

SLIS

25TH ANNIVERSARY

DISPLAY

RESEARCHED AND MOUNTED

BY

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SLIS - WINTER 1992

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sub-Committee recommends:

That the need for a new library school in Ontario be recognized at once.

Factors Affecting the Choice of Location of a New Library School

- The School must meet, as soon as possible after its establishment, the standards of accreditation of the American Library Association.
- The library school should be in a university centre, in a university where the interest and activity in related academic departments is especially vital, and where the use of computers is under lively, philosophical, and speculative inquiry.
- The parent university should be at a centre of population so that an increasing number of people may be attracted into professional librarianship by the opportunity of receiving instruction within manageable range of their homes.

A preliminary consideration of Ontario Universities which might now be considered suitable as host for a library school in the light of the American Library Association standards provided a short list of five possible sites:

McMaster University, Queen's University,
The University of Western Ontario,
The University of Windsor, and York University.

On August 20, 1964, at a meeting of the Advisory Committee on University Affairs, William G. Davis, Minister of University Affairs was given a report, dated February 17, 1964, entitled, "The Supply of Librarians". This Report indicated that there was a need for a much greater number of librarians for the universities for undergraduate programs, but particularly for the highly specialized librarians needed to work with graduate programs. It was also indicated that many more librarians would be required for public libraries, libraries in elementary and secondary school, and for special libraries in industry, financial, technical, research, and government areas. The Report indicated that there was considerable urgency and that action should be taken immediately to meet the problem.

January 9, 1965, Dr. C.T. Bissell, on behalf of the Committee of Presidents of Provincially Assisted Universities and Colleges of Ontario, forwarded to William Davis a copy of the Report, *Memorandum on a Third Library for Ontario*. This report supported the establishment of a new library school in Ontario.

In a letter dated the 5th of February 1965, Davis wrote to G.E. Hall, the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Ontario, asking if U.W.O. would undertake the establishment of a new library school.

He concluded by writing:

"If the decision of The University of Western Ontario is favourable to this proposal, you may be assured of every possible assistance from the Department of University Affairs to ensure that an adequate supply of highly qualified and well-trained librarians is available to our universities, schools, public libraries and related areas".

Following a meeting of the Board of Governors, Secretary Fraser H. Rowland informed Davis of the unanimous acceptance of the offer.

FEBRUARY 1966

APPOINTMENT OF DR. ANDREW OSBORN AS DEAN OF THE NEW SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE TO BE FORMED WITHIN THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES.



JULY 1966

DR. OSBORN TAKES UP POSITION AS DEAN IN TEMPORARY QUARTERS IN LAWSON LIBRARY.

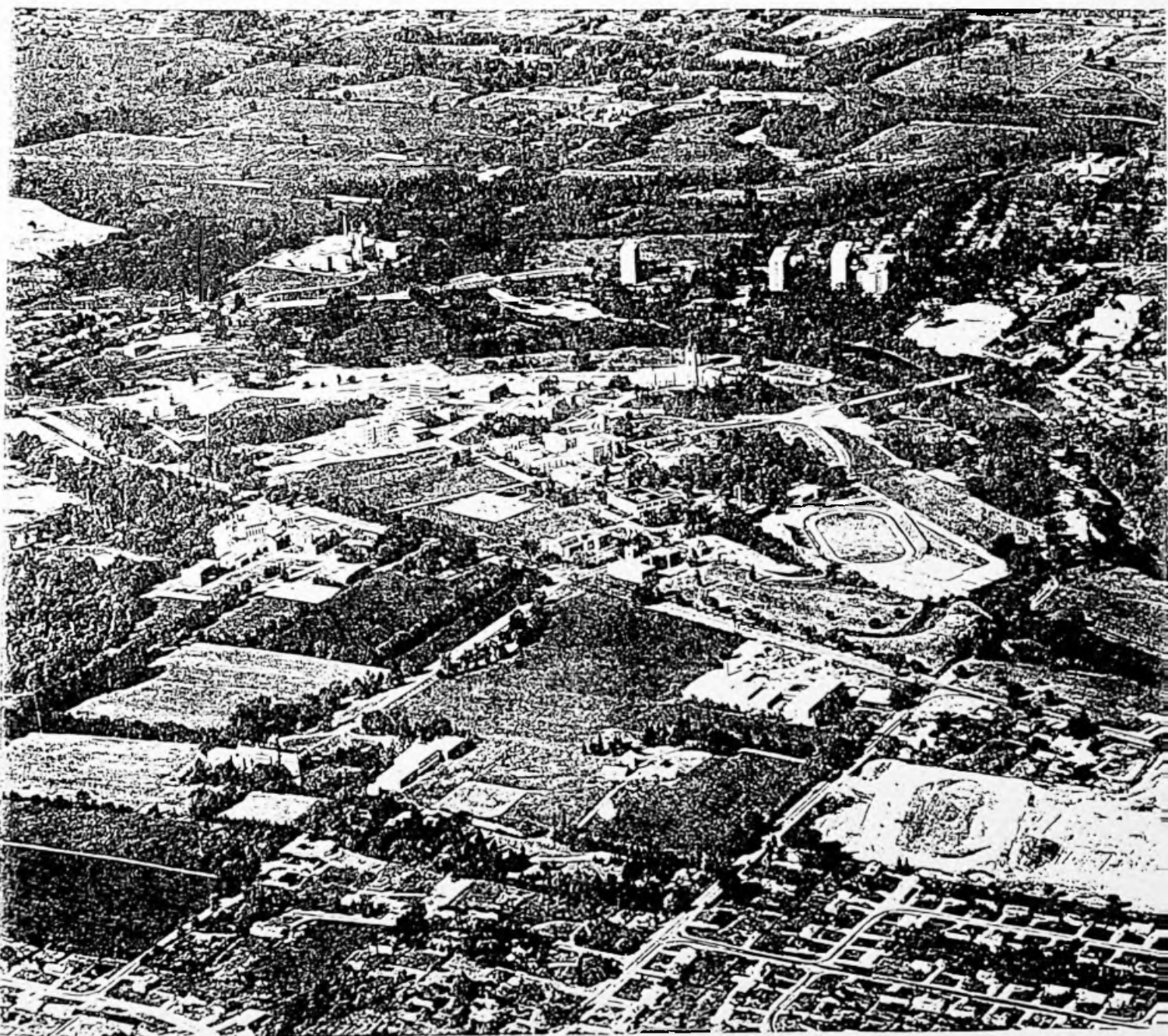
Andrew Osborn was born in Launceston, and spent his boyhood in Melbourne. He attended Wesley College and the University of Melbourne, and received degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts. He was senior cataloguer in the Commonwealth Parliament Library from 1921 to 1927. In 1927 he arrived at the New York Public Library and applied for a position which he obtained without delay. The quality of his keen analytical mind was demonstrated so immediately and effectively that he received the unusual opportunity to serve temporarily in almost all the Divisions in that busiest research Library in the western world. In 1934 he obtained his Ph.D. from Columbia University with a thesis on the philosophy of Edmund Husserl. In 1936 he earned a Master's of Science in Library Science from Michigan. He served for twenty years as Associate Librarian at Harvard University where he also was a Lecturer in Commonwealth History. At Harvard he was responsible for the development of collections which in twenty years grew from three to six million volumes.

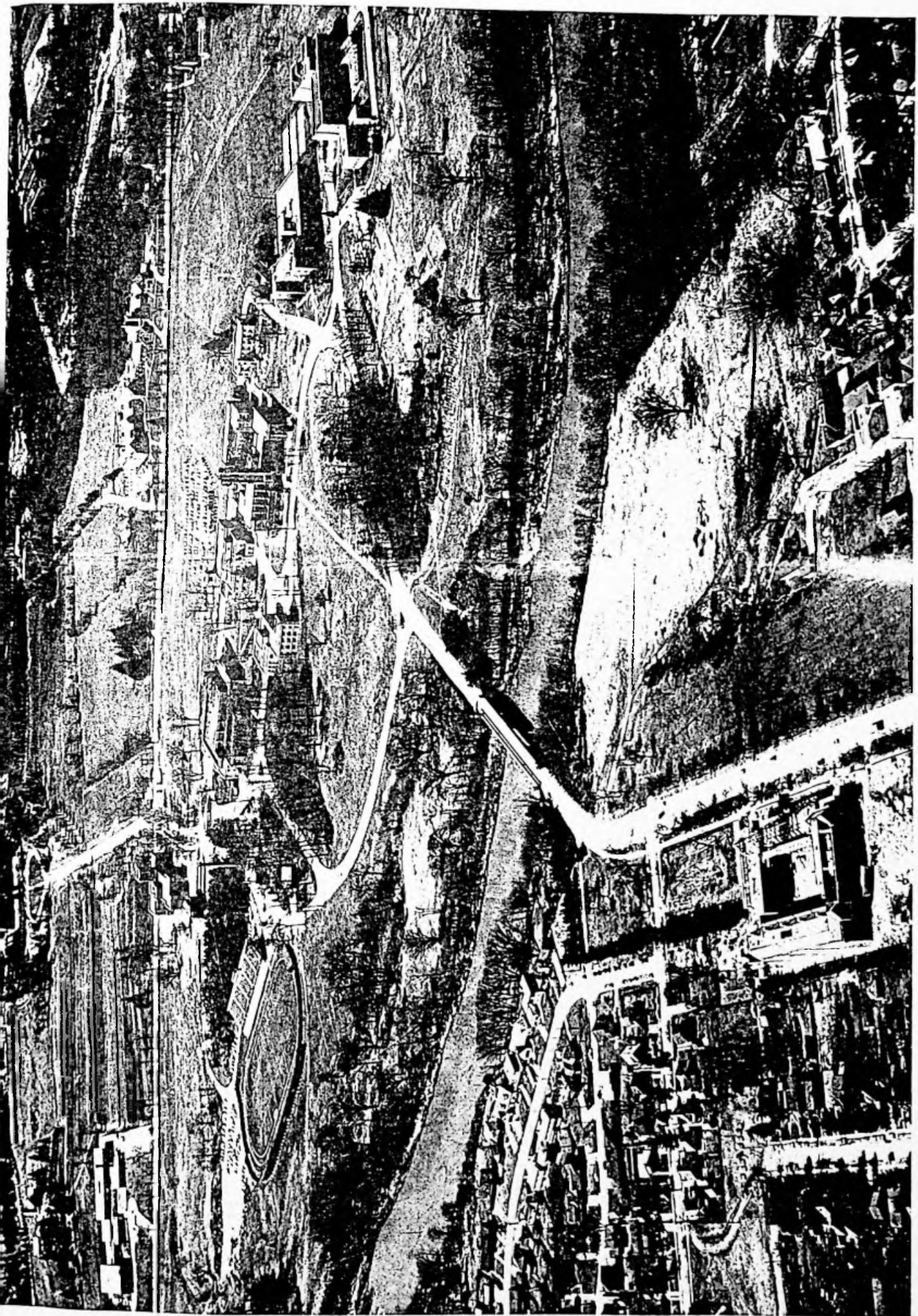
Taken from a speech by Andrew Osborn:

It is extremely important to emphasize that this is a totally new era in education for librarianship. The older, established schools for the most part started on a shoe-string and we learned how to manage with next to nothing just as our libraries did. It's a very different world now with the very strong financial support from the government, and the school in London had the better part of half a million dollars to get started. I don't see any other part of the world putting in the effort that Ontario is, and this is why I feel confident that education in librarianship in this province is going to lead, not only North America, but lead the world. This is what brought me to Ontario - the possibility of doing something with resources the likes of which library schools have never had in the past 80 years of education for librarianship.

It is a new period, a wonderful new period in the education for librarianship. I came from sunny Australia, and I had very considerable doubts. I have turned down quite a number of offers ever to come to Canada. I turned down the University of British Columbia three times.

The **University of Western Ontario** has the largest book collection of the universities under review - 335,000 - and there are comprehensive plans for the expansion of the building and the collections. Western also has the largest graduate programme of the five universities, embracing all the major disciplines. The City of London has a good public library (263,000 volumes and six branches), and is headquarters for the Middlesex County Library (102,000 volumes). Special libraries in the area include the Pesticide Research Institute, the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, the London College of Bible and Missions, the London Life Insurance Company, the Middlesex Law Association, and the Westminster Hospital. There are college library collections in five institutions affiliated to the University. There is a Teacher's College and a College of Education on Campus. However, London is less advantageously placed in relation to other universities than McMaster is. The principal deficiency in the University's library system has been the failure - according to the standards previously cited - to employ a high enough proportion of professionally trained librarians.





APRIL 6, 1967

JEAN OSBORN announces first five appointments to the new **School of Library and Information Science**.

PROFESSOR LAURA C. COLVIN will bring a southern accent **SLIS**. She was born in Richmond, Virginia, and took her undergraduate work at the College of William and Mary. She holds the rank of professor at Simmons where she has taught for twenty-four years. Among her professional honours is the Margaret Mann Citation, one of the highest awards made by the American Library Association for distinguished professional contributions.

PROFESSOR EDOUARD REITMAN is from France. For some years he was administrative assistant to M. Julien Cain who recently retired as director of the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. He joined the staff of the United Nations Library and was in charge of it for a number of years. In Paris he was on the staff of UNESCO.

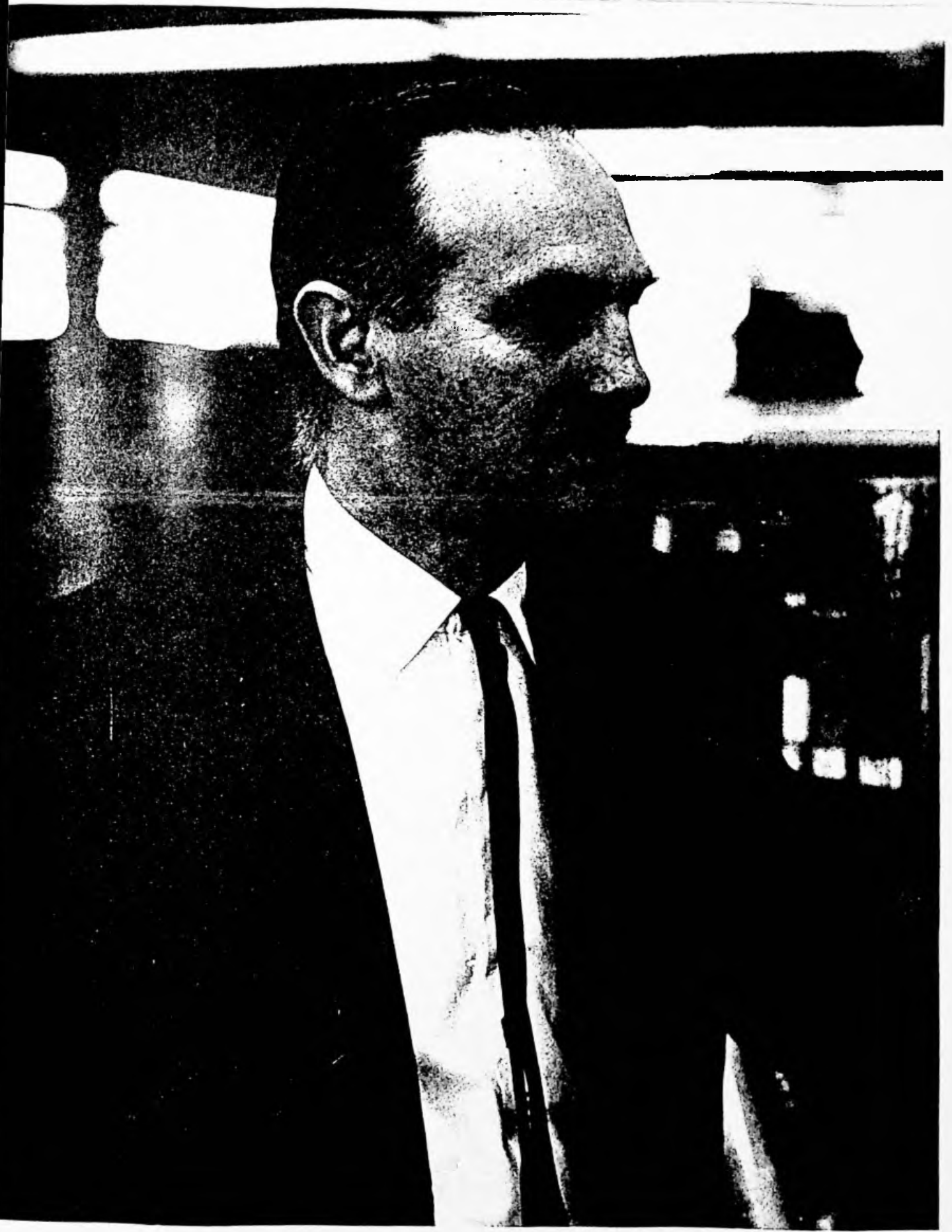
PROFESSOR BARBARA SMITH was born in Windsor, Ontario. She has held positions in Brantford, Oshawa, and Port Credit before joining the Ontario Provincial Library Service. Her most recent positions have been as Directory of Elementary Library Service and as Assistant Superintendent of the Curriculum Division of the Ontario Department of Education.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SAMUEL D. NEILL was born in Port Arthur, Ontario. He has held a number of positions in public and school libraries throughout Ontario.

LECTURER CONSTANTINE M. HOTIMSKY was born in Russia and educated in China before going to Australia. He was formerly Assistant Librarian in charge of acquisitions at the University of Sydney.







FROM U.W.O NEWS MAY 25, 1967

Ground levelling work at the site of the **School of Library and Information Science** temporary building is now in progress just south of the J.W. Little Memorial Stadium next to the hockey rink. The contract for the prefabricated steel building was awarded to McKay-Cocker Construction Ltd., of London, for \$253,292. It is expected the temporary building will be ready for occupancy for the coming academic year. The one-storey, L-shaped structure will include faculty offices, laboratories, demonstration rooms, a room for a teaching collection rare books, seminar rooms, a storage library, student and faculty lounges, as well as other facilities.

The **School of Library and Information Science** offers courses leading to the Master's of Library and Information Science. Dr. Osborn, Dean of the School, estimates there will be 50 full-time and 150 part-time students enrolled at the school this year. "Applications are still coming in at the rate of three a day," he said. Dean Osborn said there has been a virtual revolution in the philosophy and technology of library science techniques during the past decades. He cited the increasing use of computers for classification and circulation, and distance reading machines. Western's **School of Library Science** will be equipped with the latest equipment to demonstrate and teach these new techniques.



SEPTEMBER 1967

MOVE TO FORMER SLIS BUILDING. FIRST ORIENTATION SEMINARS COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 18 AFTER A WEEK'S POSTPONEMENT CAUSED BY BUILDING DELAYS. ENROLMENT - 40 FULL-TIME AND 20 PART-TIME STUDENTS.

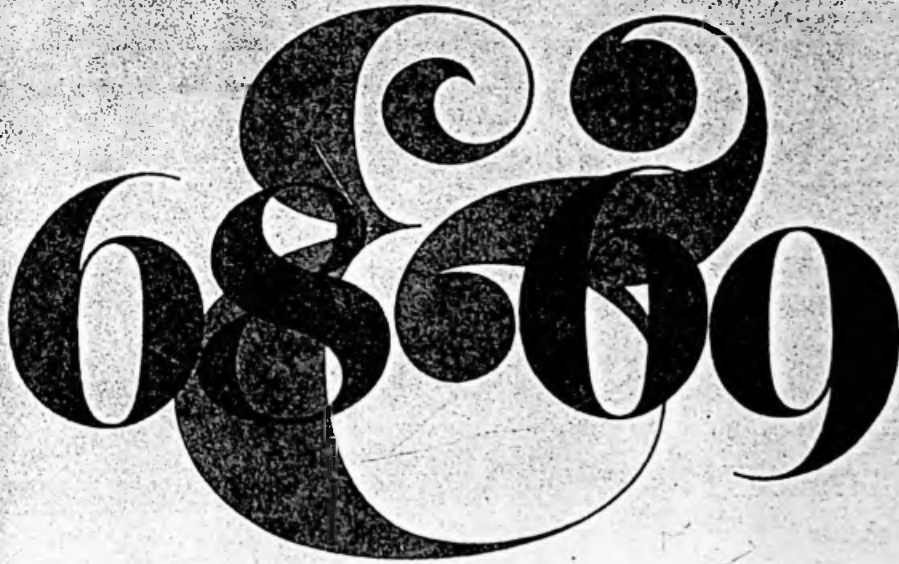


sborn chose a radical curriculum for SLIS, and to support the program he wanted to set up an experimental and demonstration library that would go beyond the provision of typical library services. It would "pioneer in having a computer-usable classification system", and which would use a cataloguing system involving "new principles of description". As a result of its non-standard systems, the **SLIS** Library was unable to take part in the automation and information networking that was to occur between the main university library, its branches, and the libraries of the affiliated colleges. The name of the new school, **School of Library and Information Science**, recognized the growing awareness of the importance of both the technical and theoretical aspects of the rapidly developing field of information science, as well as the close association of this field with modern methods of storage and retrieval of information.



SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

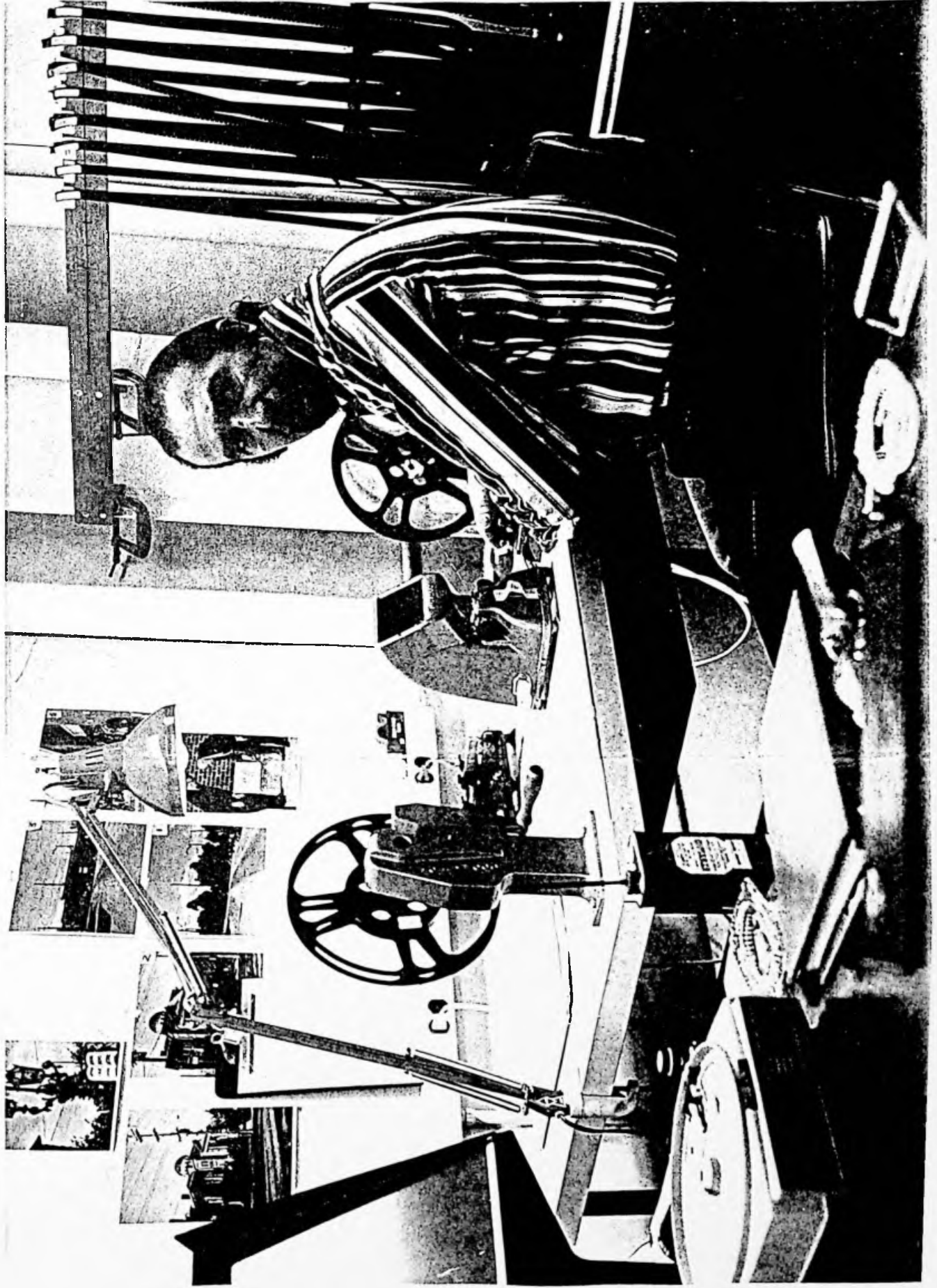


EDUCATION • RESEARCH • SERVICE SINCE 1878

"We decided to use a seminar method of approach, give up the teaching method, the lecturing method, and have only seminars. This works by the students going out and finding out for themselves, preparing brief reports and filling out special seminar forms so that the faculty knows what the student has done in the way of preparation for a seminar session".



"What we plan to use as the heart of it is the Bell telephone touch-tone dial system, and to use a pre-punched card for input. In circulating a book, each student will have his identification card which he will simply feed in to the touch-tone dial system. Following that, a similar card for each book will go in, and the computer will record the borrowed book".



SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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