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.

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

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ANNALS OF TIME PAST
continued from page one

ication of Research Libraries. Its goal between 1948 and 1972 was to acquire
and place at least one copy of each for-

gn publication of possible research

value into an American library special-

izing in that subject.

When John Fall left the Acquisi-
tions Division to head the Eco-

nomics 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 li-

brary, he now was combing bibliogra-

phies and booklists himself and was di-

recting the similar activities of six sub-

ject specialists on his staff. At the same
time, of course, he was responsible for

maintaining the high standards of ref-

erence and bibliographic service to the

public for which the Economics Divi-

sion was distinguished for decades.

As collector, John Fall was cast in

the mold of earlier New York Public

Library greats such as directors Bill-

ings, Anderson, and Lydenberg, and

Economics Division chiefs Hasse,

Williamson, and Sawyer. Like his pre-

decessors, 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 lo-

cal. Another type comprised the pub-

lications of associations, societies, re-

search institutes, and political parties.

Still a third group consisted of what

might be called the literature of dis-

sent 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 in-

fluenced 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-reach-

ing. When he arrived in 1933, the Lib-

y—like almost all other places of

employment—was operating under a

system of conservative personnel poli-

cies and practices. According to some

outspoken staff members, that system

had not changed since the library was

organized in 1896. However, the ex-

istence of a very large pool of unem-

ployed workers during the Great De-

pression 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 shatter-

proof. 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 pa-
nrons in the central building.

Division chiefs wielded almost ab-

solute 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 re-

minded me of the Decalogue, and its

final admonition, whose exact words I

forget, warned that an employee’s sal-

ary was personal information and

should not be discussed with col-

leagues.

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 return-

ing from military leave and new em-

ployees who were veterans became

impatient with the restrictive person-

nel policies and practices. Some of the

younger administrators shared that sen-

timent, and a difference of opinion de-

veloped 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. Sev-

eral participants told me years later that

from the beginning John Fall quietly

but persistently sided with the advo-

cates of change and supported the es-


establishment of a personnel office with

authority to install more progressive

working conditions library wide. This

was confirmed to me when I was ex-

ecutive 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 Li-

brary.

I am sure that no one who was fa-

miliar with the Acquisitions Division

under John Fall was surprised by his

liberal stance on personnel matters, for

he had been applying democratic prin-

ciples of management long before the

Personnel Office was created. He con-

tinued 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 compe-

tence 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 em-

ployees, down to the last-hired

page, with honesty, dignity and re-

spect. He praised in public, but criti-

cized in private, and his criticism was

designed unfailingly to help the em-

ployee improve his or her performance.

Mr. Fall always was readily accessi-

ble 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.

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

**RETIREES 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.

**Elorna 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, Moshulu 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 Lena (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—resemble 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 revereence the whole world has for the Library until the Library published my book on Benno’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.


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 Tuscan 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-American 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-
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 Dahesh 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.

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.

Poe 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 Ritterereiser
Cynthia L. Smith
Zahave Stessel
Beverly Sullivan
Sally Thompson
Jane Waite Vail
Norwood B. Vail
Hisako Yamashita

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
Vice President: Mercy Kellogg
Secretary:
Treasurer: William C. Lee
Executive Board Member:
Belle Weinberg

Respectfully submitted,
Alar I. Kruus, Chair
Theresa K. Castile
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. Braddy; 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 Braddy, Treasurer, NYPL Retirees Association, 505 East 82 Street, Apt. 5J, New York, NY, 10028. All other information and inquiries: Juanita Doares, NYPL Retirees Association, 401 W. 188th St., Apt. 1, New York, NY 10027 (telephone: 212 666-5737). Committees of the Association: Health Care—Agnes Babich, Mercy Kellogg, Ann Hoy; Legislative—Belle Weinberg (Chair), Lucy Eldridge, Nora Gorochof, Theresa Castle, Ruth Kromme; Membership: William O. Lee (Staten Island representative); Social: Rose Marie O'Leary, Agnes Babich, Betty Glubert. 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.