

\*\*\* *The 50s: Korean war ... DNA structure described . . . heart lung machine introduced ... polio epidemic: Salk, then Sabin vaccines inaugurated . . . high speed painless dental drill introduced . . . first deep freezers, Xerox copiers available . . . US A-bomb test Bikini atoll . . . Frank B. Rogers, MD, heads Army Medical Library; Index-Catalogue ceases March 1950; Army Medical Library classification issued 1951; Library transferred to Public Health Service, named National Library of Medicine, October 1956 . . . poodle skirts, Johnny Ray . . . Eisenhower president.*

Early in the decade (1951/52) Marguerite Prime, the president of the Medical Library Association met with the group for dinner in a private [unnamed] home; the topics for discussion were not revealed, but undoubtedly the group's possible relationship with MLA must have arisen. Whatever the outcome, the Medical Librarians' philosophy continued to stress independence of any other organization throughout the following decades. Meetings were no longer held monthly – five or six each year became the norm, and were variously focused on library visits and substantive talks. The minutes reveal that little attention appears to have been paid to the events unfolding in Washington, DC, at the Army Medical Library. Substantial changes were taking place in cataloging and classifying the collection. The *Current List of Medical Literature*, under attack from the Bureau of the Budget, received an ultimatum to cease publication in 1957. But, the local effect of such announcements is unknown. Dues increased to \$.60.

However, in Louise Darling's account of the first joint meeting (with the southern California group) in 1949 at Letterman Hospital, the "hot topics" were the MLA Certification program and the disappearance of the *Index-Catalogue*. Joint meetings became the norm. The next joint meeting took place in Los Angeles, April 1951, and the following year in San Francisco and Oakland. Social events were a conspicuous part of the programs. By 1954/55 membership had increased to 50, and a joint meeting was held with the San Francisco Bay Area Special Library Association. No joint meeting occurred in 1954, and the next meeting with the southern group took place April 1955 in both San Francisco and Palo Alto. Though statistics are not always available, it was noted that 42 people attended the joint meeting in San Francisco in 1957. The final joint meeting of the decade was held at Disneyland.

Major new business of the period included the first suggestion that the group establish its own archives, though no discussions of the mechanisms for implementation appear in the records. Membership lists were issued in 1950 and 1952, and the first formally named "Directory", including home addresses, telephone numbers, and a separate list of libraries, appeared in 1953. In January 1951 the group distributed (presumably to its members) a listing titled *Medical Libraries of the San Francisco Bay Area — Hours, Reference Service & Loans* (Edith F. Humphrey, comp.). This gives a comprehensive overview of 20 libraries, including the names of a staff contacts and telephone numbers. By 1957 there were 59 members.

As though its novelty had yet to wear off, the name of the organization appears differently in correspondence and reports over these first years: it was variously Medical Librarians Group, Medical Librarians of the Bay Area, and San Francisco Bay Area Group of Medical Librarians. Presumably the portability of office and the lack of printed stationery or publications, such *as* a newsletter, to stabilize the name contributed to the variation.