitions Division to head the Economics Division in 1953, his interest in collection building did not diminish, but the nature of his efforts changed. Instead of managing the unit that performed the many complicated operations and negotiations necessary to acquire materials for a research library, he now was combing bibliographies and booklists himself and was directing the similar activities of six subject specialists on his staff. At the same time, of course, he was responsible for maintaining the high standards of reference and bibliographic service to the public for which the Economics Division was distinguished for decades.

As collector, John Fall was cast in the mold of earlier New York Public Library greats such as directors Billings, Anderson, and Lydenberg, and Economics Division chiefs Hasse, Williamson, and Sawyer. Like his predecessors, John Fall collected widely, but with the cooperation of his staff he sought after some types of materials with special zeal. These included documents from governments at all levels, international, national, state and provincial, municipal, county, and local. Another type comprised the publications of associations, societies, research institutes, and political parties. Still a third group consisted of what might be called the literature of dissent in economic, political, and social areas.

Another professional quality that John Fall shared with his predecessors was the scrupulous objectivity with which he selected materials. All the Library's great collectors held strong opinions on religion, morality, politics, economics, literature, the arts, and the sciences, but the crowded shelves of The Research Libraries demonstrate clearly that personal feelings never influenced acquisition decisions.

Besides doing so much to build the collections of The Research Libraries, Mr. Fall indirectly helped other great libraries enhance their holdings through his many years of service as trustee and chairman of Public Affairs Information Service, the premier index and bibliography of materials in the social sciences.

John Fall's achievements in the area of human resources were not so tangible as those in collection development, but nonetheless they were, in my opinion, real and far-reaching. When he arrived in 1933, the Library—like almost all other places of employment—was operating under a system of conservative personnel policies and practices. According to some outspoken staff members, that system had not changed since the library was organized in 1896. However, the existence of a very large pool of unemployed workers during the Great Depression did not induce the Library, or employers elsewhere, to consider changing conditions.

Activists for reform among the rank and file charged that appointments to top administrative posts were limited to WASP males. The glass ceiling that was blocking the advancement of women employees seemed shatterproof. Almost all the Italians on the staff worked as porters, and few Jews were employed in posts of importance outside the Jewish Division. African-Americans were practically invisible as employees or, for that matter, as patrons in the central building.

Division chiefs wielded almost absolute hiring, supervisory, and firing authority. The nature of the personnel policy was exemplified by a 3 x 5 card that was given to new employees in the 1930's. I know because I received such a card when I was hired as a page for one year in 1936-37. The card reminded me of the Decalogue, and its final admonition, whose exact words I forget, warned that an employee's salary was personal information and should not be discussed with colleagues.

But like all earlier major military conflicts, World War II led to profound changes in economic, political, and

social institutions. The Library was not exempt. Both staff members returning from military leave and new employees who were veterans became impatient with the restrictive personnel policies and practices. Some of the younger administrators shared that sentiment, and a difference of opinion developed between those library leaders who felt a liberalization of working conditions was due and those who failed to see anything wrong with the status quo.

In due course, personnel policy started to appear on the agenda of division chiefs' meetings. Several participants told me years later that from the beginning John Fall quietly but persistently sided with the advocates of change and supported the establishment of a personnel office with authority to install more progressive working conditions library wide. This was confirmed to me when I was executive assistant to the chief of The Research Libraries by none other than Edward G. Freehafer, who served as the first chief of the Personnel Office and later as director of the entire Library.

I am sure that no one who was familiar with the Acquisitions Division under John Fall was surprised by his liberal stance on personnel matters, for he had been applying democratic principles of management long before the Personnel Office was created. He continued to do so after he was appointed chief of the Economics Division in 1953, and I was fortunate to work for him for the next ten years. As the division's specialist in the literature of human resources, I had some competence to judge how well he performed in that area, and I concluded that he was an extremely successful manager whose quiet, low-keyed approach caused him to be underrated.

First of all, he always treated employees, down to the last-hired page, with honesty, dignity and respect. He praised in public, but criticized in private, and his criticism was designed unfailingly to help the employee improve his or her performance.

Mr. Fall always was readily accessible to his staff because, along with

other encouraging practices, he usually arrived early and stayed late. While he never intruded on anyone's privacy, his sensitivity often helped him notice when a staff member's performance was being affected adversely by personal or family problems. On such occasions, he was a sympathetic listener and often was able to make helpful suggestions or assist in some other way. It was not unusual for John Fall to visit staff members in the hospital or appear at wakes or shivahs of their close relatives.

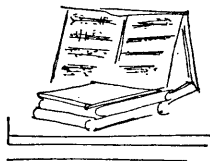
Many times he demonstrated—quietly and with discretion—even greater concern for his staff. I shall never forget how much he helped a staff member, a single mother, when her own mother died suddenly. The staff member was distraught because her deceased parent used to take care of the staff member's preschool child. Mr. Fall not only quietly helped the staff member make funeral arrangements, but he also helped her find affordable day care for her child. In another instance I learned about, John Fall's understanding and compassion were one of the reasons a staff member who lived alone was able to recover from a deep depression.

Since he was a good administrator, John Fall was aware that no enterprise could ever be run single-handedly by the person at the top. He always encouraged suggestions and was willing to experiment with new methods to increase efficiency and to improve service to the public. Whenever he declined to implement a new idea, he invariably provided a full explanation, wisely leaving the door open for future suggestions.

John Fall added to the distinction of The Research Libraries not only by his accomplishments—not all of which have been documented—but also by setting an example for those who worked with or for him. Quietly and without fanfare he instilled in the generation that was following him the same love he had for the Library and the same resolution he had for serving it with excellence.

Although I was fortunate in having a close professional association with

John Fall for thirty-one years, there were aspects of his mind and spirit that I did not fully understand and probably others of which I was not fully aware. Of one thing about this complex and idealistic man, however, I am absolutely sure. One of the reasons for his deep dedication to The New York Public Library was that he viewed it as part of a larger and more exalted undertaking, namely the improvement of the condition of humankind on this planet.



Juanita Doares, President of the Association, received the following card from John Fall. The date written on it is 2/95.

Dear Juanita,

My admiration to you and the group responsible for the retirees association. A perfect tie for those of us who have departed from 42nd Street and the Branches even if it is our poor fortune not to be at the occasions which are described in the post cards [sent to remind people of meetings and outings, editor]. [signed] John

A book fund in memory of John Fall is being proposed.

continued from page one

PERFORMANCE COLA would provide a permanent annual increase in the pensions of eligible retirees and beneficiaries in any year that the 5 year market rate of return on the pension fund investment exceeds 10%. The investment earnings between 10% and 10.5% will be used to produce a Performance COLA. In the years when there would be a Performance COLA it would approach 3%.

The Performance COLA would be in addition to the current supplementation program. Thus, persons who retired prior to January 1, 1990 would be entitled to both the ad hoc supplementation benefit and the Performance COLA. Pensioners would still be required to be retired for a full five years before being eligible for increased benefits.

Favorable investment results over 5 years would significantly reduce employer contributions, even while prompting the payment of a Performance COLA.

When Performance COLA legislation is introduced in the Legislature, we will all be called upon to lobby in the same way we did when the supplementation was up for a vote. Hopefully, the results will be the same.

EX LIBRIS

In memory of Fred and Freddie

The books are closed, they are finished.
They are due. We cannot keep them any longer,
but we librarians do not want to let them go.
We need to have them on the shelf
under G or F, where we can find them,
refer to them, reread them, answer questions with them.
These books were special books, unique,
so if we want to keep the contents alive
we must remember, rejoice that we read them
and tell their tales to others.

*Phyllis King,
Aug. 18, 1996*

RETIREEES IN ACTION

News from the Field

Items have been compiled from the questionnaires that were filled out at the time of membership application or renewal. Entries have been kept as much as possible in the words (and punctuation) of the writer. We beg forgiveness for possible errors in our reading of the handwriting.

* * * *

Antoinette Asdahl: Activities: Reading, travel, gardening. Volunteer at Palm Harbor [Florida] Library.

Elizabeth Borbas: Memories of Library: Working with young adults in various branches.

Donald Browne: Activities: Collecting old postcards. Memories of Library: Happy years.

Helen W. Chin: Activities: Plants, knitting, reading, membership secretary of AARP Chapter #858 (Unionport). Memories of Library: Meeting Margaret Scoggin at the old Nathan Straus in 1951.

Imogene L. Dykes: Activities: Staying alive, comfortable, and healthy. Secretary of Resident Association. Help with library in my retirement home. Help with greenhouse work—Sunday CD concerts run by my husband (I help a little). Memories of Library: My personal intellectual growth—getting to know many kinds of people.

Frances Friscia: Activities: Hiking, golf, bridge, travel. Volunteering for various nonprofit organizations such as Meals on Wheels, museums, hospice (board member of each organization). Currently I have been president of a hospital auxiliary consisting of 500 volunteers. This has been a full time commitment. I never really retired. Still going! Memories of the Library: Enjoyed working with the people and thoroughly enjoyed the Library.

Paul Goren: Activities: 1) travel, 2) photography, 3) enjoying my grandson, Daniel Jordan Kassebaum (4 years old). I am not yet retired (only 53 years old). I am happily working full time for American Express. Nora, my wife of 33 years, and I annually do a toys for tots for children's Christmas party. Memories of the Library: All of my many friends must lead the list. I worked for special events, and I will never forget the team efforts to put them together. (We were the best.)

Giacomo Granata: Activities: Almost every day I take long walks, take care of my house. I go on vacation once a year, destination Catskill, Texas, and Clearwater in Florida. Memories of the Library: I always am thinking of the Library. I am glad that I served this great institution for 25 years.

James T. Greene: Activities: Traveling, studying (I am interested in languages), reading, having lunch with and visiting with friends, seeing Emma Thompson movies, playing my LP's, tapes and CD's—I won't be able to play them once before departing this life, resting, visiting family and friends out of the city. Memories of the Library: The battle to get the addition to the Epiphany building; working with the community group.

Norma Hersh: Activities: Watching my husband grow roses and wishing I were in hot, dirty, disgusting Manhattan. Memories of the Library: Working with Edith Rees at the newly built Inwood Branch.

"Jay" (John L.) Hildreth: Activities: Music, learning computer, politics, Broadway shows, concerts, opera, and rebuilding my own health—not necessarily in that order. Serving on committees, especially for Judson Memorial Church, and school board elections. Memories of the Library: 1) The wonderful farewell party the staff gave me at The Performing Arts Library on the Friday before my last day of work, 2) How the staff at the Music Library pulled together to allow me to be with my wife at the time of my daughter's

very traumatic birth.

Grace K. Iijima: Activities: Opera, International affairs, The Environment. Currently serving as a Non-Governmental Organization's Representative to the United Nations. Attended the UN Conference and NGO Forum for Habitat II at Istanbul, May 27 through June 13, 1996. Memories of the Library: My earliest memories were a year on the old Travelling Library small truck whose sides opened up to show the books on the shelves—that reminded me of Christopher Morley's "Parnassus on Wheels." Outstanding experience: Being appointed Branch Librarian of the new Allerton Branch; the great experience and privilege of selecting the adult and reference collections for that branch, some friendships that began when I was 19 and still endure.

Elnora Jackson: Activities: Travel and volunteering at church. Memories of the Library: Planning programs for the community adults and young adults.

Phyllis King: Activities: Primary—Writing poetry, taking workshops on writing poetry—some readings. Second—Travel whenever I can. I am class agent for my high school class of 1937. Memories: All those wonderful great, crazy questions at Telephone Reference.

Frances Lewis: Activities: Maintaining a sitting park and garden, Mosholu Woodlawn South Community Coalition, member of 52nd precinct council, volunteer at senior meal program. Received 1994 City Park Volunteer Greening award. In 1996 was made Park Warden. Outstanding memories of NYPL: My fellow workers, division chiefs and library personnel who helped me develop a love for this library which will never leave me. I learned so much those years that I will always treasure.

Rose Messer: Activities: Play some bridge; have been taking minutes of the Albuquerque Hadassah Chapter Board;

try to visit New York City once a year; some reading, swimming. Took minutes for a couple of years of the La Vida Llena (this is the name of the retirement center) Residents Council Executive Board. Memories of the Library: Mostly the wonderful people I worked with, among them—but not only these names—Mr. Freehafer, Mr. Couper, Mr. Reginald Johnson, Bridie Race—and many, many others.

Louis Mintz: Activities: Recently completed consulting work relating to the transfer of The Research Libraries collections into the new Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL) facility. Am president of the Suffolk County chapter of Mended Hearts, a nationwide nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to providing support to heart patients of all types and their families. We give hope and encouragement to others by providing living proof that individuals with heart disease can lead full and productive lives. Memories of the Library: The thousands of wonderful people I had the opportunity to meet and work with, and also the fact that I hope I made a significant contribution to that great institution, The New York Public Library.

Gertrude Moakley: Activities: Word puzzles (I subscribe to *Harper's* just for the two puzzles). Tarot cards continue to haunt me—an art historian in Tennessee wants to reprint my introduction to a reprint edition of A.E. Waite's *Pictorial Key to the Tarot*, and I'm promised a copy of *A Wicked Pack of Cards* by Professor Dummett and two coauthors to which I gave my two cents worth. I take care of the paperbacks in our home's library—reselve returned books and weed the collection when a shelf is overcrowded. I also pay for its subscription to the *Abridged Reader's Guide* even though by the time it comes all indexed issues have already been discarded, [but] the public library can get Xeroxes of them for me at no charge. Memories of the Library: I didn't realize what an international reverence the whole world has for the Library until the Library published my book on Bembo's tarot cards

of 1450 or so. It got the book noticed by UNESCO and German and Italian sources, which wouldn't otherwise have happened.

Pauline Ristuccia: Activities: Active in our community Senior Citizen Club. Part of committees for dances and outings. Volunteer on committee for special children's party at holiday time, volunteer for cancer drive in local area. Memories of the Library: Great staff. Enjoyed branch work and working in Technical Services (Processing Office), and my association with other offices and branches and looking forward each day to go to work

Inez Russo: Memories of the Library: Just loved it.

Loretta Siebenhoven: Activities: Theater and travel. Volunteer at a day care center in my neighborhood. Outstanding Memories of NYPL: Working in CN [the Reserve Collection for The Branch Libraries] and large print collection.

Virginia Smith: Activities: Golfing both in Pennsylvania and down in South Carolina in the winter! Teaching my granddaughter Katie Burns to golf at seven years! Family graduations, births, and special birthdays and anniversaries. Attending plays in the Poconos at various playhouses. Gardening in the Poconos (quite a challenge with the terrain and deer). Library Board—Hemlock Farms—18 years (make selection of books to buy). Program Chairman, Hemlock Farms Women's Club—15 years. Past president of Altar and Rosary, St. John Neumann, Lord's Valley, Pennsylvania. Member of Arts Guild of Hemlock Farms (dabble in water colors, went to the Cezanne Exhibition in Philadelphia in June '96) Member of N.A.R.F.E.—organizer of chapter 2259 in Pennsylvania. Attended my 50th anniversary reunion at Seton Hall College (University), South Orange, N.J. in 1995 with my husband! Had a ball! And am looking forward to my 60th reunion at Our Lady Queen of Peace High School, N. Arlington, NJ. in 1999! Memories

of the Library: Meeting all those New Yorkers with questions! Working with the wonderful staffs of St. George and Donnell Libraries.

Marion L. Stock: Activities: Antiques, reading. Town Historian, active in local Historical Society—curator of small museum, active in senior center—coordination of trips, consultant to town library. Outstanding memories of the Library: Contacts with wonderful people—both staff and public.

Kaye-Coke Walker: Activities: READING! All the books I didn't have time to read while I was working. My Queens branch library is only 3 blocks away. Outstanding memories: PEOPLE—the dedicated staff and the wonderful public, especially the preschoolers at Throgs Neck—I've seen them grow and graduate from college.

Nancy Waterman: Activities: Reading *The New York Times*, attending lectures of Japanese Prints Society and being tempted to buy more prints! Reading social science related articles and watching such programs on TV and listening on radio, also nature and travel films, attending college lectures at Dartmouth and The New School, etc. While I could still do such things I was a docent in a science museum in Hanover, did hospital work there, was on a planning committee for the town government, was a docent in the local historical society museum, did church work as a deacon, and here in New York City am on the gardening committee for my Coop, also help in funding for various organizations. Outstanding memories: Building Mid-Manhattan's collections.



OUTINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

by Agnes Babich

Friday, November 15, was a cold windy day, but almost 20 members and friends came to enjoy the NYPL Retirees Association's fall outing. Philip Leahy, docent at The New York Historical Society, gave an informative and lively commentary on the exhibit, "Becoming Eleanor Roosevelt: The New York Years, 1884-1933," and it was fun to end the visit with a brief tour of Scaasi fashions.

Lunch at the American Museum of Natural History's Garden Cafe featured typical Tuscany dishes to commemorate the new Leonardo da Vinci show. In the afternoon, Nina Root, Director of the Museum's Library, and her Assistant, Roscoe Thompson, took small groups through the Library's operations, which included reference, archives, technical services and conservation. It was fascinating to see terminals in operation since some of their material is available online. Judging from enthusiastic comments heard at the end of the tour, all were very impressed with the Library and the excellent program prepared by Ms. Root and Mr. Thompson. It was a wonderful opportunity to review a great natural history resource and its collections of monographs, serials, rare books, photographs, films and other objects.

AFRO-AMERICANA BOOK STORES

In a Letter to the Editor (*New York Times*, June 20, 1996) Betty Gubert writes that a *Times* article (June 13) on New York City bookstores omits two that specialize in books on Afro-Americana and Africana. They are Liberation Books (Lenox Avenue and 131st Street) and Black Books Plus (Amsterdam Avenue and 94th Street). Liberation has been in operation for nearly 30 years, and Black Books Plus for six years. Ms. Gubert is the retired head of the reference division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

AMY BERNSTEIN SPEAKS ON HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR SENIORS

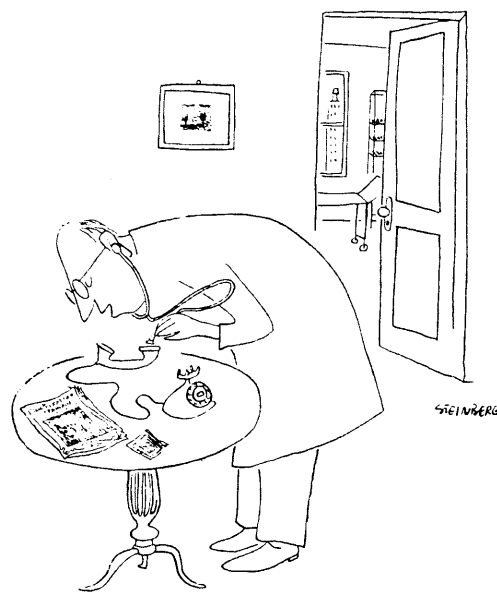
by Mercy Kellogg

At the January 13 meeting of the Association we were fortunate to have Mrs. Amy Bernstein speak on the pros and cons of the health insurance options open to seniors. She is the Coordinator of the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) of the New York City Department of the Aging (2 Lafayette Street, 6th floor, New York, NY 10007. Hotline number 212 333-5511)

Mrs. Bernstein reviewed the advantages and benefits of Medicare, emphasizing that seniors may go to any doctor, hospital or covered health provider in any place in the U.S.A. Uniform fees are set in geographical areas, and doctors must submit claims under Part B. Medicare is a good value, but there are gaps and Medigap policies are expensive. We are fortunate to have the NYPL/DC37 health plans.

In New York City there are eleven Medicare HMO's, which are required to provide the same benefits as Medicare and may provide additional benefits such as eyeglasses and hearing aids. They supposedly are strong on preventive care. Medicare pays them about \$8,000 a year per patient, in addition to what the patient pays for Medicare Part B. The HMO's do not have to account for or return any of this money. If you wish to go outside their network of providers you will be liable for additional charges. Otherwise you are locked into a gatekeeper doctor who decides what tests and specialists are needed. Visits may be limited, tests delayed, specialists may not be board certified, and hospitals may not be the best. One way of judging an HMO is to check its list of hospitals. Except for emergencies (the HMO determines what is an emergency) you are covered only in the area served by the HMO.

You have some rights to file grievances with the HMO's, but the process may be time consuming. If time is a factor you can call on peer review groups listed in the Medicare Hand-



"Now inhale deeply, Mrs. Saunders."

book. HIICAP gives assistance free on Medicare and insurance problems, including HMO's.

Among the questions Mrs. Bernstein answered at the end of the meeting was one about long term insurance. She pointed out that there are no standards for policies and that they are very expensive. HIICAP does not recommend them if they cost more than 7% of your income or if you have less than \$40,000 available assets.

If you need help for anything from choosing a health plan to filing appeals, the place to go for New York City residents is Mrs. Bernstein's HIICAP. There are sites in each borough, and to find the nearest one, phone 212 442-1000 or the Hotline 212 333-5511. She handed out a useful flyer on Medicare HMO's, which included a page of questions to ask about an HMO's benefits and services. HIICAP will mail a copy to retirees, including those who live out of town, if you write to The New York City Department for the Aging, Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program, 2 Lafayette Street, New York City 10007.

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has a free booklet

called *Medicare: Managed Care Plans*, call 1-800 638-6833 (hearing and speech impaired, call 1-800 820-1202).

Many reviews of HMO's are being published and seniors should remember that the surveys often do not apply to Medicare HMO's. An example of this omission is the *Consumer Reports* survey of August and October, 1996, which was published as a separate two page discussion of Medicare HMO's in its October issue.

THELMA THOMAS STORYTELLING CALENDAR

February 9 Sunday, 3 pm Langston Hughes House, 20 East 127th Street, Between Fifth and Madison Avenues, \$10 donation

February 15 Saturday, 8 pm Peoples' Voice Cafe, 133 West 4th Street, Washington Square Church Parlor, Doors open at 7:30 pm, \$7 (TDF + \$2)/ Members \$5, Seniors \$4

ASSOCIATION VISITS MURRAY HILL AREA ON MARCH 13

by Agnes Babich

The next Retirees Association outing is planned for Thursday, March 13, beginning with a morning tour of the J.P. Morgan Library on East 36th Street. After lunch at a local restaurant, the Association hopes to have a tour of the NYPL Science, Industry and Business Library (SIBL). If the SIBL visit cannot be arranged at this time, the group will probably go to the Daheesh Museum on Fifth Avenue, between 48th and 49th Streets.

There will be no further notice of this outing. For further details and reservations, call Agnes Babich at (718) 335-3881 after February 25.

RENOVATION OF THE CENTRAL BUILDING (Now Called the Center for the Humanities)

Major renovations will begin this summer. The Main Reading Room's Wertheim Study and the microform reading section will be moved to the

EDITOR'S NOTES

In this issue we continue our review of the past with another article on the formation of the present library. Here the author is Edward Di Roma who was the Executive Assistant to the Chief of The Research Libraries and at the time of his retirement Chief of the Economics and Public Affairs Division. We emphasize that annals of the past are placed in this newsletter for more than just nostalgia. They are reminders that the Library does indeed have a past and one for which we can be proud. We cannot forget the time when readers could walk into a branch and find shelves overflowing with wonderful books, a time when libraries were open more hours than today and were truly community centers, a time when researchers from all over the world realized that many of the answers they sought could be found in the Library. It is a past of new services and new ideas, a past of hard work and dreams.

Not all of the past was good, and the bad can also be a guide to what must not be forgotten. In his article Edward Di Roma tells of the need for a personnel department, and the work of John Fall in establishing one. The Library, like many other institutions, has not always been interested in the welfare of its employees. John Fall realized that the Library was more than the remarkable book collections and services that he himself had helped develop. He knew the library also was people, and we will not forget his kindnesses from which the entire Library has benefited.

We thank those who contributed to the "Retirees in Action" section in the *Newsletter*, and we hope to hear again from them and from many other readers. The response to this section has been enthusiastic, and we are glad, because in the founding of this association was the hope that it would bring together the Library's many elders.

old Economics Division and will be replaced with the original tables and chairs. During the restoration the 315 reference (the old Information Desk) will be temporarily moved to the old Science Division, and the Gottesman Exhibition Hall will temporarily become the main reading room. The mechanical systems used to deliver books from the stacks to the reading room will be totally rehabilitated. More about this in our next newsletter.

BOB EDWARDS ON LIBRARIANS

The Newsletter has received the following clipping from Richard Jackson, who has retired from the Music Division and now lives in Metairie, Louisiana. It appeared in the New Orleans Times-Picayune, Sunday, October 27, 1996.

Radio personality Bob Edwards would like to know what happened to the librarians he used to know.

Edwards, host of "Morning Edition" on National Public Radio, said librarians seem to be more concerned these

days with building modern facilities and holding fund-raisers than with providing information.

"I'm afraid that too many good librarians have become administrators or fund-raisers," he told a librarian conference Friday.

Don't get him wrong, though, Edwards says librarians beat the Internet.

"Machines have their place," he said. "But give me a librarian, someone who has a better machine: a human brain."



SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

by Juanita Doares

In September 1996 our association began its new schedule of rotating meetings. Program meetings alternate with social outings, and the Executive Committee meets at in-between dates to conduct the business of the association.

At our September meeting, our guest speaker was Esther Hautzig. She is a noted author of children's books and an NYPL volunteer. She spoke of her experiences in the search for a lost and missing uncle after the Holocaust in Eastern Europe.

Among her books for children, she has written one which is used as a basic text for schools and has been translated into several languages.

She always acknowledges libraries and librarians, and in her travels to do research in the U.S. or other countries, she always looks for the library, where she knows that she will find help and guidance in whatever project she is undertaking. She says that being among libraries has always been one of life's special joys.

A service of remembrance for two leaders in our association, Moritia Leah Frederick (Freddie) and Fred Gee followed with thoughtful and caring tributes given by Beth Wladis for Freddie and by Jane Kunstler for Fred. Members and friends also spoke and remembered our colleagues in their own way.

Poet and colleague Phyllis King read a poem which she had written especially for Fred and Freddie. The poem is included in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Mercy Kellogg has written an article on our January program meeting which is also printed in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

NEW MEMBERS

Through January 1997

Carol Davies-Gross
Pilar F. Fornes (Mrs.)
Hannah Goldfarb
James T. Greene
Ruth R. Higgins (Mrs.)
John (Jay) L. Hildreth
Bernice MacDonald
Phyllis G. Mack
Louis Mintz
Ruth Rittereiser
Cynthia L. Smith
Zahave Stessel
Beverly Sullivan
Sally Thompson
Jane Waite Vail
Norwood B. Vail
Hisako Yamashita

THE ASSOCIATION'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee met on November 18, 1996 at lunch and had follow-up telephone conversations.

The Committee regrets that no member has been found to serve as Secretary. With the President's permission, the Committee will continue the search. In the interim, the President is empowered to appoint somebody on an acting basis.

The two-year terms of the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Board member Belle Weinberg will end on December 31, 1996.



MEETINGS SCHEDULE

The following is the schedule of meetings of the Association for February through June 1997. Program/Membership meetings will be held in the first floor conference room of Mid-Manhattan Library:

February 11, 1997, Monday 1 pm
Executive Committee
March 13, 1997, Thursday
Social Outing in Murray Hill,
Manhattan
April 17, 1997, Wednesday, 5 pm
Membership/Program meeting
May 16, 1997, Wednesday, 12 m
Executive Committee
June 11, 1997, Wednesday
Social Outing

There are two Executive Board positions for terms ending December 31, 1997—with Mercy Kellogg and Larry Murphy as incumbents.

The Committee is pleased to submit the following slate for two-year terms starting January 1, 1997 and ending on December 31, 1998:

President: Juanita Doares
VicePresident: Mercy Kellogg
Secretary:
Treasurer: William C. Lee
Executive Board Member:
Belle Weinberg

Respectfully submitted,
Alar I. Kruus, Chair
Theresa K. Casile
Mercy P. Kellogg

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented and accepted at the January meeting of the Association. Voting will be held at the April meeting. Written nominations will be accepted up to that time.

The Newsletter is published at irregular intervals by The New York Public Library Retirees Association, Inc., an independent association. Information for the newsletter should be sent to Lawrence Murphy, Editor, The NYPL Retirees Association Newsletter, 137 East 36 Street, Apt. 16-B, New York, New York 10016. Officers of the Association—President: Juanita S. Doares; Vice President: Catherine Marquard; Treasurer: Mary T. Brady; Executive Board: Belle Weinberg, Lawrence Murphy, Alar Kruus (appointed to serve remaining term of the late Moritia Leah Frederick). To join the NYPL Retirees Association, send annual dues of \$10 to: Mary Brady, Treasurer, NYPL Retirees Association, 505 East 82 Street, Apt. 5-J, New York, NY, 10028. All other information and inquires: Juanita Doares, NYPL Retirees Association, 401 W. 118th St., Apt. 3, New York, NY 10027 (telephone: 212 666-5737). Committees of the Association: Health Care—Agnes Babich, Mercy Kellogg, Ann Moy; Legislative—Belle Weinberg (Chair), Lucy Eldridge, Nora Gorchoff, Theresa Casile, Ruth Kronmiller; Membership: William O. Lee (Staten Island representative); Social: Rose Marie O'Leary, Agnes Babich, Betty Gubert. If you would like to serve on a committee, contact Juanita Doares, 212 666-5737. In this issue—Cartoon: Steinberg, *The New Yorker*. Drawings: Susanne Suba, *The Library and Museum of the Performing Arts*, NYPL, 1965.