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Letter to Dillard Gardner regarding a materials exchange, October 11, 1940

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I have had some correspondence with Mr. Roalfe, who is the Librarian of Duke, regarding your recent letter to me, which I quoted from very extensively. He says with regard to the first proposition: "It seems to me that a gradual change is taking place because, largely due to the tremendous increase in the number of law books, the law schools are now obliged to teach their students how to use them, and as a result I am inclined to think that the younger men that are coming to the Bar are on an average more inclined to feel that they are essential. However, because of the increasing expense as to individual volumes, and because more are available, I myself feel that the legal profession is going to be compelled to establish Bar Libraries of one kind or another in every community of considerable size. As you and I know, ours is a slow moving profession and it is hard to tell just how long it will be before this movement gains momentum. There can be no doubt that here and there the first steps are being taken even in some of the smaller cities, and I for one would very much like to see some development along these lines in this State". With regard to the second point, the Book of the Month Club, he thinks there is a distinction between publications of a more or less local character and those of a Nation-wide interest, and comments on the report recently made by the American Bar Association on the subject, which you have undoubtedly read. It was published in the preliminary report sent out, and it was recommended that the National Committee be discontinued. He seems to think that the Book of the Month Club involves mass distribution, and it would be difficult to obtain a committee, without considerable expense, of sufficient experience and wide reputation to pass on the desirability of the particular book.

I need to make out two sets of N.C. Reports, the following: 169, 187, 190, 191, 192, 193, 200, 201, 202, 209, 210, 213. I have been fortunate enough to pick up second-hand books scattered around at various and sundry places, a volume here and a volume there, until I have accumulated a set with the exception of those mentioned, and I think I may be able to pick up some of these, but if you have in the Library down there extra volumes you want to get rid of, kindly advise me. I am getting quite an accumulation of second-hand N.C. Reports and ran across a large batch of them the other day that I can buy for 50 cents a volume, the old Reports back of the 60's—of course a good many of them are missing. I suppose in these I have found, I might be able to get 35 or 40 volumes, some of them back as far as the very earliest Reports. I thought when I began to accumulate them, I wouldn't have very much trouble swapping them for other books, but there
seems to be no demand for them. I happen to have 100 or more copies of the N.C. Laws. I offered to donate to the Haywood County Library a lot of them, and they didn't even answer my letter.

A law library, without a librarian, is a farce unless it is in the hands of the Clerk of the Court, who actually takes an interest in it. We are fortunate here in having ours on such a basis now that the books are of such great value a deputy clerk is appointed to look after it, because she has ample time, inasmuch as she is a typist, to write up all sorts of special proceedings, Wills, etc., without leaving the Library. I have been fortunate this year in adding a good many books at very moderate prices. I want to get hold of, if I can, at greatly reduced prices Restatements of the Law, as follows: Conflict of Laws; Torts, 3 & 4, and Trusts. I have all the others that I bought for about $2.50 or $3.00 a volume. Nobody ever uses them up in this country, but a library ought to have them. I believe we have the best working library in the State, outside of the colleges, Duke, Chapel Hill, and perhaps Wake Forest, and the Supreme Court of North Carolina. It takes a good deal of time. Nobody, unfortunately, pays any attention to it except myself, but our revenue from court costs is sufficient to pay our subscription to modern publications like American Jurisprudence, C.J. Secundum, Neg. & Comp. Cases, N.E., S.E., Federal, N.C. and U.S. Reports. I have one complete set of U.S., another one up to 286, and another one up to 178, the co-op. edition, with exception of books 25 and 26. I would like to get hold of those two, and then I will gradually fill in and sell it. The 286 set is the original set and belongs to the City. Mr. Sondley gave his entire library, Law and all, to the City, and they turned the books over to the Law Library. We may fill out that set, but I don't want more than two sets.

I suppose you are firmly established in the new building, and regret to learn that some of the lawyers don't like it as well as the old one. I suppose it is because they were used to the old one; in fact, I liked the old one that used to be over on the other street where the Utilities Commissioner has an office now.

With regards, I remain

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

Chairman, Library Committee
Buncombe County Bar Ass'n.