

Letters

To the Editor:

Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa! I am under the painful necessity of correcting an erroneous date which I gave in an earlier letter to the editor. (*CRL*, 31 (March 1970), page 118.) In that letter, commenting on an article, "Three Early Academic Library Surveys," by Norman D. Stevens in the November 1969 issue of *CRL*, I suggested that there was at least one "survey of an American college library by an outside expert" earlier than the last two of the three of 1915, 1937, and 1938 which Mr. Stevens described. I was guilty of relying upon circumstantial evidence.

I now have a letter from Neil A. Radford, who is gathering data for a doctoral dissertation at the Graduate Library School on the role of the Carnegie Corporation in the development of American college libraries. In the course of his labors, Mr.

Radford has secured from the librarian of Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland, a Xerox copy of the survey report of the College Library, written by William M. Randall and me, and which I suggested must have been done in 1934 or 1935. The report is dated December 1939. I apologize to any readers of *CRL* who may have been misled by my earlier letter.

Followers of this topic will no doubt be interested to know that Mr. Radford has also discovered several college library surveys which, in fact, were done earlier than 1938: one in 1926; and others in 1931, 1932, 1934, 1936, and 1937; the last five by Randall. I hope that when Mr. Radford has completed his investigations, he will give us an article reporting his full findings.

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