

# Review Articles

## A Modern University

*The University of North Carolina, 1900-1930; The Making of a Modern University.* By Louis R. Wilson. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1957. 633p. \$7.50.

One of the most remarkable phenomena of Southern educational history in the twentieth century is the development, in a period of about thirty years, of a small, essentially liberal arts college into one of the leading American universities. This long leap was taken by the University of North Carolina in the three decades covered by the latest major work to come from Louis R. Wilson's prolific pen.

The oldest of American state universities (others were established earlier in charters or by constitutional provisions, but North Carolina was the first, in 1795, to open its doors for instruction) the University of North Carolina experienced various vicissitudes in the nineteenth century, including times of dire poverty and a five-year period of closing following the Civil War. Despite its official designation as the state university, it is an amazing fact that during the entire nineteenth century the state of North Carolina contributed not a cent for major building, nor, until near the end of the century, any appropriation for operation of the university.

Proponents of the great man theory of history would find much to substantiate their thesis in Dr. Wilson's study. Would the University of North Carolina have taken such gigantic strides forward in these years if Francis P. Venable, Edward K. Graham, and Harry W. Chase had never occupied the presidential chair? As one reads Dr. Wilson's vivid account of their brilliant careers, the answer appears to be in the negative. Yet, the times were ripe for them, with the state on the verge of a great educational awakening. Furthermore, they were surrounded by able associates in administration and by dedicated and inspired teachers. In the at-

mosphere of such an educational renaissance, any university president might have been stimulated to great accomplishments.

Among the lieutenants upon whom all three of these presidents leaned heavily for counsel and guidance was Louis R. Wilson himself. Coming to the University as librarian in 1901, he was a pillar of strength for the several University administrations throughout the period dealt with by the book.

A few years ago, a lively debate was carried on in the columns of *CRL* concerning the extent to which college and university librarians should participate in general institutional administration and affairs. One commentator, Charles E. Rush, suggested, "If you seek a perfect example of the importance and effect of campus activities on library progress, check carefully the record of Dr. Wilson at the University of North Carolina from 1901-32."

Not content to limit his broad-ranging interests to the library alone, Dr. Wilson established and became the first director of the Division of Extension, to extend the University's services to all the citizens of the state; founded and became the first editor of the *Alumni Review*, to inform the alumni of the University's activities, plans, and needs; established and became the first director of the University of North Carolina Press, an enterprise that rapidly achieved recognition as a leading regional press.

Meanwhile, on the library front, he was assisting in the founding of the North Carolina and Southeastern Library Associations; helping to secure establishment of the North Carolina Library Commission; obtaining the cooperation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in setting standards for college and school libraries; and acting as host to the American Library Association for its Asheville meeting. On the University campus, he was planning and erecting two library buildings (1907 and 1929), developing strong research collections to meet the needs of the institution, initiating a world-wide system of publication exchanges, and keeping the library constantly

in the forefront of the University's thinking. Two chapters of the history are devoted to the library's growth, and incidental references are numerous throughout. A highly appropriate action was taken by the trustees of the University in 1956 in designating the institution to which he has contributed so much the Louis Round Wilson Library.

In common with the remainder of the University, Dr. Wilson's efforts to create a great university library at Chapel Hill were carried on against odds—often attempting to make bricks without straw. One caustic critic's remark that North Carolina appeared to have as much need for a university as a pig has for hip pockets was probably unjust, but was indicative of the sentiment of some officials and citizens. For example, a governor of the 1920's, with the fitting Scotch name of Angus W. McLean, protesting against the proposed appropriation for a new library building, delivered himself of this classic statement: "If we grant this request, the first thing we know North Carolina will have nearly a million dollars frozen in a library."

The kindly wit for which Dr. Wilson is noted and which no doubt has carried him through many difficult situations, crops up frequently, e.g., (1) citing letters of Hinton James, the University's first enrolled student in the 1790's: ". . . a student, who, in those far-off days, had not been contaminated by the phonetic method of spelling, but nevertheless could not spell"; (2) on the keen interest of students in a lecture series arranged for them by the University: "Avoidance of all lectures not enforced by a prodding dean had not yet become the divine right of the sophisticate of today"; (3) on the old University auditorium: ". . . equipped with seats whose hardness still amazes all unsuspecting auditors in the new Memorial Hall—to which the seats were transferred seemingly for the duration of the twentieth century"; (4) on university presidential addresses: "It gives the individual an opportunity, before he becomes enmeshed in the complexities of administration, to say what he would like to do if those who have employed him and those with whom he is to work, would only give

him an opportunity—usually wishful hoping on his part but nonetheless understandable"; (5) on the University's hard-working business manager: "He possessed two essentials to success . . . an alarm clock to get him to his job in the morning, and a lantern to see how to get home after dark."

The library and educational worlds are placed further in Dr. Wilson's debt by this notable addition to the literature pertaining to the history of American higher education.—*Robert B. Downs, University of Illinois.*

## Unpublished Material

*Guide to Unpublished Research Material.*  
Ed. by Ronald Staveley. London, Library Association, 1957. 141p. 21s.

The papers presented in this volume are grouped into two broad categories. The first of these, in the first five chapters, deals with science and technology, and the second, chapters six to twelve, deals with the social sciences.

The introductory statement about the research report by A. H. Holloway is a straightforward and knowledgeable presentation of the nature of the research report, its sources, the problems of supply of research reports, restrictions on use of reports, and the like. It is followed by reviews of the materials and sources of the United Kingdom, the research report in North America, United Kingdom participation in European technical information projects, and materials and sources in eastern Europe and China.

The chapters on the social sciences start with an article on bibliographical control on unpublished material by Barbara Kyle and go on to treatment of materials in specified fields, including statistical materials, market research materials, advertising, sociology, and psychology. While some of the papers are preliminary drafts of general guides to the literature of their subject fields, there is a great deal of valuable information in each one of these papers on unpublished sources of information, and as such the book should be useful to research libraries here and abroad.—*Ralph R. Shaw, Rutgers University.*