

Deltas Win American Library Award

Hundreds At ALA Meet In Chicago

Actively participating in the 180 seminars and workshops at the 75th annual convention of the American Library Association meeting at the Palmer house and the Stevens hotel last week were more than 100 professional Negro librarians from all over the country.

They ranged from county supervisors, hospital librarians, teachers in schools of library science, and cataloguers to children's librarians and representatives of the public library.

In addition to the regular schedule of business meetings many interesting exhibits and social affairs made the week a full one, long to be remembered.

Special Exhibit

George Cleveland Hall library featured a special exhibit on John Jones, pioneer Negro citizen of Chicago who made bequests to the Chicago public library when he died in 1879.

The works of four Negro authors were included in the display on Chicago writers in the lobby of the main public library. They are Gwendolyn Brooks, Era Belle Thompson, Arna Bontemps, and Willard Motley.

Elizabeth Yates, winner of the 1950 Newberry award, annually given for the best children's book, was honored at a tea at Hall branch where she autographed copies of her book, *Amos Fortune, Free Man*, and told how she came to write the story of the ex-slave.

At the closing session of the convention in the grand ballroom of the Stevens hotel, Maude L. Watkins, chairman of the National Library committee of Delta Sigma Theta sorority accepted the 1950 Library award for the Delta Sigma Theta bookmobile.

The award is made annually to a library for distinguished contribution to enlightened public opinion on an issue of primary or continuing importance.

The committee voted unanimously to give this year's citation to the Delta's library-on-wheels which serves three rural counties in northwest Georgia.

Mrs. Charlamae Rollins, children's librarian at Hall branch, was elected to the Newberry Caldecott award committee, the first time a Negro has been named. She is also a member of the central council of the association, and chairman of the branch library section of the public library division.

Other Officers

Other Negroes who hold offices are Dr. Virginia L. Jones, director of the Atlanta Library School who is secretary treasurer of the Association of School Libraries.

Dr. Sadie T. Delaney librarian of the veterans' hospital at Tuskegee and Mrs. Mollie H. Lee, supervisor of Negro libraries of North Carolina are both members of the central council of ALA.

Noted among the delegates were Mrs. Margaret Hunton, Clark university Atlanta; Spencer Shaw of Brooklyn, whose story-telling programs are beamed over the Voice of America; Arna Bontemps, librarian at Fisk university; Mrs. Hallie Brooks, teacher in the Atlanta library school; Mrs. Inez Babb and Mrs. Lillian Hall, Indianapolis; Mayo Powell, Detroit; Estelle Abercrombie, Montgomery, Ala.; and Beulah Davis, Morgan State college, Baltimore.



AT THE NEWBERRY, Caldecott Award dinner of the American Library Association last Tuesday in Chicago's Palmer House. Beginning at the right and moving clockwise around the table are: Mrs. Monica Rice, Chicago; Margaret Raymond Thompson, Burlington, Iowa; Mrs. Rosa Rollins and Mrs. Lynette Young, Chicago; Mrs. Nancy McKee, Edinborough, Pa.; Mrs. Berenice Polk, and Mrs. Clara Minger, Chicago. Back to camera is Mrs. Margaret Hunton, Atlanta.



MRS. CHARLAMAE ROLLINS (right) children's librarian at George C. Hall branch, Chicago, congratulates Miss Elizabeth Yates, winner of the 1950 award for her book, *Amos Fortune, Free Man*, the story of an ex-slave. Mrs. Rollins is a member of the committee which each year selects the best book written and illustrated for children. Miss Yates was also the honored guest at a tea at Hall Branch. Defender photos by Gunn.



MRS. ALICE BROOKS MCGUIRE (right) chairman of the ALA Library Award committee, presents the library award to Miss Maude Watkins, chairman of the library committee, Delta Sigma Theta sorority. The prize was awarded for the most outstanding library, which this year was a "Bookmobile," or traveling library which the Delta Sigma Theta sorority set up for rural work in Georgia. Miss Watkins is assistant librarian at the George Bruce branch, Public Library, New York City. Defender photo by Gunn.