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The Rehabilitation of the Association Library

Dicta Editorial Board

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THE REHABILITATION OF THE ASSOCIATION LIBRARY

UNDER date of October 11th, the Library Committee consisting of Frazer Arnold, Judge Charles C. Sackmann, and Paul P. Prosser, Chairman, formulated a statement of purpose concerning the library of the Denver Bar Association, and sent it, together with a detailed letter, to our librarian. We believe that their action is so significant that it should be brought to the attention of the members of the association. The statement of purpose is as follows:

"I. It is the Association's plan that its Library shall contain only:

1. Books and pamphlets which are the property of the association, each in its particular place upon a shelf, and each covered by a card index of books and a card index of authors.

2. The necessary records requisite for prompt reference to books in the Library and for prompt return of books borrowed from it.

3. Suitable furnishings.

II. The Association plans to keep this Library open (except on holidays) from 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. every Saturday and from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on all other week days. It is contemplated that at no time during the hours indicated shall the Library be left for more than 10 minutes without an attendant. During these hours the Association desires to afford every reasonable facility for each of its members and for each Judge who uses its Library.

III. The Association further plans to keep a record of every book and every pamphlet which is removed from the Library, even for temporary reference; usually to take a receipt from the borrower or his agent; and to lend books and pamphlets only for use in the Court House Building.

IV. The Association also proposes to keep its members advised concerning every new library acquisition of general interest, other than regular additions to the Reporter Series and other sets."

The Committee in its letter goes thoroughly into the heart of the library problem and definitely settles various questions which have been somewhat cloudy in the past. In furtherance of their determination to make the library more useful to the Association, they also lay down a most definite and constructive program under a set time schedule. This program may be summarized in some seven items as follows:

1. By November 1st, to arrange for full time attendance in the library at all times when it is unlocked and to establish a thorough system for checking in and out all borrowed books and pamphlets.

2. By November 10th, to segregate all of the Association's books and other effects from property belonging to others.

3. By November 20th, to eliminate, or prepare for storage elsewhere, all unessential property of the Association—such as miscellaneous pamphlets, papers or other articles no longer of value.

4. By December 1st, to formulate, with the librarian's assistance, a plan for rearrangement of books, and for securing adequate space—which may involve installing additional shelves.

5. By December 10th, to act upon the said plan for rearrangement and for securing additional space, and to arrange the books in a somewhat more systematic and uniform manner.

6. By December 20th, to complete an inventory to determine whether any volumes are missing from any sets of books in the library.

7. By February 1st, to complete card indexes covering all books and pamphlets, both by author and title and to adopt such other records as may be necessary to make the system conform, in a general way, to that of the Supreme Court library.

The Committee proposes that the librarian shall mail to the editor-in-chief of Dicta by the 15th of each month, a list of every new set and volume acquired by the library since the 15th of the preceding month.

From the foregoing matter, it will be seen that the Library Committee is assuming the responsibilities of its office in a most gratifying and constructive manner, and there is no doubt that their efforts will result in a rehabilitation of our library

which will render it increasingly valuable to our members. It is doubtful if the members of the Association really appreciate the potential usefulness of the library. For example, complete sets of briefs covering all cases decided in recent years by the Colorado Supreme Court are available there; these in themselves constitute a golden field of concentrated research upon the vexed points of law adjudicated in each case.

It will be the policy and pleasure of Dicta to cooperate fully with the Library Committee in their most valuable work and to endeavor to make the resources of our library more familiar to our members, so that it may succeed in serving more fully the ends for which it was founded and for which it is maintained.

THE OCTOBER MEETING

MR. Justice Adams of the Colorado Supreme Court was the speaker at the regular monthly meeting of the Denver Bar Association on Monday, October 8. His subject, "Obiter Dicta Hitherto Suppressed", was prophetic of the re-christening of the "Record" in its handsome new garb.

The speaker believed that only in the law does the doctrine of *stare decisis* continue to be entertained, and that its presence there largely constitutes a hindrance to enlightenment. The executive committee of this association, and the editors of "Dicta", have expressed their approval of this thought in the creation of a new form and title for our publication. They sincerely hope that the new journal will justify the opinion of Mr. Justice Adams that "Obiter dicta, though sometimes rejected, are often the corner stones of new principles".

Nineteen of the recently admitted members of the Colorado Bar were present at the luncheon, and Mr. Irving Hale, Jr., who obtained the highest record in the examinations spoke in their behalf.

The following new members were elected without dissent:
William R. Means, John G. Reid, James W. Creamer.