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IFLA Publications 10

IFLA's First Fifty Years

**Achievement and challenge in
international librarianship**

**Edited by
Willem R. H. Koops and Joachim Wieder**

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edited by
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Foreword

IFLA – Past and Present

After half a century's existence an international organization – now a large one – has its history to relate, and when this space of time has been marked by war and destruction, as well as by inconceivable progress and bloom of literary culture, and thus of libraries, then the history of an international library organization is a thrilling one.

Librarians are not, admittedly, among those who make crucial political decisions on mutual relations in society, or decisively influence the development of economic conditions. But we are part of the humanistic brotherhood, who realize that the sea cannot be tamed, but try to clean up and regulate smaller streams, thus providing better conditions for growth and development.

The motives of those who backed the creation of IFLA were precisely the cleaning up and regulation of relations that had sanded up during a world war, particularly European relations between libraries and librarians. Besides the re-creation of classical links between centres of learning in the Western World, their aim was also the opening up of more wide ranging international lines of communication. After the destruction of the second World War the survivors continued and expanded our organization, in faith and determination.

It is right and proper that the history of the organization should be written at its semicentenary. The personal evidence of some of the librarians who have taken a lead in the development of to-day's IFLA is an inspiration to all of us.

But besides the tale of history, this publication aims at a contemporary evaluation, criticism, and advice concerning our future. This is why we have asked a number of eminent personalities to contribute, not their conventional and symphatetic congratulations, but opinions and perspectives for our activities in years to come.

In 1976 our General Council unanimously adopted a completely new structure for the work and inner coherence in the organization. We changed its name "International Federation of Library Associations" by adding "and Institutions", because IFLA – our unchanged acronym – has developed into something beyond the original exclusive circle of European and American library associations, and much more connected with daily work in the multitude of library and related institutions all over the world.

The new structure is a framework for global co-operation among all types of libraries, and for all functions, specialities and aspects of library work. The different Sections and Divisions provide fora for activities, discussion and debate out of which should hopefully crystallize a firm basis for the progress of libraries as well as for the professional development of the individual librarian.

On behalf of IFLA I thank the authors of each single contribution, and the editors of this our first jubilee publication.

Preben Kirkegaard
President

Introduction

The Program Planning Committee instituted in order to organize the commemoration of IFLA's fiftieth anniversary has requested us to submit a prospective scheme for a jubilee publication.

It has expressed its agreement to the principles on which to our minds the setup of a publication of this nature should be based: it should not merely offer a retrospective view but also – if not more so – contain several papers on the future development of our organization.

We have attempted to put these principles into practice while bearing in mind the concomitant publication of a special issue of IFLA Journal entitled "IFLA and Contemporary Library Problems" prepared for this festive occasion. This will consist of various articles taking IFLA's new structural formula of divisions (as agreed upon in 1976) as their point of departure as well as a wide variety of personal memoirs.

In selecting essays on the future of the organization to be included in this volume we have opted for those reflecting a more overall approach. They are preceded by contributions on the prehistory, genesis and early history of IFLA and by observations and reminiscences of IFLA's latest two presidents.

The editors are very much aware of the unavoidable overlap caused by adhering to this line of editorial policy, though on the other hand they feel a certain amount of duplication may prove to be illuminating. In view of the contributors' divergent origins, backgrounds and professional experience the editors felt the need for occasional adaptations or abbreviations of the text. Consequently we invoke clemency for both these minor but inevitable alterations and for the decision – by no means taken lightly – to publish the papers uniformly in English so the jubilee volume may gain the highest possible degree of accessibility to IFLA's achievements and aspirations throughout the library world.

Upon reading the various contributions one may discover that many recently proposed ideas are found to be strikingly similar to others put forward a long while ago. This only strengthens our conviction that our activities have been and will remain consistent and fruitful, and that turning to previous experience may be highly profitable at times.

The editors are grateful indeed to the authors for their cooperation without which this volume could never have appeared. We are particularly indebted to Ms W. E. S. Coops who undertook the arduous task of translating a number of essays into English at short notice. Finally we would like to express our gratitude to IFLA's publisher Mr K. G. Saur and his staff who once more have done everything within their means to ensure the timely publication of this fiftieth anniversary volume.

Willem R. H. Koops
Joachim Wieder

An Outline of IFLA's History

Joachim Wieder

Based on abundant sources and documents, the following description is the first attempt to draw the outlines of the history of IFLA during fifty years, and to determine at the same time its position within the wide framework of cultural and social interrelations. (1) As earlier developments in the field of international library cooperation are being treated in another chapter of this book, the historical survey begins with the period 1926–1927, when several decades of plans and efforts to achieve continuity in organized international cooperation culminated in the creation of IFLA. The various stages and highlights of its progress are treated chronologically. So are its organizational structure and countless activities, becoming increasingly varied through the years, with their changing problems and new priorities. Next to the material, measurable and utilitarian aspects, the idealistic and imponderable ones should also be considered because they are particularly important in international cooperation. In this concern as well as in its continuing tasks and obligations IFLA's present and future are linked to its past.

In our present day, when the relationship between the old and the new has changed so rapidly and radically as never before in the history of mankind, it is not always easy to find the right yardstick to understand and evaluate past events. Also, much of what was undertaken and accomplished in IFLA's early decades, i.e., thirty or forty years ago, without the powerfully accelerating engine of the most recent technology or during economic emergencies, at times when the skin had of necessity to be closer than the shirt, appears today inadequate, all too slow or amateurish. But each stage of development has brought with it its particular worries, needs and procedures in supra-national cooperation, and there has never been a lack of outstanding, imaginative and dynamic personalities, conscious of their responsibilities, and ready to cope with urgent complicated problems.

The achievements of an older generation could usually serve as a basis on which the young could continue to build. Failures and omissions often acted as rousing appeals to do better next time, using new methods to make for neglects. Understanding early developments in their historical dependency does not mean that inadequacies, weaknesses and doubts should be overlooked without any criticism. Most of them are in fact inherent in international library work and belong to perennial difficulties which cannot be overcome completely by even the most efficient machinery or forestalled by the most carefully conceived organizational structure.

After all, much patience, idealism and sacrifice are needed in a multiform material and spiritual world of differentiation and uncheckable change in order to reach the great objective of genuine understanding.

IFLA's fifty years of development are impressive and fascinating when viewed and interpreted in the context of recent cultural history in which the Federation found its place. The inexorable process of drastic changes occurring in the domains of technology and science, education and culture, and consequently in the world of the book and in libraries, appears as in a multi-faceted mirror. It is the history of a movement, powerfully accelerated by the catastrophes of two world wars and the latest technological revolutionization of all conditions of our existence, towards ever more thorough international understanding and cooperation in the interest of the needs of a greatly intensified intellectual and cultural interaction between nations. Industrialization and democratization, the explosion of knowledge and an avalanche of information, are but a few aspects of the stimulating forces behind the revolutionary changes mentioned. They exerted a far-reaching influence on the extent, kind and intensity of supra-national library cooperation, and were bound to react on socio-political conditions and ideological contrasts, lasting tensions between East and West and cultural differences all over the world, as well as on the juxtaposition of industrialized nations and developing countries. They confronted IFLA in every decade of its development with new tasks and problems, and a geographic and professional expansion, with many difficulties, hitherto unknown. They also demanded suitable organizational structure and working methods, additional contacts with related international bodies, and last but not least, more solid financial foundations.

In the period between the two world wars, IFLA's development progressed slowly but surely. Towards the end of the nineteen thirties there were forty national member associations. A tempestuous expansion and transformation occurred after the reconstruction phase in the middle fifties. This growth surpassed in the end all expectations.

In 1976 IFLA counted more than 640 national, international and institutional members in over a hundred countries. Having become a highly complex organization with numerous and varied activities and publications, IFLA is now endeavouring purposefully to meet demands and expectations in its world-wide field of work and responsibility.

The beginnings of IFLA (1926–1930)

The actual origins of IFLA are best considered and interpreted in the light of the reviving supra-national tendencies towards union, characteristic of the post-war period of the twenties. These amalgamating trends were strongly effected by the consequences of the extensive damages wrought by World War I, not only in intellectual and cultural domains but in the fields of economics, technology and politics as well. Then there was the radiance of a youthful League of Nations that inspired great hopes and strengthened to an extraordinary extent the awareness among individual states of their obligation to promote cooperation and understanding across their national frontiers. The League of Nations' Commission for Intellectual Cooperation had been established in Geneva, but had its executive Secretariat in Paris: the International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation (IIC),

created in 1925 and of which the League of Nations' Library Conference formed a part. Librarians now sought to join in the general movement towards world-wide cooperation by means of a permanent international professional organization in an effort to ensure maximum effectiveness of their manifold activities and their weight in cultural policy.

Not without reason Gabriel Henriot has been called the spiritual father of IFLA. He was at that time President of the Association des bibliothécaires français and professor at the American Library School in Paris. At the International Congress of Librarians and Booklovers held at Prague in 1926, he recommended – on behalf of his French colleagues – the creation of a standing international library committee, to be elected by individual national organizations. In his proposal he pointed to the formation of other professional groups, mainly of natural scientists and engineers and to the IIC, stressing the need for the coordination of all activities, for the maintenance of contacts between associations, for following up the resolutions adopted at international congresses, and for the establishment of an extensive exchange of bibliographic information. Only a superbody, uniting professional organizations of all countries, would be able to gain sufficient authority to achieve a reevaluation of the neglected cause of modern librarianship. Institutions belonging to the League of Nations should be approached to this end. A small working group to which, apart from Henriot, belonged representatives from Czechoslovakia, England, Germany and Sweden, drafted the proposal in greater detail, and also a 9-point Resolution, which was adopted by the Congress as a "Provisorium". The Standing International Library Committee was to consist of delegates nominated by national associations. It was to decide on place and time of official international congresses, and be domiciled at IIC Headquarters. The Resolution's last point stressed the importance of a sound financial basis, to be constructed with the help of contributions from individual member associations. This memorable Resolution which contained some basic ideas and programme points of the future IFLA ended with the following appeal:

"Le Congrès adresse aux bibliothécaires de toutes les nations un chaleureux appel, pour que cette tentative, modeste et d'ordre pratique, puisse entre les bibliothécaires de tous les pays contribuer à leur défense professionnelle et assurer, enfin, à notre Corporation la place qui lui est due dans le grand mouvement de coopération intellectuelle internationale".(2)

Henriot's conception, strongly French in orientation and reflecting IFLA's influence on the intellectual life of Paris in those days, was submitted in Prague to a truly international forum, as among the nearly 700 participants were to be found representatives of 88 organizations from 28 countries. The Slavic element, constituted by Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Russians and Yugoslavs, dominated in this kind of manifestation. But apart from the USA, some countries outside Europe, like Brazil, Egypt, Palestine and Turkey, had also sent delegates. There were, moreover, representatives from other professions: bibliophiles, booksellers and publishers.(3)

Three months later this plan for a superbody in the library field was taken up once more, unofficially, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary congress of the American Library Association (ALA) in Atlantic City and Philadelphia, and during a study tour arranged for overseas guests. In the meantime, the French originators had changed their views, as was explained in a written recommendation sent in by Henriot, who had been asked to sound out, as general delegate of the Prague working group, the possibilities of attaching the future federation to the League of Nations' Paris Institute. He now distanced himself from the original idea of housing the central secretariat in the IIC's crowded premises in the Palais Royal and proposed those of the American Library Center in Paris instead.(4) This change of mind was probably caused by Henriot's misgivings concerning the independence of the new international professional organization, and his hope of obtaining more useful arrangements by means of closer links with the ALA, which might perhaps lead to organizational, professional and financial support. But he clung to the idea of a permanent seat in Paris. The ALA was, at any rate, effectively drawn into the preparatory work, as became apparent during the Edinburgh Conference of 1927.

It was there that, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the (British) Library Association, IFLA was established – on the 30th of September 1927. The final resolution adopted at the closing session of the Congress, was the Federation's "Magna Charta" of foundation.(5) Signed by the authorized delegates from 15 countries, it was the result of several days' deliberations of a seven-member working group. Its Chairman, the Swedish Riksbibliotekar Isak Collijn, was elected first President. From some delegates' reports of the time it may be gathered that two outstanding personalities had distinguished themselves by their exceptional tact and skilful negotiating: Hugo Andres Krüss, Director General of the Preussische Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, and Carl H. Milam, the ALA Secretary (Chicago), to whom the IFLA Statutes of 1929 are due.(6)

Contrary to earlier conceptions, the provisional constitution no longer contained the notion of a permanent seat in Paris with the possibility of a link-up with the IIC or the American Library Center in that city. Provision was made for an Executive Committee to consist of the President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary and up to four other members, all to be elected for five-year terms from among the delegates meeting, with the exception of the Secretary of whom a regulation stipulated that he need not belong to a national professional association. Presumably, there was already some hope of persuading the Director of the League of Nations Library, T. P. Sevensma, to accept this honorary office. In this way it would become possible to establish – in analogy with Henriot's suggestions – a personal link with the world organization in Geneva. One of the principal tasks of the new library superbody continued to be the convening, at three to five years' intervals, of large international congresses.

Initially, the Edinburgh Resolution was regarded as a basis for further consultations. Entering into force upon ratification by the various member organizations, its text would eventually become the basis for the Committee's definitive statutes.

The first three general meetings marked the main stages of this process of consolidation. As proposed by the President, the establishment of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee was officially declared in Rome (1928). At the same session Marcel Godet (Berne) presented some suggestions of great importance for the subject content of international conferences. Only questions of a truly international character, related to international problems or problems of general interest, and of concern to a number of countries, should be taken up. A principal theme was to ensure the meeting programme's unity and substance. Although these guidelines were adopted at the time, and would have helped to relieve the meetings of superfluous, mixed-up and incoherent discussion of unrelated single topics, they were unfortunately not always followed. Confused and chaotic debates tended to decrease the value of the professional sessions. To a certain extent this was also true of the first World Congress of Librarianship and Bibliography taking place under IFLA auspices in Rome (1929), with meetings in Florence and Venice.(7)

At the Rome general session the International Library and Bibliographical Committee received its official name, and, with the appointment of General Secretary Sevensma, its permanent seat at Geneva, in the League of Nations Library. Sevensma's close collaborator, A. C. Breycha-Vauthier, was co-opted to the Executive Committee as Assistant Secretary. In the course of more than thirty years he was to render outstanding services to IFLA, and, together with Sevensma, he guaranteed at the same time an efficient continuous relationship with the Geneva institution, and the material and idealistic possibilities it had to offer. The Statutes prepared by Milam, and already propounded and adopted at the 1929 World Congress, came into force by a decision of the Stockholm Session in 1930, and IFLA was finally constituted as a world union of national library associations, also open to related organizations or central library institutions in countries where no library associations were in existence. The history of the origins of IFLA was completed.

IFLA's development in the thirties

The decade preceding World War II saw the consolidation of the inner structure of the International Library Federation, and a continuing expansion of its sphere of influence due to its growing membership and significantly increased authority in the area of cultural policy. In 1930 IFLA had 24 national member associations in 20 countries, in 1935 there were 34 from 25 countries, while in 1939 their number had reached 41 in 31 states, and included two international groupings. Apart from the USA, there were several library associations from outside Europe, like China, India, Japan, Mexico and the Philippines, since 1936 also Egypt and Palestine. But in its overall activities IFLA had not as yet attained true universality. Its organizational and financial possibilities remained limited in scope, and the overseas members – once again with the notable exception of the USA – could but maintain incidental contacts with the parent body. When China and India invited IFLA with insistence to hold the 1936 annual session

in Asia, it was obliged to disappoint them, having to decline the invitation owing to financial structures.(8)

In accordance with the Statutes, but also taking into account the traditional and priority needs of the period, the organization of quinquennial world congresses was an important feature of IFLA's work. So were the regular general assemblies, for reasons of efficiency being held every year, although this was not prescribed in the Statutes. The implementation of the resolutions adopted at the meetings -- large and small -- belonged to IFLA's principal tasks, and this was not always an easy matter as there was no full-time staff attached to the Secretariat. All current work was smoothly carried out, and in particular the prompt and careful editing of the *Actes* should be mentioned here. The proceedings of the Committee sessions were supplemented by reports and resolutions submitted by the professional sub-committees, and by substantive annual reports presented by various member associations. These publications constituted a most valuable instrument of communication and information within the Federation during the periods between sessions. In addition there were the *Répertoire*, issued at irregular intervals and containing useful reference material, as well as a large number of questionnaires, circulars and publications. To cope with the workload of current correspondence and other secretarial duties, the League Library was able to provide some organizational and financial assistance.

Another important and fruitful aspect of the interdependence of IFLA and some League of Nations organs manifested itself even more clearly in a close collaboration with the International Commission for Intellectual Cooperation, and its Paris Library Conference. The latter consisted entirely of prominent members of IFLA committees, the first three IFLA Presidents and the Secretary General amongst them. An IIC representative attended almost every annual session of the International Library Committee and reported on the Institute's manifold bibliographic and cultural activities. These close mutual relations also served in the execution of resolutions adopted at the world congresses of Rome, Florence and Venice (1930) and of Madrid and Barcelona (1935), touching upon the entire spectrum of urgent library tasks and problems. In this context mention should be made of a number of publications in the preparation of which IFLA had taken a particularly active interest: useful guides to national information centres and to central loan services, to offices for the international exchange of publications; an international code of periodicals abbreviations, and the trilingual dictionary compiled by H. Lemaître, *Vocabulary of technical library terms*, 1933, or the new edition of *Index Bibliographicus*.

Steps taken by the Executive Committee and special campaigns

As a non-governmental organization and international advisory body, IFLA was unavoidably limited to launching mere recommendations. But its personal and organizational dependence of the League of Nations proved useful in offering the possibility of occasionally using the League's governmental channels to make appeals to individual governments or official authorities. Such action was mostly

taken in cooperation with the IIC, seeking to promote the implementation of important world congress resolutions on questions pertaining to international loan and the requisite cheap postal rates and free importation of printed matter, the creation of national information and exchange centres, the exchange of university theses, legal deposit legislation, or the promotion of public libraries.

In the pre-war period dominated by disastrous economic, social and political crises – we have only to remind ourselves of the grave consequences of the world economic crisis and the enormous unemployment caused by it, of the Nazi régime with its ideological confusion and war preparations, and of the Spanish civil war – IFLA saw itself confronted with the difficult task of convincing the world of culture of the vital importance of libraries and their mission, and of speaking out in defense of threatened library interests. The first world congress in Venice organized under IFLA auspices in 1929 had already adopted as the last of its fifteen resolutions an appeal urging governments to put libraries on an equal financial footing with the total national education budget, in view of their significant cultural mission, and not consider them mere parts of the educational system.(9) When in 1932 serious cuts were operated on many library budgets, threatening to become even worse, the danger to library services of such financial measures was pointed out in an official declaration issued during the Berne session. The initiative taken by Honorary President Collijn who in his alarming report characterized libraries as “repositories, workshops and instruments of learning” led to the following decision: “The International Library Committee urgently requests Governments, in spite of the world crisis, to maintain undiminished, for the service of intellectual workers, the financial provision made for national education and instruction, and notably credits voted for libraries”.(10) This Resolution was dispatched to all competent bodies and carefully disseminated. At the Chicago and Avignon sessions of 1933, the General Secretary and several delegates reported on the, partially successful, results of this intervention which had received the support of the relevant League of Nations Committee of Experts.

Another Resolution adopted in 1932 and implemented in following years reached far beyond the area of librarianship. Based upon the activities of G. Leyh (Tübingen), it aimed at drawing attention to the dangerously high price increases of German periodicals in the fields of natural science, medicine and technology, constituting a threat not only to the German booktrade but to German scholarship and the world of learning as a whole. The Resolution stated: “The International Federation of Library Associations requests the Verein deutscher wissenschaftlicher Verleger to exert all means at its disposal to effect a reduction in periodical prices by limiting their volume and lowering production costs”.(11) The steps taken by IFLA brought a positive result. An agreement was concluded between the Börsenverein der deutschen Buchhändler and the Verband deutscher Universitäten to the effect that beginning in 1934 a 30 per cent reduction in volume and price of twenty-six of the most important German natural science journals would be operated, and that the practice of publishing university theses in their pages would cease. Two leading German publishers, Dr. Springer and

Mr. Degener of Verlag Chemie, attended the Chicago session to take part in the discussions.(12)

There were other actions and useful recommendations of the International Library Committee that went beyond the ordinary professional deliberations, such as the Resolution proposed in 1932 by J. Cain and H. Lemaître (Paris), urging the inclusion of lectures on library construction in the programmes of all schools of architecture, or the appeals to help emigrating German librarians or victims of the Spanish civil war.(13)

The Annual Sessions of the International Library Committee

The regular IFLA sessions can be considered as substantive concentrations of efforts in the field of international library cooperation, making their impact on cultural policy. Already in the early thirties a fixed pattern of procedure had established itself, destined to last – apart from a few minor changes – for years to come. Within the framework of two plenary sessions, the various sub-committees held their professional meetings. The opening plenary session was devoted to addresses of welcome by representatives of the authorities and libraries hosting the conference, and to the important opening speech by the President. This was followed by the Secretary General's progress report, and his survey of IFLA's financial situation. Then came reports presented by the delegates of related cultural organizations for the purpose of pointing up the mutual relations and co-operation of IFLA with other supra-national bodies active in the service of learning and culture. From the very beginning the International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation participated actively in the proceedings, to be joined in 1936 by a representative from the International Institute for Documentation (renamed in 1937 International Federation for Documentation – FID). In the closing plenary session the official programme was concluded with the announcements of directions and plans of the Executive Committee, and the determination of the next general session's location and time.

The continual change of host countries and meeting places conformed – not exclusively, but certainly consciously – to objectives of cultural and library policy, in an effort to ensure a maximum of varied personal and professional contacts, a widening of intellectual and professional horizons, an intensification of useful relations between librarians and libraries. On the other hand such international meetings – invariably attended by a number of leading personalities in the library profession – aimed at instilling in national authorities and the outside world a lasting awareness of the importance of libraries, their opinions and demands, or to promote progressive impulses in the library systems of certain regions. The IFLA sessions have as a matter of fact occasionally contributed to the strengthening of existing library associations or the creation of new ones, to the furthering of professional interests and valuable relationships, while cultural events like receptions, visits, exhibitions and excursions, becoming more impressive in the course of the years, have long since developed into a fine tradition sewing the good cause in a way no participant is likely to forget. These manifestations never

failed to create an atmosphere of good fellowship that inspired colleagues with an eager willingness to achieve a mutual understanding favouring international co-operation.

It is true that in comparison with those of the post-war period, the IFLA sessions of the thirties were but small and modest, mostly two-day meetings with an average attendance of between thirty and fifty delegates. Only in Madrid and Barcelona (1935) and in Paris (1937) did their number exceed sixty. Generally speaking, the same participants came together year after year. They knew one another and met as friendly colleagues. The interests and needs of scholarly libraries in the old countries of Europe and North America tended to predominate the overall trend of activities. From the very beginning capable librarians from Belgium and Holland have played a remarkably active role in IFLA. The geographical position of their small countries, situated on the crossroads of different cultural influences, and their obligatory knowledge of foreign languages were conducive to this. The same was true of the library leaders from Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries that had been influenced by Anglo-Saxon examples.

IFLA's first Presidents and its Secretary General

Delegates attending the relatively short annual meetings had but little opportunity for the exchange of ideas, consultations or decision making. This circumstance caused IFLA's destinies during the pre-war period when the foundations for its existence and manifold activities were being laid, to depend to a large extent on the character and capacities of its leading personalities. A brief evaluation of the first three Presidents and a few of the outstanding figures among their fellow fighters in the working committees, is therefore in order.

The Presidents largely determined the broad lines of library policy and the centre of gravity of international cooperation. Their presidential addresses contained valuable pronouncements on programme matters, and taken together, these speeches constituted authoritative and interesting sources of IFLA's history – and this remained the case during all phases of IFLA's post-war development as well.

The first President, Isak G. A. *Collijn* (1927–1931), Director of the Royal Library in Stockholm, was a distinguished scholar, primarily an incunabulist and medievalist of international fame, who combined a wide culture with exceptional linguistic accomplishments. Fluent in eight languages, he furnished on occasion astonishing proofs of the latter. Like his successor W. W. Bishop, he had been intimately involved in the origins of IFLA, and like him made a valuable contribution to the reorganization of the Vatican Library in preparing new guide lines for the accessibility of incunabula, and their cataloguing, while Bishop with his group of specialists assisted in modernizing the cataloguing system along American lines. The recipient of numerous decorations and academic honours, he was – owing to his international experience and untiring activity – the right man to help shape IFLA's beginnings and to represent the young Federation with dignity.

Munthe once, sympathetically, said of him, that Collijn had been more of a roving librarian than a State librarian (“mehr Reisebibliothekar als Reichsbibliothekar”).(14) When handing on the presidency to his successor in 1931, he was made Honorary President. On this occasion he praised some outstandingly active collaborators, who were to continue to make themselves useful to IFLA in the following years: H. Guppy (Manchester), C. H. Milam, A. H. Krüss, M. Godet and H. Lemaître. Marcel Godet (Berne) and Arundell Esdaile (London) were elected Vice-Presidents. Krüss (Berlin), P. S. Leicht (Rome) the helpful organizer of the first world congress of librarians, and H. Lemaître were made Honorary Vice-Presidents.

The second President, William Warner *Bishop* (Ann Arbor, 1931–1936) did not only embody the best American library traditions, but was also an excellent authority on European librarianship, and its specific needs and problems. This combination showed itself extremely fruitful for international cooperation. As a matter of fact it did not only benefit the modernization of the Vatican Library but also the creation of a model library at the League of Nations headquarters. Bishop, who was also a learned bibliophile, held responsible offices as a top library consultant. His winning human qualities combined with his energy and ever-ready helpfulness. He was an attentive host to the IFLA delegates in Chicago in 1933 at IFLA’s only pre-war session in the United States, and made their visit the occasion of offering them an excellent and instructive introduction to the American library community.(15) In addition to this, Bishop’s name remains coupled to the direction of the second library world conference in Madrid and Barcelona (1935), which was to prove so important for IFLA’s further development.

It became a good tradition – kept up until present days – for the President to dwell in his opening speech on international cooperation in the general framework of political, economic and cultural events, and their impact on library life. Details on the consolidation of the young Federation still figured largely in the speeches of the first two Presidents, but there was no lack of interesting references to the prevailing financial and economic conditions and their grave consequences for the work of libraries everywhere. Together with the equally interesting annual reports of member associations, the presidential speeches form an enlightening survey of the situation then existing. With justifiable pride the President was able to stress the fact that notwithstanding the crisis, and in the face of pressing needs, spectacular library and bibliographic activities and publications were being developed, such as the large cataloguing projects of the early thirties set up as general instruments of work, which enriched supra-national cooperation. Bishop stated in Chicago (1933) in view of the problems caused by the crisis: “Our task as a Committee in this world crisis is clear. We must keep our organization alive and vigorous, ready to go forward at the first opportunity”.(16)

The opening addresses of the third President, Marcel *Godet* (1936–1947) were particularly substantive and fascinating. He was the Director of the Swiss National Library in Berne and attached to IFLA since 1928. An excellent organizer with

practical sense, he was at the same time a highly cultivated man, with a wide range of interests, charming and full of Gallic wit, radiating a warm humanity and an unbending idealism. From his neutral country he did his utmost to keep together the International Federation during the second World War.

His inspiring, delicately worded opening addresses, delivered in fine style, were usually devoted to a main theme. In Paris (1937) he spoke of the book crisis and the basically indestructible power of the book in a period increasingly dominated by emerging mass media like radio and film. "On peut croire que, de toutes façons, en dépit des noires prophéties, bibliothèques et bibliothécaires ont encore devant eux, et pour longtemps, une tâche et des possibilités immenses".(17) Repeatedly – as in Warsaw (1936) and Brussels (1938) – he concerned himself with the relationship of librarians to documentation. This was a complex question that excited strong feelings at the time, for the strained relations between the two worlds of essential activities which had too long remained unsolved only began to improve after the great Congress of Documentalists in Copenhagen (1935) and to move towards a useful cooperation. It was Krüss who gained merit as mediator and spokesman. Godet said of this problem: "En théorie, la documentation englobe tout. Dans la réalité, c'est un mouvement, partiel, assez récent, qui vient seulement accentuer, compléter ou prolonger sur quelques points l'activité universelle et séculaire des bibliothèques . . . Si discutables que soient certaines idées des documentalistes, elles n'en sont pas moins le symptôme d'une situation nouvelle, de besoins nouveaux auxquels beaucoup de bibliothèques de notre vieille Europe, figées dans des traditions respectables mais surannées, seraient sages d'accorder leur attention et de s'adapter progressivement, si elles ne veulent pas voir finalement se détourner d'elles le courant de la vie moderne et de l'intérêt public. Bibliothèques et centres de documentation, dans la mesure où ils se distinguent les uns des autres, sont faits pour coopérer".(18)

In his impressive and grave opening address at the last pre-war Session in The Hague (1939), Godet summarized all the bleak apprehensions to which he had given voice on earlier occasions in face of the threats to peace and international intellectual cooperation. His analysis of the unbridgeable contrast between opposing politico-philosophical systems was mainly concerned with National-Socialist Germany and the fateful conflict between State and individual, nation and mankind, totalitarian regimes and democratic constitutions. Showing up the corruption of all library tasks which ought to be undertaken in the service of freedom and human decency, Godet raised the question of the purpose and possibility of any further cooperation, pointing to the love of the book shared by all, to IFLA's achievements and to the activities of its Sections and Committees that had proven their capability to surmount all barriers. His peroration was a moving appeal inspired by a noble idealism: "Beaucoup plus qu'une victoire sur les forces naturelles, la civilisation est une victoire de l'homme sur lui-même. Tâchons, bibliothécaires, dépositaires des trésors de la culture, d'y contribuer pour notre petite part, et d'abord en commençant par nous-mêmes, je veux dire en conservant, en cultivant en nous, et entre nous, et dans notre Fédération, et au sein de ce Comité même, un esprit digne de notre mission".(19) –

Side by side with the marked personalities of the IFLA Presidents, the Secretary General T. P. *Sevensma* played a decisive role. A Dutchman of encyclopaedic culture, he was open to the world, temperamentful and very active, gifted with a winning humanity and amiability. A skilled and successful negotiator with a dynamic personality, he was always out for new contacts. IFLA was fortunate indeed to benefit from the unpaid exertions of such an outstanding executive officer. Seen in the light of history, he appears the very soul of the young Federation, and at the same time as the embodiment of the enthusiasm which in the early days characterized many champions of international cooperation. The annual reports he presented at the Sessions of the International Library Committee show how much IFLA's history depended on his personal initiative and activity. In 1938 he left the League of Nations Library which he had made a unique documentation centre for international studies, and returned to Holland to take up the direction of the Library of Leyden University, while remaining Secretary General of IFLA.(20)

On the occasion of his 60th birthday *Sevensma's* friends and admirers honoured him by creating the *Sevensma Prize*. Over 200 personal and corporate donors collected a capital of 10,000 Swiss francs with the intention of using the interest as prize money for an essay competition open to young librarians under the age of 40, on themes to be set every other year by the International Library Committee and related to professional problems of topical interest, and their impact on society. The *Sevensma Prize* was also intended to help bridge any gaps existing between the younger generation of librarians and national IFLA member associations, as well as the public.(21) Having been announced ten times, the Prize belonged to the gladdening continuities of IFLA's activity.

A critical view of achievements and committee work

To round off this chapter, a critical glance should be cast at IFLA's achievements and failures in the pre-war period. As specific library activities, mainly undertaken in the relevant committees, covered a wide range, they can only be discussed briefly here. The first three working committees were concerned with questions pertaining to library staff, book statistics, and professional training, the last named, however, showed but little activity before the war. In 1933 there were twice as many committees, and after the Madrid World Congress, which had a remarkable effect on international cooperation, six new committees were set up to cover, for instance, Special Libraries, Parliamentary Libraries, Uniform Catalogue Rules, and Standardization. Most of the questions and problems that were to remain of concern in the next decades, had at this time already been taken up, studied, or promoted, if not entirely or only partially solved. By circulating questionnaires or issuing interesting reports, IFLA saw to it that everybody became aware of these problems and realized his responsibility in furthering their solution. Both in the general discussions and in committee meetings much work of a highly competent and industrious nature, was accomplished. Almost all delegates were outstanding specialists who took an active part in the deliberations, and the phenomenon of library tourism was yet unknown.

IFLA's most spectacular pre-war achievement was the arrangement of international loans in accordance with uniform regulations, using internationally accepted forms and benefitting from duty freedom and cheap postal rate. After several years' preparatory work, not of a committee, but undertaken by the Executive Board and the Secretariat itself, assisted by experts and culminating in the World Congress in Spain, the new International Loan System, to which Marcel Godet had dedicated himself, was propounded and adopted in Warsaw (1936). When War broke out, 19 states had joined the agreement.(22)

Other significant activities concerned book statistics, in which above all, the Polish Professor Muszkowski distinguished himself, and after him Uhrendahl (Leipzig), and library statistics, in which Leyh (Tübingen) was involved, circulating questionnaires and preparing annual progress reports. His efforts failed in the end from a lack of interest on behalf of the Anglo-Saxon countries.(23)

International work in the field of hospital librarianship was highly successful. Especially Lemaître and Mrs. Roberts devoted themselves to this cause, and the latter did pioneering work in promoting the organization, equipment and propagation of hospital libraries. In 1936 she founded the International Association of Hospital Libraries, the first international organization to join IFLA. It was soon to be followed by the International Commission of Agricultural Librarians.

In 1933 a committee was set up to promote the interests – initially much neglected – of popular libraries. Milam and Lemaître were very active here. A Conference of the World Association for Adult Education in Cambridge (UK) had given the impulse for this action. It was decided that IFLA should systematically take up public library matters, first of all as the principal theme for the World Congress in Spain (Madrid and Barcelona 1935), which was to become – with its 550 delegates and the financial assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation – a lasting success for IFLA, on account of its careful organization and detailed, varied programme. The Congress resolutions for which certain priorities were established led to stronger activities and better structures of IFLA's working procedures. The subsequent Sessions endeavoured to follow up the deliberations and resolutions of the World Congress in Spain. It was a misfortune that – owing to the Spanish Civil War – the Congress proceedings could only be published with great delay and incompletely.(24)

The next World Congress of Libraries and Bibliography was to be held in Germany in conjunction with the quincentenary Gutenberg celebrations. Large-scale manifestations had been planned, ranging from Berlin to Leipzig and Weimar, and consecutively to Frankfurt (where the International Documentation Congress was to take place) and Mainz. Feelings of uneasiness overshadowed the expectations of this event, at the thought of meeting in the oppressive atmosphere of National-Socialist Germany. And indeed, the problem of accepting the German invitation raised dramatic discussions behind the scenes, especially considering an energetic wish of rejection from the American Library Association. But an official break with the German librarians and a serious IFLA crisis ensuing from it could be

avoided, thanks to a far-sighted intervention of Honorary President Bishop and of Wilhelm Munthe. The outbreak of war definitively settled the question.(25)

IFLA's accomplishments during the thirties were unavoidably offset by certain disadvantages. Some failures were primarily the result of the working methods employed by various committees. The sum total of pre-war achievements cannot conceal the fact that the number of concrete, significant results was basically small, that too much was undertaken never to be completed, that most projects made but slow and difficult progress. Committee members pursued their activities in doubtful isolation without any regular contact with their chairmen, their national colleagues or professional bodies. They had been neither formally elected nor officially nominated but happened to belong to a committee because of their more or less incidental presence at an annual session. No meetings took place between two sessions for the preparation of the next one. In the long run, any activities and successes depended on the sense of responsibility, initiative and energy of the committee chairman, who usually prepared single-handed the annual report. If one realizes, moreover, the Federation's modest financial basis, the smallness of the band of professional librarians who came together for short periods, and the adverse economic and political conditions of the pre-war years, one is filled with respect for the results achieved. Possibly another weight has to be thrown into the balance, outweighing the material and measurable elements: the total of spiritual forces stemming from the sources of idealism that had been awakened by IFLA and reinforced through its education for international cooperation, understanding and assistance. Together with the foundation already created, they survived in spite of the destructions caused by the war, and ensured most fertile conditions for shaping future development.

World War II and the subsequent period of reconstruction (1939–1951)

Understandably, the political and military upheavals caused by the Second World War almost completely paralyzed IFLA's activities. Only in 1947 international meetings could be resumed. The circumstance that the Federation's seat and central office was located in neutral Switzerland (with Secretary Breycha-Vauthier at the League of Nations Library in Geneva and President Godet in Berne) allowed for the circulation of information by correspondence and the maintenance of certain contacts which made possible certain interventions and relief actions. Thus IFLA took part through Breycha-Vauthier's membership of the Advisory Committee on Literature for Prisoners-of-War and Internees in the distribution of large numbers of books to various camps. This beneficial action was directed by the Red Cross, and was carried on with the cooperation of several international organizations, such as the Young Men's Christian Association. In the war year 1940 the Geneva Secretariat published Vol. 11 of the *Actes* of the International Library Committee, containing the proceedings of the last pre-war session and reports of twenty member associations and eight committees. This documentation was to prove a valuable tool when the time came to restore IFLA's tragically interrupted traditions. Apart from a few annual reports, the Geneva Secretariat had received

notification of the affiliation of the Argentine Association of Librarians in science and technology libraries, and – a token of comforting loyalty and solidarity – the Vatican Library's annual contributions.(26) It was, fortunately, possible to preserve intact the Sevensma-Prize capital that had been deposited in Switzerland.

The first post-war Session took place at Oslo in 1947. Its organization was partly made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, which had also made available a sum of \$ 9000 for the resumption of IFLA's work. The Conference was attended by 52 delegates from 18 countries. In accordance with a sound tradition, FID and – for the first time – Unesco (recently established as successor to the League of Nations' International Commission for Intellectual Cooperation) were also represented. It was an ironically tragic incident that the last pre-war Session had been convened in the Peace Palace at The Hague. The setting of the ceremonial hall of the Oslo Nobel Institute with its decoration of white peace doves might well have appeared in 1947 to the participants a happy omen for IFLA's future.

The opening speech of the septuagenarian President was at the same time his valedictory address. It was a shattering account of the catastrophic war destructions and material and intellectual losses sustained by libraries, publishing business and booktrade, as well as of the difficulties stemming from transformations on the maps of Europe and the world, resulting in new frontiers, national splits and ideological controversies. Godet sketched a few of the most important tasks and problems confronting the library world in the framework of war consequences of such gigantic proportions as had never occurred in the past: the reconstruction of library buildings and collections, the filling up of lacunae and elimination of arrears, fighting the general impoverishment and price increases, the reorganization and intensification of fruitful international cooperation on a world scale. In face of the fears, discouragement and passive pessimism then prevalent, he appealed with passionate idealism to the sense of cultural responsibility of librarians, pointing to their humane rather than purely professional mission of international solidarity. He cited Gonzague de Reynold's graphic formulation of the issues at stake: "Il ne s'agit pas de sauver le vieux vaisseau qui sombre. On perdrait son temps à bourrer d'étoupe les voies d'eau. Il s'agit de porter sa cargaison dans le vaisseau neuf!"(27)

In 1947 Godet, who had indeed highly deserved of IFLA, was finally able to hand over the presidency to Munthe. For political and health reasons he would have preferred to have been allowed to have relinquished his position in 1939, but the difficult situation of that moment, when the German side – obliged to represent officially the National-Socialist regime was laying a claim on the leadership of IFLA, Godet had been persuaded to continue in office – much to the relief of the Norwegian President designate. To both men the prospect of having to preside over the forthcoming World Congress in Germany had been a harrasing nightmare. Upon his retirement Godet was nominated Honorary President, whereas M. E. Lord (Boston), H. M. Cashmore (Birmingham) and A. Hahn (Paris) were elected Vice-Presidents and A. L. Birkenmajer (Poznań) was made Honorary Vice-President.

Faced with a massive number of additional tasks, and in urgent need of reorganization, all thirteen committees that had existed before the war resumed their consultations, albeit with memberships still rather composed incidentally.

One of the fundamentally important events at the Oslo Session was the conclusion of a formal agreement between Unesco and IFLA concerning their systematic cooperation.(28) The details of this document defined the mutual acceptance of principles, major tasks and objectives of both international bodies, mutual consultation, regular representation at plenary sessions and general conferences, exchange of information, as well as the promotion of IFLA projects in the interest of Unesco's general programme. In particular, IFLA was officially recognized as the principal organ for Unesco's cooperation with professional library associations. At the same time Unesco promised financial support for the execution of IFLA's programme, and more particularly, for specific assignments, meetings, secretariat help or documentary purposes. As from 1949 IFLA received an annual Unesco subvention of approximately 1500 Swiss francs. The regular Unesco representative and rapporteur at IFLA sessions of the time was E. J. Carter, who showed perfect understanding in promoting IFLA's work in word and deed. He regarded "libraries as active and living demonstrations of Unesco's basic ideas and practice".(29)

Two Resolutions of the first post-war session that proved to be of lasting significance should be mentioned here. The first one urgently recommended the definitive acceptance of the international format for catalogue cards, and the latter stressed the importance of the systematic promotion of public libraries in close cooperation with Unesco. Already in 1948 the two world organizations arranged an *International Summer School on Public Library Practice* in Manchester, attended by 50 librarians from 21 countries. With reason it was regarded as one of the first fruitful consequences of the Oslo Agreement.(30) Consecutively with this Seminar, IFLA's annual session took place in London, in the presence of 66 delegates from 23 countries. In 1950 the General IFLA Council met again in London. On this occasion – the first centenary of the Public Libraries Act – the pioneering achievements of Anglo-Saxon librarianship were evaluated, particularly those in the field of public libraries, and this important theme also was reflected in the programme of the Rome session of 1951.(31)

It is not surprising that in the hard post-war period – as had been the case in the twenties – needs for material and intellectual exchanges of all kinds, as well as for personal contacts on a wide basis, played a preponderant part. Therefore, the idea of yet another World Congress came up, and intensive preparations were taken in hand. It was to be held in the United States in 1948, but had to be postponed to 1950 on account of organizational complications. But the financial and economic depression did after all not allow the implementation of the project, carefully planned by the American Vice-President Lord. The, already mentioned, second London session was arranged to replace it.

Occasionally, the criticism was voiced that the IFLA leaders of those years had too long neglected to adapt the Federation to the fundamentally changed circumstances and to reorganize its programme and working methods.(32) As a matter of fact, only minor innovations had been introduced, and activities had been going on much as before the war. In 1948, however, the duration of the annual sessions had been extended to three or four days, so as to make available more time for committee meetings. Several critical suggestions had been put forward, aimed at improving the procedures followed in the various committees. In this context E. J. Carter's constructive *Notes on the conduct of committee business by correspondence*, presented in 1948, merit attention. The Unesco representative hoped to ensure greater efficiency from more stable committee membership, continuing activities and better meeting techniques.(33) In the 1951 Rome Session, T. Kleberg (Uppsala) once again put forward his useful propositions for more efficient preparation of committee meetings by advance submission, reproduction and distribution of working papers.(34) This was the beginning of a whole series of suggestions and reorganization proposals, made on behalf of Scandinavian librarians whose meritorious work served IFLA well during the next decade, in drawing the attention to tenacious imperfections which gave Secretary General Sevensma cause for repeated complaints.

The role of President Munthe (1947–1951)

Though IFLA's general development in post-war years was initially marked by too great a dependence on out-dated structures and working methods, that is by extensive traditionalism, the reproach of a lack of driving dynamism and decisive restructuring appears excessive and even unjustified. Recalling the extent of material and intellectual damages of which the numerous annual reports in the *Actes* present altogether an appalling picture and furnish a multitude of enlightening aspects, it becomes abundantly clear that some priorities ought to occupy pride of place on the scene of international cooperation and understanding. Basic needs for reconstruction, of re-establishing contact, and reconciliation were at stake, the foundations of mutual trust, for the provision of books, for general solidarity and helpfulness must be restored. All energy had to be concentrated on these urgent day-to-day tasks, and for the fulfilment of this mission the Norwegian President was the right man at the right time.

Munthe belonged to the old IFLA guard and had become long since familiar with its needs, problems and responsibilities. With his personality bearing the imprint of Anglo-Saxon and German culture, he was known to be an outstanding expert on American librarianship and the author of a much appreciated book: *American librarianship from a European angle*. But his personal qualities of goodness and simplicity, his helpfulness and convincing humanity were at that time even more greatly appreciated than his professional competence. Such a representative and ambassador of goodwill who could not be overlooked (also because of his tallness) had certainly found his rightful place at this time of difficult new beginnings.

The opening speeches of Munthe contained no exalted reflections and theoretical expositions, no projects for renovation or programmes for the future. They dealt with practical requirements of the moment, and were sufficiently important as the growth towards better future relationships depended on the solution of the problems caused by the consequences of the war. The speeches concerned events in the library community seen against the general background of economic, social and political difficulties and dangers that threatened to choke reconstruction and international cooperation. In London (1948) Munthe spoke of disappointments and lost hope, of new international unrest and political upheavals. "The ideals we fought for seem to be farther away than ever. Shall our most urgent concern be to prepare bigger evacuation premises, to dig deeper anti-air raid – nay, anti-atomic bombshelters in which we can bury the intellectual treasures we have in our custody? Shall we, the torch bearers of enlightenment, end as gravediggers of science and scholarship?" (35) Words like these can be explained from the then prevalent insecurity and anxiety, stirred up by the marked ideological contrast between East and West, by the iron curtain and cold war. Munthe called upon librarians to contribute to the reinforcement of intellectual life in the countries devastated by the war – in spite of all barriers and threats, and to support all beneficial forces in shaping new modes of thought in accordance with Abraham Lincoln's famous words: "with malice toward none, with charity for all". The Anglo-Saxon countries had already started with generous help in book provision, and Denmark and Switzerland had followed their example. The greatest encouragement could be found in the existence and work of Unesco. Its basic principles, tasks and objectives to further education, science and culture were identical with IFLA's goals, and from this community of purpose there flowed the obligation to engage in close and fruitful cooperation.

Filled with abhorrence against the Nazi regime of lawlessness and brutality Munthe advocated in the same speech, bravely and passionately, the resumption and normalization of relations with a Germany that was still being boycotted everywhere. Munthe felt that the German people had been punished more severely than the Allies had intended, and was lying prostrate and bleeding in material and spiritual misery. In face of this tragedy, librarians should not act as mere onlookers, but help lift the Germans out of their intellectual isolation and bring them once more into European society and the realm of Western thought. (36) Munthe pointed to former significant supernational achievements of German librarianship and named eminent contemporary colleagues like Leyh, Predeek, Ackerknecht and Uhlendahl who had nothing in common with the Nazis but had stood for their personal convictions.

In this manner Munthe cleared the way for the new-established German library associations to rejoin IFLA. The Verein Deutscher Bibliothekare did so at the Berne session (1949), and the Verein Deutscher Volksbibliothekare followed a year later. Gustav Hofmann was the first German to be elected to the IFLA presidency, in 1958.

Looking back to this period it can be said that for IFLA it was a transitory stage of reflection and of gathering the forces of tradition, of examining the possibilities, preliminary to starting the process of reconstruction. In the midst of world-wide fateful destruction of material and intellectual property, of far-reaching economic distress and insecurity, the primary need was to consolidate the traditional platform of community and solidarity into support of international library cooperation and the promotion of purposeful aid actions. Circumstances were not favourable for extensive reorganization measures or large-scale programme planning. Everybody was weighed down by heavy every-day duties, so much so that the skin of national preoccupations was closer than the loose-fitting shirt of world problems, and short-term thinking tended to govern decisions as well as activities. Another fact should be borne in mind when judging this difficult period of transition: sound infrastructures belong to the minimum conditions for efficient and fruitful international cooperation, in our case stable, capable independent organisms at the level of national librarianship. Not the least among President Munthe's accomplishments was his realism, which made him restrict his tireless efforts to carrying out IFLA's immediate tasks.

Fundamental reorganization and crisis of growth (1952–1969)

Various explanations can be found for the quick loss of validity of the traditional concepts, structures and working methods that still predominated in IFLA during the immediate post-war period. They had become too narrow and patriarchal, and in the early fifties their inadequacy, and the urgent need for reform made themselves increasingly felt. Only some aspects of the spectacular change are described here once again: the rapid acceleration of the process of transformation in all economic, social, political and cultural fields, caused by the gigantic development of technology; the continents drawing nearer to each other in a world-wide traffic constellation, with its ensuing communication and information needs; the greatly increased importance of libraries and documentation centres in an era in which almost 90 per cent of all the scholars brought forth in the history of mankind are flourishing and active, and in which the democratization of knowledge has the highest claim to education and culture; the challenges connected not only with the possibilities opened up by automation and electronic developments, but with the new audiovisual media and the apparatus of technology and civilization in general, as well.

Other facts of great consequence were added to these after 1950, and confronted international library cooperation with new tasks and problems: Europe's retreat from its central position in the world, the end of the era of imperialist colonialism, the Socialist countries' growing participation in cultural cooperation, and lastly, the stronger self-assurance of the Third World and the demands based on it.

Attention should be drawn here to some significant differences in conceptions and methods between the former International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation and Unesco, which clearly reflect the change that had occurred in the social and intellectual world situation. Fundamentally, and in spite of their universal inter-

ests, the League of Nations and its Cultural Institute were – as an intrinsically European concern – directed by men acting on the assumption that European culture was nominative for the whole world, or could be made to be. Unesco, on the contrary, together with a number of related multilateral organizations, is founded on the opinion that a world culture may be an objective for the far future, but cannot form a starting point for its activities. And this objective should be pursued on the basis of common ideals and equality and by furthering autochthonous national values.(37)

In the development constellation of the next twentyfive years, IFLA had to anchor its place and role in close involvement with related governmental and non-governmental organizations. The almost confusing profusion of tasks was fortunately offset by a steadily growing phalanx of outstanding librarians, who as representatives of widely differing nations and a broad range of specific professional occupations, promoted IFLA's cause with competence and idealism. They did this not only in the committees that were of fundamental importance, but also in the planning and advisory groups as well as in the enlarged Executive Board and at external seminars and conferences. Increasingly, the Presidents had to depend on the ever more indispensable collective collaboration. In spite of this, their role of guiding representatives, as initiators and promoters of general development, was a decisive one. The various stages in this development can therefore rightly be identified by the names of successive presidents.

The era of Pierre Bourgeois (1951–1958)

Pierre Bourgeois was the second Director of the Schweizerische Landesbibliothek (Berne) to become President of IFLA. No more suitable personality could have been found in that particular stage of IFLA's development to adapt the Federation to the conditions of modern times and to undertake with foresight and energy the work of reorganization. Bourgeois was made altogether of a different clay than former IFLA presidents. A natural scientist by origins, open to the realm of technology, a federalist by conviction and an efficient organizer, easy to contact, although as bachelor at the same time personally aloof and cool, a good public speaker and linguist, he knew how to carry through his conceptions in a convincing way and to instigate initiatives in accordance with his mind. He was not a man to reflect upon the past, but looked towards the future. Various experiences had enriched him through his work in the "Maison de la Chimie" in Paris, as Director of the Bibliothek der Eidgenösslichen Technischen Hochschule (Zurich) and as a Vice-President of FID. His close contacts with documentalists, with whom IFLA had up to then merely maintained diplomatic contacts, were at the time regarded as a favourable sign of better cooperation in the future. His successor characterized him: "Als Meister auf dem glatten Parkett internationaler Bibliothekspolitik wusste er mit einzigartiger Gewandtheit und umfassendster Sachkenntnis auf der Klaviatur, die dem Präsidenten zur Verfügung steht, zu spielen. Er war aber noch mehr, denn mit Herz und Seele war er seiner Aufgabe ganz verbunden."(38)

An Advocate of Reform and Revision of the Statutes

All Bourgeois' opening speeches at annual sessions were impregnated with his conception of the need to reorganize IFLA, change its structure and programme of activities, and its methods of work. His purposeful expositions were statements of reasons, directives and, at the same time, appeals for action to meet the contemporary and future requirements. He characterized IFLA's situation not so much as a crisis of weakness but rather as "une crise de croissance saine et normale" (39) to be overcome. What Bourgeois had in mind was a truly world-wide federative organization with regional footings, set up according to purpose, and effectively coordinating various activities. He presented three principal reasons for the urgently needed reform: the multiplication and differentiation of the tasks facing IFLA, geographic expansion, and the necessity of making it operative – as soon as possible – as an executive organ of the library programme of Unesco. To reach this objective, the Statutes must be revised, the younger generation be mobilized, a greater publishing activity undertaken, and a more solid financial foundation established. Speedy action was called for, as in Bourgeois' opinion no further time should be lost. "Si nous n'y parvenons point, nous verrions bientôt les tâches qui nous incombent reprises de nos mains par d'autres organisations, car la vie n'attend pas les retardataires." (40)

The revision of the Statutes was taken in hand very soon after he took office. At the Copenhagen session (1952) the Statutes were discussed and adopted. They entered into force in the beginning of 1953. (41) The following changes had been made: The old name International Library Committee was changed to IFLA-Council, and the sub-committees were renamed committees. The regular convening of international congresses did no longer figure among the main tasks of IFLA. They were, however, briefly mentioned. In a separate paragraph, containing the provision that such congresses might be organized every five years. As for membership, it was now emphasized that national and international associations with related interests could also join the Federation. The Executive Board was enlarged with a Treasurer. The statutory provision that there should be at least two Vice-Presidents, opened the prospect of extending the Board with additional Vice-Presidents. The term of office of Board Members was fixed at five years: re-election was possible with the exception of the President. Continuity was safeguarded by the provision that, as Past-President he would remain an ex-officio Board member for the next term of office. The traditional annual delegates' meeting was now statutorily established. Of lasting importance was the possibility of creating professional and regional sections, i.e. specific working units for carrying out any tasks extending beyond the field of a committee, and concerning entire categories of library as well as particular geographic regions.

The revision of the Statutes, which should be flexible, afford freedom of movement for developments not to be foreseen, and also promote a regrouping of available forces, formed, indeed, a sound basis for IFLA's activities in the future. Bourgeois regarded this revision as a mere starting point for the further transformations which always formed the nucleus of his speeches, his publications and the

measures he took. In this exchange of views with Georg Leyh, who had criticized IFLA's activities in the *Nordisk Tidskrift för Bok- och Biblioteksväsen* (1953), is highly significant. His response *Quelques considérations sur l'évolution de la FIAB* was at the same time a striking criticism, a profession of IFLA's universal responsibilities, and a constructive programme. He pointed out that Leyh, in his wish to eliminate some of the most rewarding activities and committees that promised well for the future, was basing himself on arguments rooted in the past and limited to the horizons of Europe. Only by better work, openmindedness towards the future, and the acceptance of new, world-wide responsibilities could IFLA's efficiency be improved, young adherents be attracted, and sufficient funds be secured, not by a limitation of its professional activities. "Nous avons la conviction que ce n'est point en restreignant nos activités que nous ouvrirons à la FIAB le chemin de l'avenir. C'est au contraire en élargissant notre horizon et en nous organisant de sorte à pouvoir assumer toutes les fonctions que le monde nous propose aujourd'hui . . . Comprendons le monde, et le monde nous comprendra".(42)

At the time the President spent much time and effort, and the Board lengthy discussion on the subject of fruitful cooperation with related international organizations, and specifically with FID and the International Association of Music Libraries. Founded with help from Unesco, the latter wished to conserve its independence. They should also conform to the ideas of Unesco and its rationalization measures, and aim at achieving efficient coordination. Unesco would have liked to see the establishment of a loosely organized superbody grouping the non-governmental organizations already mentioned, and including also the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and had held out the prospect of a global subvention. The Unesco plan for an interprofessional committee (Comité de Liaison) was under discussion for several years, but it met with as little answering love as the plan to amalgamate the library and documentation federations into one legal body. There were too many heterogeneous elements and differences between the various organizations, and those between IFLA and FID brought repeated tension and controversy. The plan was never ratified and finally abandoned in 1955.(43)

The Brussels World Congress of 1955 and its consequences

That useful cooperation was clearly shown by the most spectacular event to occur during the Bourgeois presidency: the Third International Congress of Libraries and Documentation Centres, organized in Brussels in 1955, after two years of preparation. Important financial support had been made available by Unesco for this purpose, also in the interest of its policy of unification and coordination. It had recommended to bring in the AIBM next to IFLA and FID. Thus there were three large parallel conferences in the framework of a monster congress for librarians, documentalists and music librarians, respectively. Common sessions were held on the theme: *The tasks and responsibilities of libraries and documentation centres in modern life*. In the substantial first volume of the Congress proceedings and the concise introductory reports can be found the names of most of the prominent librarians who distinguished themselves in IFLA's history at the time.(44)

Attended by over a thousand persons from approximately fifty countries, who could dispose of three volumes of working papers totalling 800 pages, as well as of piles of printed matter, the Brussels World Congress has been severely criticized by a majority among the participants, and even called a fiasco. The leaders of IFLA would also have preferred a more restricted regional and purely library congress, but in the face of almost unsurmountable difficulties, the organizers had no alternative but to try and save any positive elements from a situation prejudiced by the Unesco subvention. By Herculean effort they largely succeeded in doing this. Their first concern was not with professional substance but rather library and cultural policy objectives. The Congress was the first great post-war manifestation in aid of the book and its fundamental importance, and promote supra-national library cooperation for modern life, wholly in the sense of the President's words: "Le livre restera toujours la source inépuisable du savoir humain, la pierre angulaire de la culture, le meilleur messenger spirituel entre les peuples"(45) Broadly based on useful personal contacts and fruitful exchanges of experience, the World Congress did result in a revival of IFLA as well as in continuing impulse to the benefit of its programme and structure.

Regrouping and Activation of energies

Three international associations joined the ranks of IFLA at Brussels: the International Association of Theological Libraries, the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists (IAALD) and the International Association of Technical University Libraries (IATUL). The latter had been created by E. Hemlin (Göteborg) and had rapidly grown strong, for it found a large field to cultivate, as the IFLA committees for special libraries and for standardization had unfortunately been abolished in 1952. Now IATUL, as an IFLA Section with its own series of publications, was to fulfil an important function of liaison and co-ordination with FID.

At the Munich conference of 1956, the President rendered account of the regrouping of activities which was still in progress. SIBMAS (Société internationale des bibliothèques et musées des arts du spectacle), founded in 1954 and very actively led by A. Veinstein (Paris), was among the newly established sections. Next to the Section of Public Libraries that was in charge of the highly appreciated IFLA Vice-President R. McColvin (London), had come, since the Vienna Session (1953), the young but very promising Section of National and University Libraries, growing yearly more important under the inspiring leadership of its chairman, Frank Francis (London). This Section in particular had received durable impulses from projects inaugurated at the Brussels Congress. This was also true of the programme of the Committee for Rare and Precious Books, revived at Munich and directed by R. Brun (Paris). Its members were primarily concerned with problems of conservation and restoration, as well as with the cataloguing and reproduction of valuable collections. Another committee being essentially activated was that for Union Catalogues, furthered above all by its extremely competent chairman

L. Brummel (The Hague), author of one of Unesco's bibliographic handbooks on this subject. He applied the same tact and energy to the direction of the Committee for International Loans.

At the Madrid Session (1958), an Ibero-American Library Committee was constituted, aiming at the creation of separate working groups in accordance with IFLA's own structure. The new body joined IFLA as a Section and offered promising prospects of fruitful cooperation with a remote region, and with several countries of the Third World.

A memorable event that was to have many consequences for international cooperation was the Symposium on European National Libraries, organized in Vienna by Unesco in close cooperation with IFLA, and lasting three full weeks. J. Stummvoll, Director General of the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, acted as host. At another session in Vienna (1953) he had already impressed IFLA delegates with an exceptionally instructive critical report on his library development mission to Iran, and the problems of Unesco's Technical Assistance Programme.(46) A very useful accomplishment of this period, facilitating the general exchange of experience and information as well as the maintenance of contacts between sessions, was – since 1953 – the quarterly issuing of *IFLA Communications*, incorporated in the international library journal *Libri* published at Copenhagen. Sixteen printed pages contained not only reports on the activities of the Executive Board and the various sections and committees, but also offered colleagues from everywhere the opportunity of sending in articles and express their views. The President hoped first of all to enlist the cooperation of members of the younger generation. *IFLA Communications* published in this way the Sevensma-Prize essay of E. Egger (Berne) who distinguished himself at the time by his active participation in international library work.(47)

At the invitation of the President, the meritorious pioneer of Indian librarianship, Professor Ranganathan (Delhi) gave in 1954 vent to his criticism on this forum, established by the way, with the assistance of a supplementary Unesco subvention. He wrote from the angle of a developing country. His article: *IFLA – what it should be and do* contained complaints and expostulations, programme demands and exhortations. He mainly criticized the fact that IFLA still had not grown into a truly international organization, that the West-European/North-American element was still predominant, that still too strong remnants of pre-war imperialism lingered on, particularly among the feudal old guard, who did not allow the broader-minded younger generation to come into its own. Also, that developing countries were forced to accept elements of Western culture and that the Third World gathering strength did not receive sufficient encouragement and opportunities. Ranganathan demanded a larger representation and cooperation for the developing countries and the neglected regions of the modern world in IFLA committees and other groups, in particularly on the Executive Board, and put forward the wish to see its seats distributed proportionally: Western Europe and North America 40 per cent, Asia 20 per cent, Eastern Europe, Africa, Latin America and Australia 10 per cent each.(48)

Up till the end of his presidency P. Bourgeois worked for the reorganization of IFLA, which had grown from 53 to 64 national member associations from 42 countries, with 4 international members. He tried to establish a more effective field of activities, to improve working methods and to create the requisite financial basis. At the sessions in Paris (1957) and Madrid (1958), he presented a new project for discussion, that could not be started immediately, but was a suitable incentive for further development. A working group was to be established for the purpose of preparing a long-term comprehensive programme of activities (*Comité des voies et moyens*). In Madrid it was announced that this task had been initially entrusted to the *Enlarged Board*, to which belonged the Section and Committee chairmen. This body, meeting for the first time in 1958, was to grow increasingly important, for it proved to be necessary to establish this common collaboration and responsibility on a larger basis. Another innovation was propounded at that time: the Executive Board would in future be convened at least once in the months between the annual sessions.

This measure was required in the interest of the constructive re-organization proposals made at the time by the Scandinavian librarians with the objective of increasing IFLA's effectiveness. These propositions aimed at more rational working methods for the committees, timely submission, translation and reproduction of papers and resolutions, improved contacts between chairmen and committee members, and between these bodies and national library associations. They also advocated a structural change to provide for representation of the most important kinds of libraries on the Executive Board, and stimulated the discussion of various problem complexes, amongst other matters, mention was made of the need for a full-time Secretariat.(49)

The detailed discussion of the Scandinavian proposals in Madrid (1958) and the repeated complaints of the Secretary General and the committee chairmen about insufficient contact, failing replies and lack of continuity in the professional work, showed up the imperfections and insufficiencies of IFLA's structure and working methods, in spite of the progress made during the fifties.

The financial situation had been consolidated, thanks to the helpful patronage of Unesco, which had furnished, apart from the regular subventions, additional grants for publications and concluded contracts for specific projects. In 1957 these grants amounted to approximately 7500 Swiss francs. President Bourgeois was of the opinion that progress was too slow. At the Madrid session he happily announced that the American Council on Library Resources, of which Verner Clapp was the Director, strongly interested in world-wide library cooperation, had voted a subvention of \$ 20,000 for the preparation of an international conference on the unification of cataloguing rules.(50) A Preliminary Conference was to be held in London in 1959, and an information bulletin was to be issued for this purpose. The door had been opened to a great new venture.

Upon Bourgeois' retirement from the Presidency in 1958, IFLA found itself in the midst of evolution and in a process of complete reorganization that required the mobilization of all available energies.

IFLA under the Presidency of Gustav Hofmann (1958–1963)

In Madrid Gustav Hofmann (Munich), Director General of the Bayerischen Staatlichen Bibliotheken, was elected President as successor to Bourgeois. Hofmann was a successful and highly esteemed champion of German librarianship – then in the throes of renovation and confronted with common tasks of a supra-regional nature. The way in which this challenge was met could well serve as an example to other libraries finding themselves in similar circumstances. A Vice-President since 1952, and having thoroughly familiarized himself with IFLA's problems, his wide experience enabled him to cope with the difficulties caused by the elections and various measures taken in Madrid. Almost all members of the Board had been replaced, and the Secretary General had retired at the same time as Bourgeois. Aged 79 years, Sevensma had devoted himself to IFLA through three decades. He was made Honorary President in appreciation of his outstanding merit. Drastic changes were made in the management of the Federation. Breycha-Vauthier, the Director of the United Nations Library at Geneva, who had come to embody part of IFLA's history, was willing to continue to make his time and great experience available to IFLA, untiringly and with perfect tact. Having taken over the treasurership, which was to be detached from the Secretariat and recognized as an independent service, Breycha was yet willing to give, for a time, his active support and sound advice to the new Secretariat in Munich. J. Wieder (Munich) had been appointed Secretary to the President on a part-time basis, but already in the spring of 1960, soon after having taken up his task, new full-time professional duties forced him to relegate his pressing IFLA work to his leisure time. Of the former Executive Board there remained only the French and the British Vice-Presidents, J. Cain (Paris) and R. McColvin (London). Both were outstanding personalities. IFLA continued to benefit especially from the former's great authority and influential contacts, particular with Unesco by his presidency of the Advisory Committee on Bibliography, Documentation and Terminology.

For the rest, six new Vice-Presidents were elected in Madrid (1958). J. Dalton (New York) replaced D. Bryant (Cambridge, Mass.). Italy was represented by Mrs. Laura De Felice-Olivieri, Director of the Central National Library in Rome (the first woman Executive Board member), and Spain by C. Goicoechea, Director of the Spanish National Library in Madrid. He was put in charge of the relations that were envisaged with the Ibero-American Library Section. With G. Ottervik (Göteborg), an active Scandinavian advocate of international library work entered the Board, where he long remained the responsible editor of *IFLA Communications*. In response to the demands voiced by the Public Libraries Section for adequate representation of their particular interests in the Executive Board, G. A. van Riemsdijk (Amsterdam) was elected to the Board. A hard offensive had preceded this decision.⁽⁵¹⁾ The sixth Vice-President elected was J. Stummvoll (Vienna). His part in international cooperation has already been mentioned.

During Hofmann's presidency the following changes occurred in the membership of the Executive Board. They were often related to new activities, trends or em-

phases developing in IFLA's work. At the Warsaw Session (1959) an additional Vice-President, Mme Hélène Więckowska (Łódź, Poland) was elected. She became also the chairman of the Committee on Library Buildings, set up to meet the urgent needs of the time. As a very active and skilful champion of supraregional cooperation, Mme Więckowska did, moreover, constructive work in paving the way for the Socialist countries of Eastern Europe to become more effectively involved in international library tasks. In Edinburgh (1961) the Board was reinforced by the election of a highly esteemed authority, deeply involved in IFLA activities, L. Brummel (The Hague). In Berne (1962) F. Hutchings (Leeds) replaced McColvin whose health had failed, and J. Lasso de la Vega succeeded his compatriot Goicoechea. President and Board members shared the conviction that any inflationary development of IFLA's leading body should be prevented. The number of Vice-Presidents was, therefore, limited to ten in the official interpretation of the Statutes propounded in 1959, which were primarily concerned with IFLA membership for central professional institutions represented by librarians, and for related government agencies. At the time a seat on the Board was reserved for an Asian Vice-President, but the not very active Asiatic library organization could not be persuaded to nominate a suitable candidate.

Features and Accomplishments of Hofmann's Administration

Hofmann's principal historical achievement was his perception of the need to pursue effectively the reorganization of IFLA's structure, programme and methods, begun by Bourgeois, and to act with caution in keeping with the requirements of the rapidly changing conditions, to establish priorities, restrict activities to essentials, activate resources and awaken initiatives. During his term of office, characterized by a progress in leaps and bounds, there occurred a series of events of extreme importance for IFLA's reputation and future development: the Paris cataloguing conference (1961), the admission in the same year to the highest category (A) of consultative status with Unesco, the establishment of a central Secretariat in Munich (1962/63) and the publication of the long-term programme *Libraries in the World* (1963). Hofmann not only knew how to recruit for these projects a remarkable team of excellent collaborators and experts, and ensure suitable conditions for their work, but was also personally involved in the preparation and execution of various projects by producing drafts, practical suggestions and encouragement.

His personal qualities and professional experience helped him in this. Hofmann's opening addresses at annual sessions also bore the mark of his personality. By his openmindedness and urbanity, foresight and realist attitude, humorous wisdom and winning humanity, modesty and subtle tact, he was able to guide IFLA, kindly and with quiet authority through the second phase of its organizational and structural transformation. Always intent up on fostering traditional values and making the best of all opportunities, he warned against utopian projects, sought to avoid the supremacy of the apparatus, and defended the sound basis of human cooperation against the dangers of over-organization and too rigid planning. With

reference to the example set by the Scandinavian countries in their policy of regional cooperation, Hofmann said in Lund (1960): "Considering the rapid extension of our Federation, such groupings of countries with similar library conditions seem to me more than ever indispensable, or else IFLA will run the risk of becoming a monster organization . . . The fact is, that neither vague lofty aims and enthusiasm, nor a multitude of participants, a wide sphere of schemes and assiduous work will suffice to save an international organization from tumbling down like the Tower of Babel".(52) Again and again he stressed the need for decentralization and a federative structure, such as he found exemplified in the democratic spirit and life of truly international Switzerland, like he stated at Berne (1962). Citing Bourgeois, he liked to allude to a gardener whose duty lay in looking after the plants in his care, allowing for their inherent possibilities for development, in the interest of maintaining a harmonious whole. He wished in the same way to foster IFLA as a living, multiform cultural organism, although aware of the hard and lengthy way to be travelled between collective good will and collective action. The inadequacies and problems inherent in international cooperation and understanding should be faced with patience and leniency, perseverance and singlemindedness, but also with rationalized energies and a precise programme of activities concentrated on urgent projects. The President's speeches, rich in content, were mostly concerned with fundamental questions related to international cooperation, appealed to the initiative of member associations and accompanied IFLA's work with inspiration, explanation and encouragement. They also spoke of accomplishments like:

The *International Conference on Cataloguing Principles*, Paris (1961), a memorable event, rich in consequences. Delegates from 53 countries and 12 international organizations as well as 104 observers from 20 countries attended. Convened by Unesco, it was strongly subventioned by the Council on Library Resources which once more provided 95,000 Dollars for the official manifestation under IFLA auspices. An important agreement was reached, a notable forward step in the field of international unification of cataloguing principles and recommending further measures which were purposefully promoted in the following years by the IFLA competent Committee. The lasting success of the Paris Conference was largely due to the untiring efforts of its expert Executive Secretary A. H. Chaplin (London), who long continued to play a very important part in various IFLA Committees. His first official conference report appeared in 1962 in 25 editions and 11 languages; the final version was published in 1963.(53)

Two more conferences were promoted by IFLA during 1961. Both provided fruitful inspiration to the cause of international library cooperation. In Delft, librarians from Technical Universities from 11 countries met with representatives of FID and IAALD. They discussed not only management rationalization, but also the compilation of an international *Telecode*, a directory and list of abbreviations for telex use in all categories of libraries and information centres.(54) In Paris was held the 5th International Congress of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts. Under the direction of A. Veinstein (Paris) there had been published a useful

reference work, the *Repertoire of Libraries and Museums of the Performing Arts*. Apart from the 6th edition of the *IFLA Repertoire*, containing information, only one of the publications in which IFLA was involved, can be noted here, the library bestseller *Guide to Union Catalogues and International Loans* (1961) compiled by Brummel and Egger on the basis of long inquiries.

The establishment of the Central Secretariat

The establishment of a permanent central Secretariat had become unavoidable as a result of the explosive growth of the Federation since the late fifties. Its worldwide geographical expansion was bound up with a multiplication of all work of an organizational and administrative nature. A few dates may serve to illustrate this development. In 1958 IFLA counted 64 member associations in 42 countries; in 1963 there were already 88 in over 50 countries in all continents but Australia. Particularly important was the affiliation of the Central Library Council of the Soviet Union in 1959, ushering in a new period of useful cooperation with Eastern Europe and the socialist countries, as well as the membership of several international organizations like the IALL (International Association of Law Libraries) and AIL (Association of International Libraries). The renewal of the Latin-American Section and the growing number of member associations in developing countries clamouring for support were for IFLA a rousing call to face its responsibilities and duties towards the pressing need to carry out activities in countries outside Europe.

These facts combined with a number of successful IFLA activities and the convincing appeals of the President and the Honorary Secretary completely overloaded with work, finally caused Unesco to augment its annual subventions to 10,000 dollars, as from 1961/62. This opened the prospect of a provisional solution for establishing a permanent Secretariat. 6,500 dollars of the Unesco subvention could be used for this project, initiated by E. N. Petersen, the Head of the Unesco Libraries Division, who was thinking of an information centre in Paris that would also be responsible for the editing of a bibliographic and documentation publication of Unesco. During 1961 there were long negotiations with a view of creating a second IFLA Secretariat in Paris. As it could not be housed at Unesco Headquarters, the Bibliothèque Nationale was generously willing to make available suitable premises. J. Cain and the Direction des Bibliothèques also came forward with a candidate who was to take on secretarial work on a half-day basis. After laborious deliberations, mainly on the difficult subject of the division of work between the two secretariats, the project had to be abandoned for financial reasons.(55)

In the summer of 1962, however, the librarian Maria Razumovsky (Vienna), seconded by the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, took over as Interim Secretary at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich, which supplied much administrative assistance. With tact, dash and devotion to duty she applied herself to her new task, and so her name will remain linked to the difficult beginnings of the first Central Secretariat, and also with the publication of the first modest but very

useful *IFLA News Bulletin*. Towards the end of the year she was relieved by Anthony Thompson (London). Author of the well-known *Vocabularium Bibliothecarii*, and having gained varied international experience, energetic and endowed with extraordinary linguistic skills, he combined singleness of purpose with an unselfish idealism. (56) It was a fortunate coincidence that IFLA, still rested on an insecure financial basis, had found this loyal man who was prepared disinterestedly to reconcile himself initially with restricted working conditions and a very modest personal remuneration. For eight years he was to be involved with IFLA's fate, in an influential position. Before leaving Munich he drew a picture of the permanent Secretariat's beginnings. Its creation was of fundamental importance for IFLA's future development. "Its mother, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, a kind and generous parent, has provided it liberally with comfort and shelter; its father, our President Dr. Hofmann, has guided and educated it, and made new rules for its behaviour; but I cannot forget the selfless services of the doctor who attended its birth, Dr. J. Wieder, who also fought beforehand for the existence of a permanent secretariat, and who since its birth in 1962 has been its constant patient adviser. We should all be grateful to him for spending his time, his linguistic gifts, and his enthusiastic understanding of international work on building up our Federation". (57)

Long-term Programme and Preparation of new Statutes

Ever since the President, praising the example of FID's long-term policy, had – already at the Session in Lund and Malmö (1960) called for a long-term programme of IFLA activities, this important project had figured on the agenda. The President himself had at once presented a first draft. Almost all Sections and Commissions occupied themselves with this theme, as did the Executive Board, that had provided the former with directives. But beyond this, the project encountered little resonance, as can be seen from the Secretary's complaints about the lack of interest and initiatives on behalf of the membership. In the end, upon consultations with various individual experts, a small working group was set up to finalize the project. It consisted of highly competent librarians of wide experience: Sir Frank Francis, F. G. B. Hutchings, H. Liebaers and L. Brummel. The latter had a decisive part in the substance as well as the form of the publication issued in 1963 in English and French under the title: *Libraries in the World*. This manifesto was an impressive evaluation and action programme, a beacon for the next decade of development. The President introduced the long-term programme, the existing situation and its challenge in monumental phrases: "Five years ago the International Federation of Library Associations was predominantly a forum for librarianship in Western Europe with some support from the United States. Now it is an organization of world-wide scope representing libraries in 52 countries. This is something more than growth; it implies a radical change in responsibility and a considerable extension of activities. These, in turn, make an impact on the structure of the organization itself". (58)

To enable IFLA to master the multitude of pressing tasks on the widest possible basis, it had become necessary, once the central Secretariat had been set up, to provide the Federation with new Statutes as a guarantee for future stability and continuity. Therefore Hofmann urged a statutory reform, which during 1962 and 1963 made the subject of careful inquiries and numerous meetings. At the Sofia Session (1963) – where, moreover, for the first time excellent simultaneous interpretation facilitated the discussions, and allowed the Russian language to come into its own – the President unfolded in a detailed presentation and explanation the principles that should underlie the revision. They can be summarized under the following key words: reduction in size of the Executive Board and extending the responsibility to the Enlarged or Advisory Board, to which belong the chairmen and secretaries of all Sections and Committees; shorter terms-of-office and alternating changes of officers; clear differentiation of offices that should not culminate by any one person; balanced distribution of voting and election right in the General Council of Delegates; abolition of monster congresses, and more regional conferences instead; decentralization of tasks and structures by the formation of regional IFLA Groups; avoidance of all national or professional ambitions, representation or prestige pretensions in favour of practical and objective usefulness; fewer moral appeals and more contact with authorities and financial powers; maintenance of unity in its multiformity.(59)

The departing President left his project of structural reform as a kind of legacy. The revision largely prepared by him remained the basis of the final consultations and editing of the revised Statutes that came into force under his successor in 1964. The newly elected President, Sir Frank Francis, proposed, after the retirement of Gustav Hofmann, to extend the terms of office of the remaining Board members until the Statutes should have been adopted. He also proposed the co-optation of the already designated Vice-Presidents F. M. Gardner (London), P. Kirkegaard (Copenhagen), H. Liebaers (Brussels) and V. I. Shunkov (Moscow) so that they could participate in the deliberation on the revision draft. The distinguished librarian from Moscow was very welcome, and certainly not only on account of the insistent demand, voiced on behalf of the Bulgarian side, of having a representative from the Soviet Union on the Executive Board.(60) Sir Frank said of his predecessor: “Under his gentle and courteous, yet firm and informed guidance, the International Federation of Library Associations has been put into a strong position for the development which he has done so much to foster”.(61)

IFLA's development during the Presidency of Sir Frank Francis and up till the Secretariat's removal to the Hague (1964–1970)

The revised Statutes, finally officially adopted at the Rome Session (1964) were of lasting importance for the further dynamic development of IFLA, above all during the second half of the sixties. The most significant new provisions are mentioned here: Next to the full members with voting rights came associated members without the right to vote, to which belonged individual libraries, central bibliographic institutes and other institutions concerned with library matters. In

addition to the old Executive Board, now to consist of the President, only four Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary General, there was created a Consultative Committee formed by the Executive Board and the chairmen and secretaries of all Sections and Committees together with one representative of the regional groups. The terms of office of the officers was limited to three years with the possibility of one re-election. The President and the Vice-Presidents should represent different geographical regions, library systems and types of library. A chairman and secretary should be elected for each Section and Committee. International congresses were foreseen from time to time only. The general assembly was renamed General Council.(62) The changes made in the Statutes aimed to make IFLA's structures more flexible to cope with its universal tasks, to improve the Board's executive power by restricting its size, and to promote the direct co-operation in international common tasks on a broad basis by enlarging the Advisory Committee.

In the course of the years IFLA steadily grew, and this was generally true also of the attendance at the annual conferences, the many and varied publications and the great activity of the Secretariat eager to develop contacts and disseminate information. A few figures may serve as illustration. As far as the membership was concerned, there was no great increase in the number of library associations, primarily caused by the elimination of a number of passive associations that failed to pay their dues. The number of associate members grew, on the contrary, very rapidly from 12 in 1965 to 150 in 1969. The swelling popularity of the annual sessions gave cause for some anxiety. In Rome (1964) more than 350 participants had turned up. In Frankfurt/Main (1968) there were over 400, and in Copenhagen (1969) approximately 470. The ever more attractive social events and cultural manifestations tempted relatives, library tourists, and hangers-on to come too. This massive attendance caused serious organizational and financial problems, and threatened above all the substance of the professional programme and the financial yield. Critical voices were not lacking. They pointed to the dangers of suffocation and paralysis threatening the professional discussions; also of a misapprehension of the discipline of work and time.(63) L. Brummel, J. P. Danton and J. Stummvoll expressed themselves in this sense. The latter wished to see preserved in a more effective geographical and professional decentralization those components which embodied the IFLA Council: "das geistige und ideelle Zentrum unseres Berufsstandes, das Herz, das neues Blut in unsere Bibliotheken pumpt, die Seele, die um die Behauptung und weitere Vertiefung der Bedeutung der Bibliotheken in einer Zeit ringt, wo alles organisiert, gelenkt, geleitet, beeinflusst und überzeugt werden muss".(64)

How did the President of that time cope with the seemingly unceasing growing crisis of IFLA and the multitude of the complicated urgent tasks and problems? Sir Frank Francis, Director of the British Museum and Principal Keeper of its Library, brought to his new office the wealth gained in the course of a brilliant professional career, and his leadership of IFLA benefitted equally from his experience and valuable contacts as well as from his undisputed authority. Combin-

ing high culture with a winning humanity, a talent for diplomatic negotiation and fine oratory, he possessed at the same time a realistic sense of the obtainable. All these qualities were of great value in that particular phase of IFLA's stormy development. He knew how to unite the new with the old, matters spiritual and material. Already familiar with IFLA activities through his long association with the National Libraries Section and the Cataloguing Committee, he had often represented the Federation's interests in Unesco and at numerous international seminars and conferences.

In his presidential addresses at annual sessions, Sir Frank continued the tradition of linking questions pertaining to principles and programme with an evaluation of achievements and a review of memorable events in the library community. In Rome (1964) he emphasized the urgent current and future fields of action and research: the automation of library functions and the responsible cooperation of librarians in the selection and publication of reprints, photo- and microcopies. (65) Two new committees of undisputed actuality that were to start work in the near future, were announced: for Mechanization and for Reprography. In response to the criticism that the attendance at professional meetings had become too large, he demanded at Helsinki (1965) a strict organization of the meetings, more energetic control of the discussions, and time restrictions for the presentation of papers, so as to meet the legitimate needs of participants and allow adequate opportunity for exchanges of experience. (66)

His speech in The Hague (1966) pointed towards the future, and dwelt on the unheard of changes facing the modern library community brought about by the new possibilities of automation which enabled the libraries to speed up information retrieval and bibliographic control in the interests of reader demands. Sir Frank praised in particular the cooperative project undertaken by the Library of Congress together with other countries and national bibliographies, and in the framework of this modern universal cooperation, the issue of centrally printed catalogue cards. "The acceptance and the implementation of this proposal for shared cataloguing on an international scale would result in a speedier bibliographical control of the materials flowing ever faster into our libraries, would reduce cataloguing costs and would release the energies of our cataloguing forces, which are at present engaged in duplicating each other's efforts a countless number of times in different libraries not only in all parts of the world, but in almost every country under the sun". (67) In these terms he pointed to the new and grandiose perspectives opening up for future IFLA activities, for instance in the universal use of bibliographic information in machine-readable form (MARC). The speech ended in an appeal for ever more active cooperation in order to make available modern electronic techniques for speedy scientific information and literature retrieval without, however, neglecting the human and humanistic tasks that, arising from the noble traditions of the library profession, still formed its very core.

This was also the keynote of his message to the Toronto Session (1967) which — for reasons of health — he was unable to attend. Basing himself on the encyclic

Populorum progressio in which the Pope had formulated some of the world problems connected with the universal thirst for knowledge and education, Sir Frank wrote that librarians should tirelessly apply their knowledge and expertise, to further the progress of mankind, in fulfilment of their spiritual and social mission, and that IFLA had to shoulder its responsibilities in this sphere. "We must recognize the need for re-orientation in our library thinking, work for the development of new concepts and techniques, and aim the efficient adaptation of all our expertise to the circumstances of the great world as it is". For the first time the President touched upon IFLA's great task of cooperating in an International Year of Books and Libraries.(68)

At the last two Sessions of his Presidency, in Frankfurt (1968) and Copenhagen (1969) Sir Frank presented a survey of the activities of the past five years, in which he compared the tasks remaining to be taken up as listed in the long-term programme, published in 1963, with those that had already been completed. He recommended a revised and enlarged edition of *Libraries in the World* which should stress three priorities in international cooperation: the adaptation of largely outdated procedures to library techniques revolutionized by automation and reprography, the mobilization of all available forces to help developing countries, and effective cooperation in modernized professional training and library education.

In order to bring some coordination to the general assemblies with their massive attendance and confusing number and complexity of professional meetings, the annual sessions were since 1966 given a general theme, also to be treated – as far as possible – in the meetings of Sections and Committees. Thus international and linguistic aspects of library services occupied a central place in Helsinki (1965), and in The Hague (1966) Libraries and Documentation, while in Toronto (1967) Library service for a nation covering a large geographical area was mainly treated by North American and Soviet experts. In Frankfurt (1968) Books and libraries in an industrial society were discussed, and in Copenhagen (1969) Library education and research in librarianship. The substantial papers on all these themes were published in *IFLA Communications*, incorporated in *Libri*. They were very useful for the international exchange of information and experience. (The general themes are listed in the IFLA Directory).

The extension and differentiation of professional activities was reflected in the formation of new committees. Since 1965 those for Mechanization and Reprography had met with animated interest, but the second ceased to exist in 1967. The new sub-committee on the Exchange of official publications displayed remarkable activity. Soviet initiatives resulted in 1965 in the creation of the Committee on Library Theory and Research. The Section of Special Libraries, founded at Sofia (1963) unfolded in later years its versatile activities, also through subsections for astronomical societies, maps and geography libraries, and the social sciences, respectively. The Section's journal *INSPEL* started to appear in 1966. An important part was to be played by INTAMEL (the International Association

of Metropolitan Libraries) which came into existence in 1967, and joined IFLA in 1968 where it is closely connected with the Public Libraries Section.

In various fields of IFLA activities corresponding to urgent actual needs, there took place useful international Seminars and Symposia sponsored by Unesco and IFLA. During the sixties and the early seventies, fruitful international cooperation was thus effective, especially in the interest of the following tasks and responsibilities: mechanization and electronic data processing, exchange of bibliographic data in machine readable form (MARC), exchange of publications, national and university library buildings, standardization of library statistics, public libraries in big cities.

IFLA collaborators were eager directly and indirectly to help solve the problems caused by the terrible flood in Florence in 1966. That catastrophe mobilized all possible resources in the field of restoration and conservation and led to a high point in international cooperation and mutual aid quite unique in the history of libraries and archives. The result of lengthened deliberations and activities within IFLA was the establishment of a Working Group on Preservation in 1972.

Manifestations of lasting interest included the International Symposium on Library Buildings in Warsaw (1964), the special meetings of the Committee on Library Statistics in The Hague (1966) and Paris (1967) financed by the Council on Library Resources, which also enabled catalogue experts to meet at Copenhagen (1969) by means of a grant of 30,000 dollars. Mention should be made of an effort to progress beyond the age-long stage of platonic relations with FID, solemnly reiterated at annual sessions, and reach agreement on a programme of common activities. To this end a meeting of IFLA and FID representatives was arranged after the Session in The Hague (1966). Common projects remained, however, incidental and limited to some training problems and standardization matters in documentation. Little direct success had efforts of long standing to resume work on the extensive *Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke* by turning this German project into an international cooperative activity. However, the negotiations lent new impetus to the research on incunabula, their cataloguing and their accessibility in East and West.

During this period important improvements were effected in solving certain linguistic problems connected with the strongly increased attendance at annual conferences. Officially recognized as one of the congress languages at the Session in The Hague (1966), German was afforded the benefit of the simultaneous interpretation facilities available in plenary meetings. In Frankfurt (1968) a team of librarians worked successfully as amateur interpreters for the first time. It was Havard-Williams', the future Vice-President's, particular merit to have organized and systematically encouraged this extraordinarily useful group to which experts from various Eastern and Western countries have offered their outstanding linguistic gifts.

The Frankfurt Session deserves to be mentioned also because it was on this occasion that IFLA's inner force and firmness of purpose were suddenly put to a test of such

severity as had never occurred before. The Session risked being cut short by a menace of political and ideological nature, caused by the Soviet intervention in the CSSR, but the Federation was able to weather this crisis. The Session managed to run its normal course in spite of the tragic event and its ominous effects on the general atmosphere, and could be normally concluded, but the next session to be held in Moscow had to be deferred.

Changes of officers and structure.

Financial situation and activities of the Secretariat until 1970.

During the presidency of Sir Frank Francis the following changes occurred in the Executive Board and in the structure of IFLA's leading groups. Vice-Presidents at the time were J. Dalton (New York), H. Liebaers (Brussels), M. Piquard (Paris), V. I. Shunkov (Moscow), later F. E. Mohrhardt (Washington), E. Allerslev Jensen (Copenhagen), Mrs. Margarita I. Rudomino (Moscow) and J. Wieder (Munich). Two distinguished Board members had retired in 1964: Julien Cain, who was made Honorary Vice-President, and A. C. Breycha-Vauthier, appointed Austrian Ambassador in Beirut after having devoted to IFLA thirty-five-years of tireless effort, initially as Secretary, and later on as Treasurer. A personal Honorary Membership was conferred upon him, a distinction he shared with the former Prefect of the Vatican library who eventually became Cardinal Tisserant. For some time the treasurership had been in charge of Honorary President Bourgeois. In 1965 it was taken over by P. Kirkegaard, who with foresight and energy set out to establish IFLA's finances on a firmer basis by the introduction of a new system for the assessment of annual dues. In Helsinki (1965) already, Secretary General Thompson had proposed to fix those of the national member associations proportionally in accordance with the scale of national contributions to the United Nations. This proposal had been defeated by the violent opposition of several delegations from Western European countries. Kirkegaard, however, did not allow himself to become discouraged. In due course he once more took up the scheme, albeit in a considerably modified version, in line with conditions applicable to IFLA as an international non-governmental organization, and achieved an initial break-through at the Moscow Session (1970).⁽⁶⁹⁾ According to this scheme, various national member associations should jointly pay a national contribution amounting to one/ thousandth of their country's annual contribution to Unesco. The Treasurers' assiduous campaign for financial reform finally bore fruit in Budapest (1972), where a large majority voted its adoption. The new dues system became effective in the following year. Another fact of signal importance for the future economic reinforcement of IFLA was Sir Frank Francis' appointment as a European Consultant at the Council on Library Resources in Washington, where IFLA's First Vice-President F. Mohrhardt was a Programme Specialist. The nomination took effect shortly before the end of Sir Frank's Presidency. In this way favourable conditions could be created for the Council's ever more decisive commitment to universal library development.

Up till the end of the sixties, IFLA's financial possibilities were restricted, compared to its steady geographic expansion. Annual income increased as a result of the growing contributions and the sale of publications from approximately \$ 16,000 in 1965 to \$ 26,200 in 1970. The annual Unesco subvention of \$ 10,000 was included in these figures. The total sum was proportionally spent: 40 per cent for the Secretariat, 30 per cent for publications, 20 per cent for Section and Committee activities, 10 per cent for the Executive Board. For special professional projects, usually resulting in profitable publications, Unesco provided grants in the form of contracts. It is true that the funds obtained in this way hardly exceeded \$ 2000 to \$ 3000 annually.

IFLA's ability to undertake so many activities in spite of drastically changed and expanded internal conditions and requirements can be explained by its impressively developed inner substance and force, the astonishing solidarity and willingness to cooperate embodied in ever growing battalions of excellent librarians who took part in the work of twenty-four Sections and Committees. Their names cannot be listed here. The versatility of the papers freely contributed to IFLA meetings can be seen from numerous articles and monographs published in international professional journals such as *Libri*, the *Unesco bulletin for Libraries*, *IATUL Proceedings*, and *INSPEL*, to cite but the most important. In 1969 the *International Library Review* was added to these. Its editor, G. Chandler (Liverpool), co-founder and first President of INTAMEL, generously opened its columns to IFLA contributions. Towards the end of the sixties already four numbers in the series *IFLA manuals* had been published. These small volumes contained reports of the international cataloguing conference, a new edition of the *Telecode and Telex address book*, and the *Handbook on library statistics* edited by F. L. Schick, officially recommended by Unesco to its member States. Furthermore, IFLA disposed of five international documentation centres, for cataloguing problems in London (A. H. Chaplin and Mrs. D. Anderson), library buildings in Paris (J. Bleton), libraries of new universities in Bremen (R. Kluth), African official publications in Berlin (M. Zehrer, at the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz), and metropolitan libraries in Prague (R. Málek). The work of these information centres also depended on voluntary cooperation on the part of various local institutions.

In connection with IFLA's further development in the sixties, the untiring and useful contribution of the Secretary General should also be mentioned. Without his discretion, disinterestedness and loyalty, the central Secretariat could not have existed. Content with an inadequate remuneration, he managed for six years to maintain at IFLA's disposal a suitable, rent-free office in his own home in Sevenoaks (Kent), 35 km from London, whereto the Secretariat had been removed in the autumn of 1963. In his financial report for 1969 the Treasurer drew attention to the Secretary General's economy and "incredibly low" expenses.⁽⁷⁰⁾ Thompson's service to the cause of international understanding and cooperation was in tune with his deepest philosophic convictions. To him it meant an ethical obligation. This basic attitude also manifested itself in the affectionate care he lavished

on the contents and lay-out of *IFLA News*, the quarterly information bulletin he edited in English, French, Russian and – since 1969, and for some time – in Spanish versions. He also expressed himself in these languages in brief speeches at the annual sessions, and as a true polyglot, won sympathy and friendship in many quarters.

Thompson's progress reports afforded insight in the hard work accomplished in the Secretariat, where the *Actes du Conseil*, since 1969 appearing in a new form and renamed *IFLA Annual*, were also prepared by the Secretary General. He was responsible for the continuing flow of information within IFLA, and particularly for current contacts between the Secretariat, the Executive Board, the Sections and Committees and, as well as for the dispatch of various publications. He often represented IFLA at international conferences and Unesco gatherings, he made propaganda speeches and was co-organizer of the annual General Council meetings. His progress report 1968/69 mentioned the receipt of 3113 letters and orders, and the dispatch of approximately 2000 letters and 3000 IFLA publications.

However, all the devoted efforts of the overburdened General Secretary and all the remarkable activity of the understaffed Secretariat operating on a too modest financial basis, could not any longer satisfy the constantly increasing demands made by IFLA itself and its 230 member associations all over the world. It was therefore understandable that towards the end of Sir Frank Francis' Presidency criticism of IFLA's inefficiency became more audible and that there was a growing tendency to change its structure. The Section of Public Libraries showed itself particularly active in the connection, and convened a study group in The Hague towards the end of 1968 to prepare reorganization proposals.⁽⁷¹⁾ Unesco too, stated emphatically that a more active, efficient and aggressive IFLA Secretariat was called for to achieve even closer cooperation and benefit from improved financial assistance. Numerous arguments were put forward in favour of a new structure for IFLA and of augmenting and rationalization of its activities, primarily as regarded the Executive Board and the Consultative Committee, but also the working groups. These efforts resulted in two innovations that not only brought relief to the Secretary General but were to prove of great importance for IFLA's future. They were announced by Sir Frank at the Copenhagen Session (1969) – the last he presided.⁽⁷²⁾ To reinforce the Secretariat, Miss Margreet Wijnstroom (The Hague), the extremely competent and capable General Secretary of the Netherlands Central Association of Public Libraries was given the assignment to promote IFLA's external affairs, and at the same time to improve the Secretariat's relations with Sections and Committees. She was to collaborate closely with the Consultative Committee, whose responsibilities concerning IFLA policy were enlarged. A "Programme Development Group" was established of which Miss Wijnstroom would be secretary. Under the energetic leadership of Dr. C. Reedijk, Director of the Royal Library in The Hague, who was as deeply committed to the cause of international librarianship as his predecessor Brummel had been, the new group tackled its tasks: the preparation of a short term action programme with a list of priorities, and the structural reform of IFLA. Of primary concern were problems

relating to IFLA's ultimate universality, based on the use of electronic technology and recognizing the need for really successful cooperation with developing countries and related world governmental and non-governmental organizations. This orientation, tuned to Sir Frank's ideas, was soon to receive additional vision and force from the newly elected President Herman Liebaers, Director of the Royal Library in Brussels and an energetic champion of international cooperation.

Departure to new horizons

The year 1970 was a year of transition, full of activities simultaneously undertaken from Sevenoaks and The Hague, under the sign of decisive new orientation, of preparations for the universal role which IFLA pursued energetically. The significant programme speech delivered by the President at the 36th Session in Moscow bore witness to this. About 750 participants from 40 countries formed a record attendance.⁽⁷³⁾ As host acted Mrs. Rudomino, the highly qualified Directress of the Moscow All-Union State Library for Foreign Literature. During her time of office as Vice-President she successfully contributed, thanks to her diplomacy and warm-heartedness, to bring about closer professional and personal contacts between the Soviet library world and the West and to create a favourable atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Of course, Liebaers wished to have the Secretariat near himself. He would have preferred to see it located under the same roof as FID. When such an alliance of the two main non-governmental organizations in the library field could not be realized, it was decided to establish the IFLA office at least in the same city, early in 1971. For Thompson this was the occasion to resign, after 8 years of tireless, selfless striving; his loyalty to IFLA remained as strong as ever. M. Wijnstroom succeeded him as Secretary General.

With the Secretariat's move to The Hague, a new chapter began in the history of IFLA, full of memorable events, measures and changes, and bringing us forward to the immediate past. An imposing number of outstanding personalities and experts – male and female –, all members of the world-wide library family lent their support to this development through voluntary cooperation and exemplary solidarity. During the early seventies in his presidential activities Herman Liebaers could build on this solid foundation. He was completely dedicated to the future, very active, widely experienced, and passionately devoted to the mission of international cooperation, to which he gave practically all his time. He largely succeeded in shaping IFLA's spectacular transformation, in response to the unavoidable challenge of modern times and IFLA's own relationships. The Federation went through a final phase of tempestuous growth. By the middle seventies it counted 140 national member organizations and roughly 500 associated member institutions in a hundred countries, 50 percent of which belonged to the Third World. Time was ripe for a thorough structural reform. An amazing number of events, measures and innovations have occurred in the course of the past seven years, interplaying, impregnating and reinforcing one another, the consequences of which cannot yet be fully surmised. They can be listed as follows: Reinforcement of the economic founda-

tion and productive capacity by means of financial reorganization; complete revision of the existing statutes by the elaboration of new ones emphasizing a federative and regional structure in view of geographic expansion and professional assignments; start of effective international cooperation with Third World countries; more constructive cooperation with relevant international bodies in the fields of education, science and culture, documentation and standardization, but also with governmental or private foundations; elaboration of a new medium-term programme of activities, including the determination of priorities; effective use of all possibilities of modern technology for the benefit of common tasks on a global scale; comprehensive information and publishing activities; systematic campaign for the wider recognition of the cultural and social significance of libraries all over the world, of which IFLA's all-round cooperation in the Unesco-sponsored International Book Year 1972 is a lasting token.(75)

The essential aspects of the various measures and innovations enumerated here were reflected in the activities and results of the last annual Sessions with their valuable pre-session seminars for librarians from developing countries, which, since 1971, had become an especially useful institution. The Conference of Moscow (1970), Liverpool (1971), Budapest (1972), Grenoble (1973), Washington (1974), Oslo (1975) and Lausanne (1976) represented indeed milestones of IFLA's latest development towards new horizons.(76)

When Herman Liebaers, after having taken over in his country the highly responsible office of "Grand Maréchal de la Cour de Belgique", resigned from the presidency in Washington at the end of 1974, the Treasurer of the Federation, Preben Kirkegaard, Rector of Denmark's Royal Library School, was elected President. For long years familiar with IFLA's problems and needs and having already greatly deserved of its former evolution, he purposefully continued the innovation work of his predecessor to which he has devoted his abilities enriched by outstanding experiences in the interest of promoting library co-operation on a world-wide scale.

The fiftieth anniversary World Congress in Brussels 1977 – a festive occasion for retrospect and prospect – will doubtlessly show that IFLA is occupying for a long time already, its rightful place in the confusingly multiform world-wide interlocking machinery of governmental and non-governmental cultural organizations, professional associations and groups, and that it intends to go on playing its role in a forceful way. IFLA's new structure and Statutes, its reorganized working methods, the widening scope of its activities, and last but not least the stronger potential of its administrative machinery, reflect the fundamental changes in the system of coordinates of world development wrought in the five decades encompassing IFLA's own history. They also lay open the conditions of human society revolutionized everywhere through the impact of science and technology. At the same time, the manifold changes give proof of self-criticism and insight into the weaknesses, imperfections and risks inherent in international library work.

In view of the modern trends towards mass formation and ideological influencing which left IFLA not completely unscathed, processes tending to bring to bay not only culture, law and liberty, but even humanity itself, it appears justifiable to remind ourselves once again of IFLA's inner force and those immeasurable values, without the wholesome continuity of which any further development would be impoverished. I refer to the will towards international solidarity and co-operation, helpfulness and understanding reaching out across national, social, ideological and philosophical barriers, which survived five decades and emerged even stronger from the catastrophic war period. A mentality of true world citizenship grew from common professional interests and demands, and traditionally friendly human relations. This spirit which never ceased to inspire international library cooperation certainly belongs to IFLA's most precious achievements. The preservation and augmentation of this priceless inheritance in face of any changes that may confront it, will remain IFLA's task and duty in present days and future years.

References

- (1) The author of this first comprehensive survey of IFLA's history, for long years personally closely connected with the evolution of the Federation and familiar with its main sources and documents, has to deprive himself here of presenting an extensive bibliography. His quotations must be reduced to a minimum of references. This may be acceptable since there already exists a certainly not exhaustive but detailed bibliography on the subject. It was prepared for the 40th session of IFLA's General Council, held in Washington in 1974, and was edited under the title "A Selected List of References, compiled by Edward P. Cambio at the Library of Congress." This bibliography cites authentic materials issued by or under the auspices of the Federation and its Council, Sections, and Committees as well as selected works about IFLA. It was completed and brought up-to-date in the recent booklet: *The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. A Selected List of References*. 2nd ed. München, Verlag Dokumentation, 1977. (IFLA Publications, 11.) Nevertheless the following brief summary of the most important sources, documents, and works to which the author is especially indebted might be useful. Most informative and of fundamental significance are the "Actes" authentically recording the proceedings of IFLA's annual sessions and library activities all over the world from 1928 through 1968 under various titles (here cited only as "Actes"). Their excellent character and value as a basic historical source are mainly due to A. C. Breycha-Vauthier, whose very accurate and far-sighted care for their redaction was so effective during the first 30 years. They are superseded by the "IFLA Annual", first issued in 1969. Important sources of information are the "IFLA Communications" included in "Libri" from 1953 until 1974, and the "IFLA News", published quarterly in the Federation's four official languages since 1962 up to the foundation of the actual "IFLA Journal" whose first issue appeared at the end of 1974. The successive publication of the "IFLA Repertoire" (1931-1968) were superseded since 1970/71 by the annual "IFLA Directory" offering information about officers and members with their addresses, about statutes, constitutive units and working groups as well as lists of publications and clearing houses around the world where the wealth of IFLA Papers and materials connected with the various Council sessions are available. Concerning the recent development, the yearly "IFLA progress reports" edited by the Secretary General give valuable information. Important historical sources are the proceedings (in about a dozen of volumes) of the various international congresses of libraries, bibliography and documentation, which took place in Prague (1926), Rome and Venice (1929), Madrid and Barcelona (1935) and Brus-

cont. (1)

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- (9) See: *Bibliothekleven* 14. 1929, pp. 230.
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- (13) Actes 4. 1932, p. 44; Actes 5. 1934, p. 66; pp. 30–31.
- (14) Actes 3. 1931, pp. 28–29; Actes 13. 1949, p. 11.
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- (17) Actes 9. 1938, p. 17.
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- (38) Actes 23. 1959, p. 57.
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The Evolution of Professional Activities and their Interplay with IFLA's Structure

W. E. S. (Milisa) Coops

To the memory of Prof. Dr L. Brummel,
inspiring teacher and admired and trusted friend.

This impression of IFLA's professional activities during the period 1929–1976 is mainly based on the proceedings of its annual meetings and the reports of the variously named professional units as published in the *Actes* of the International Library Committee (subsequently to become the IFLA Council), or in *Libri*.

An effort has been made to trace the growth and intensification of international library cooperation from the modest beginnings of the pre-World War II years to the present challenges to international librarianship facing IFLA which have caused it to seek to renew itself by conceiving and elaborating – in close collaboration with its member associations – the Statutes finally adopted at the General Council meeting of Lausanne in August 1976.

The development of professional library work at the international level during the past half century may as a matter of fact be found in the evolution of the various IFLA committees and sections. Some of these have been in existence since the very beginning as sub-committees of the International Library Committee: library training, book statistics (since 1929), hospital libraries, popular libraries, exchange of university theses (since 1933). Six more came into being in 1936: special libraries, parliamentary libraries, catalogue rules and their unification. Other sub-committees were active for some time, and were abolished after they had attained their purpose, or because the objectives pursued were found to be better achieved by other means, or because the changing international library scene had made them redundant (e.g., the exchange of librarians, overproduction, and prices of periodicals). Another group of professional units, such as the Committee on Mechanization or the working group on audio-visual media, were established to deal with new techniques and library materials unthought of fifty years ago.

In the initial period the International Library Committee discussed professional subjects in its annual plenary sessions or in sub-committee meetings, but between sessions hardly any practical work was done, with a few notable exceptions (Leyh). This was an unsatisfactory consequence of the circumstance that the Committee had to rely completely on the enthusiasm and devotion of members who in their own countries occupied full-time positions which limited their opportunities to engage actively in IFLA projects. To quote Brummel(1): "The Committee reports were practically always the work of a single person, usually the chairman. In many cases the Secretary General himself acted as sub-committee secretary. This did not entail much work as – between sessions – hardly any contacts with committee members were maintained . . . Thus the sub-committees which never met, were a mere façade, and everything depended on the chairman-rapporteur . . . who –

alive to his responsibility – would take pains to draw up a report once a year, having at best previously consulted his fellow members. Hence the *Actes* of the plenary sessions of the I.L.C. occasionally record discussions on such reports whereas nowadays (i.e. 1963), these exchanges of views take place in the meetings of the sub-committees themselves”.

As an example of matters brought up at plenary sessions may be cited a proposal of I. Collijn, adopted at Berne in 1932 during the economic world crisis, to urge governments to maintain library budgets at the highest possible level in spite of the prevailing difficult circumstances. At the same session the well-known German librarian Prof. Georg Leyh took the initiative for concerted action against the unwarranted price increases of German learned journals, which eventually led to an agreement between the Börsenverein, the universities and the libraries concerned, resulting in a considerable lowering of subscription rates.

After the unavoidable interruption of the War period, the first IFLA Council meeting to be convened since 1939 took place at Oslo in 1947, where attendance was unexpectedly large.

In 1952 new Statutes were adopted. Sub-committees were renamed committees, while for specific fields of library activity or geographical regions the creation of sections was made possible.

Gradually, delegates interested in the promotion of cooperation between certain kinds of library, or in the solution of specific professional problems came to feel that more time was needed for discussion in committee meetings, and the Executive Board was asked to extend the duration of the annual sessions so as to afford sufficient time for discussing projects and the preparation of resolutions for the Board's attention, so that after adoption at the plenary session, the sub-committees could go ahead.

To bring in colleagues unable to attend annual meetings, the laborious method of collecting information by way of questionnaires addressed to library associations and/or individual libraries, was generally adopted. Response was often unsatisfactory so that the results obtained were sometimes disappointing, and the whole exercise had to be repeated once again to try and ensure a viable basis for publication. Often many years elapsed between a project's adoption and the publication of its result. A recent example is the *World Directory of Administrative Libraries*, proposed in 1948 and published in a preliminary edition in 1976.

Lack of funds made it impossible to secure the full-time services of an expert to conduct research or to coordinate the replies to a questionnaire, but once Unesco contracts could be secured, or grants obtained from national funding agencies, the situation improved perceptibly. The long list of IFLA publications is the best illustration of the achievement of its sections, committees and working groups.

To coordinate the work of a section or committee, Standing Advisory Committees were created, so that meetings could be properly prepared and relations with the Executive Board, and through it, with outside bodies regularized. For the pro-

fessional meetings experts were invited to prepare papers on selected subjects and – increasingly – a theme was chosen warranting discussions at consecutive committee meetings, e.g. PPBS (Planning-Programming-Budgeting-Systems) in the Section of National and University libraries. Since 1966, every General Council meeting has a general theme to which one or more plenary sessions are devoted, and as a rule sections and committees treat the same subject or topics related to it, in their own meetings. The papers presented on a general theme are usually collected in an IFLA publication, such as *The Organization of the library profession* (Liverpool 1971) 2d ed. 1976, *Reading in a changing world* (Budapest 1972), 1976, or *National and international library planning* (Washington 1974), 1976. Other papers were sometimes published in extenso in *Inspel*, the organ of the Special libraries' Section, the *Unesco Bulletin for Libraries*, *Libri*, or similar library journals. With the latter in particular, a very fruitful relationship has existed during a number of years. Assisted by a subvention granted by Unesco for this purpose, *Libri* provided a channel for information on current developments in a separate section, called *IFLA Communications*.

This arrangement lasted until the IFLA Secretariat, established in The Hague since 1971, was able to expand the modest bulletin *IFLA News*, which had first been issued in 1962, into a regularly appearing periodical. Until the autumn of 1974 when the initial issue of IFLA's own quarterly journal appeared, *IFLA News* in its various language editions (mostly translated and circulated by national IFLA member associations) played an increasingly useful role in furthering IFLA activities.

Under its international editorial board, the *IFLA Journal* does not aim at being just another scholarly library journal. The articles section contains in the first place state-of-the-art articles and surveys of IFLA activities, statements and opinions and furthermore contributions to theoretical aspects of librarianship and practical library cooperation, often presented as papers at the General Council meetings. The ever-growing news section (for which the Secretariat in The Hague is responsible) covers library cooperation and its related fields, including brief reports on meetings held all over the world.

Originally, the few papers read at a session of the International Library Committee were printed in the *Actes*, but in later years this was no longer feasible on account of the expense involved. In 1969 a number of IFLA Clearing Houses were established, holding complete sets of IFLA conference papers, from which photocopies may be obtained at cost price plus postage.

In 1971, a Publications Committee was set up and made responsible for the development – on a sound economic basis – of a coordinated IFLA publishing policy, so as to fortify its financial position, secure a wider, commercial outlet for the results of various projects, and make them more attractive to prospective buyers. In 1973 the Verlag Dokumentation of Munich/Pullach succeeded M. Nijhoff of The Hague as official IFLA publisher.

As the Committee on Cataloguing may be considered to be one of the most active and successful of IFLA's professional units, the following sketch of its "faits et gestes" may serve to characterize this most important part of IFLA activities. Reasons of space make it impossible to treat all professional groups in this way.

In the forty years of its existence the Committee has employed diverse methods to pursue its objectives, ranging from discussions, studies and reports, enquiries, meetings, working groups or contracts with other professional bodies, to the preparation of international conferences. To meet the expense of its activities, the Committee has sometimes received financial support from agencies like Unesco (contracts) and the Council on Library Resources (grants). A variety of publications, including international standards, have made available to colleagues all over the world the results of the Committee's work.

The sub-committee for the Unification of catalogue rules was created in 1936; it was referred to under varying names, most frequently as Committee on Catalogue Rules.

At Brussels (1955) and Munich (1956) problems of coordination were discussed, such as international principles for anonymous works, corporate bodies, and geographical names, but the scope of the questions involved was found to be so vast, that an international conference was deemed necessary. In 1957 (Paris) it was decided to seek assistance from Unesco and the Council on Library Resources for financial and organizational support. Agreement was reached with both bodies for a Conference to be convened in Paris at the Unesco Headquarters, and IFLA was put in charge of the professional aspects of the organization, which were put in the capable hands of the Chairman of the IFLA Committee on Cataloguing, A. H. Chaplin. A preparatory meeting of cataloguers was held in London in 1960, and in October 1961 the International Conference on Cataloguing Principles took place. It was attended by 165 delegates from 53 countries and twelve international organizations.

Experts had been invited to submit papers on thirteen subjects. The *Statement of Principles* formulating the functions and structures of catalogues and the principles for defining the various kinds of headings (author, title, etc.) adopted at the final session became the guidelines for the IFLA Committee's work in years to come.

From 1961 to 1971 considerable effort was put in the dissemination of the "Paris principles", as well as in the standardization of other fields of cataloguing(2). In 1969 Chaplin organized a pre-session IFLA meeting of cataloguing experts in Copenhagen.

Prepared by A. H. Chaplin and Dorothy Anderson, the *Paris Principles* appeared in a preliminary edition in 1967. Mrs Eva Verona was responsible for the final version, revised in the light of comments made at the Copenhagen cataloguers' meeting. This *Annotated Statement of Principles* was published by IFLA in 1971.

A. H. Chaplin also edited *Names of persons: national usages for entry in catalogues*. Preliminary edition 1967, final version: London, 1971. The *International list of approved forms for catalogue entries for the names of states* was compiled by Suzanne Honoré. Preliminary edition: Paris, 1964.

R. Pierrot prepared the *International list of uniform headings for anonymous works* which was issued in 1972.

Work on the uniform use of the names of European governmental bodies was begun by the Soviet Committee on Cataloguing in 1966, and the *List of uniform headings for higher legislative and ministerial bodies in European countries* was published in 1975.

There are to be two more parts, dealing with other government agencies and headings for international organizations, respectively, the latter being entrusted to the Association of International Libraries.

A working group to prepare a standard for bibliographic entries was set up in 1969, chaired by A. J. Wells. First a report – commissioned by Unesco – was prepared by M. Gorman, in which cataloguing methods applied in national bibliographies were compared. Ultimately, two standards were published:

ISBD(M) International Standard Bibliographic Description for monographic publications. 1st standard edition 1974, and in collaboration with experts from the IFLA Committee on Periodicals and Serial Publications: *ISBD(S) International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials*. Recommendation of a Working Group, 1974.

The structural problems arising from the numerous entries to be arranged under the name of one author became the Committee's concern as early as 1962. A Working Group on the Organization of Headings for Voluminous Authors was created to draw up recommendations. Its report was issued in 1975 under the title: *The arrangement of entries for complex material under headings for personal authors*.

In connection with the shared cataloguing project initiated by the Library of Congress, a resolution was adopted at the Copenhagen session in 1969 recommending the designation in every country of a central cataloguing office, responsible for the tape processing of the national output, the tapes to be exchanged with their counterparts abroad.

In 1970, at the Moscow General Council session, a project for a study on problems connected with the varying usages of headings for liturgical work had been adopted. A Working Group on Uniform Headings was set up to formulate recommendations. The *List of uniform titles of liturgical works of the Latin rites of the Catholic Church* was issued in 1974.

Problems connected with the International Standard Numbering of Serials were discussed jointly with the Committee on Periodicals and Serial Publications at the General Council meeting at Budapest in 1972.

A permanent Secretariat of the Committee, headed by Mrs Dorothy Anderson, was established in London in July 1972, made possible by a grant of \$ 54,000 received from the Council on Library Resources. To report on its activities and to disseminate information on developments in cataloguing all over the world, the Cataloguing Secretariat issues a quarterly bulletin, *International Cataloguing*

(1972). Its predecessor (1966–1971) had been the Committee's *Information Bulletin*, while between 1960 and 1965 Mr Chaplin had edited the *ICCP Newsletter*.

In 1974 the Cataloguing Secretariat's task was extended to include the coordination of all activities pertaining to IFLA's "major professional objective" (3): Universal Bibliographic Control, and its name was changed to IFLA International Office for UBC, with Mrs Dorothy Anderson as Director under the guidance of the UBC Steering Committee (of four members) and the UBC Advisory Board, consisting of twelve members.

"UBC is a programme of continuing diversified, complex, decentralised action. Its cohesion is determined by the will to improve the bibliographic infrastructure of all professional work carried on in libraries, documentation centres and information services. UBC aims at making quickly available everywhere and in an internationally acceptable form, basic bibliographic data on all publications from all countries. The very concept of UBC presupposes a network of national components covering a wide range of publishing and library activities, internationally integrated so as to form a uniform system" (H. Liebaers).

UBC was also IFLA's main contribution to the Intergovernmental Conference on the Planning of National Library, Documentation and Archives Infrastructures, convened by Unesco in September 1974, and Mrs Anderson was the author of one of the working papers. Her report was published by IFLA under the title: *Universal Bibliographic Control; a long term policy, a plan for action* (1974).

In the context of UBC it was recognized that an international network of national lending and exchange bureaux was essential to facilitate UAP (the Universal Availability of Publications), and a resolution to this effect was adopted at Grenoble in 1973. The active assistance offered by the British Government made it possible to establish in Boston Spa, at the British Library Lending Division, the IFLA Office for International Lending (1975). As the activities of both offices are being regularly reported in the news section of the *IFLA Journal*, and in *International Cataloguing*, this unavoidably incomplete survey of five decades' international library cooperation channelled through IFLA, is not carried any further here.

Through the years many active members of sections and committees came to feel the need of more effective participation in IFLA's activities and policy making. An "Enlarged Board", soon to be transformed into a Consultative Committee consisting of the section and committee chairmen and secretaries, was established. This body discussed projects in progress and reviewed the resolutions prepared by the professional group meetings for eventual adoption by the General Council.

IFLA's steady growth in the current decade would have been far less spectacular but for the inspired work of the Secretary General and the devoted staff of the small Secretariat in The Hague. Miss Margreet Wijnstroom has succeeded in constructing a sound administrative framework, supporting the diverse activities of all IFLA components, from the General Council and the Executive Board to the

Consultative Committee, PDG, the Working Group on Statutes, down to the smallest unit. Forthcoming meetings are planned far ahead and in great detail, and all Sections and Committees can rely on the Secretariat's assistance. The financial contributions received from the membership and external sources are administered and outstanding dues promptly claimed. A steady stream of circular letters and other correspondence keeps member associations and IFLA officers at various levels well informed. Constant relations are maintained with outside agencies like Unesco or the Council on Library Resources, and with sister organizations such as FID, ISO and ICA (the International Council on Archives). Finally, news gathering for, and editing of the News Section of the *IFLA Journal* has the full attention of the indefatigable Secretary General.

In 1969 a Programme Development Group of seven members representing the Consultative Committee was constituted to help and relieve the Executive Board in planning and evaluating professional activities.

During the eight years of its existence, the Programme Development Group has given considerable time and thought to the overall strengthening of IFLA's own structure as well as to its activities, carefully reviewing the individual projects submitted by various sections and committees, with a view to integrate the latter's initiatives into a realistic long-term programme, underpinned by adequate financial means.

Not only was PDG charged with programme preparation (a sequel to the ten-year programme *Libraries in the World* edited by L. Brummel in 1963), it was also called upon to reflect on an entirely new structure for IFLA itself.

The result of common effort, the *Medium-Term Programme* (1975–1980) was based upon extensive consultations with the various professional groups which had been invited to submit proposals for projects to be undertaken, and encouraged to comment freely on the four successive draft versions of MTP prepared between the years 1972–1974. These exchanges of views furnished also valuable groundwork for the elaboration of the new Statutes in helping to clarify thought on the concepts to be embodied in the latter and to formulate the requirements voiced by the membership at large and aiming at reinforcing the Federation's structure.

It has been recognized for some time that the Statutes as revised in 1964 and 1967 were no longer adequate. Apart from the original IFLA members (national and international library associations) an increasing number of individual libraries and related institutions had joined the Federation, which greatly benefitted from their contributions – professional as well as financial in nature. But the Statutes still in force did not provide sufficiently for the rights of these non-voting associate members.

An Ad-hoc Working Group on Statutes was appointed to prepare a draft in the light of proposals and comments received from many quarters. At the Oslo General Council session (1975) the draft statutes were discussed and widely divergent

opinions aired. Another year of intensive redrafting was needed to prepare a new Constitution which was, with some amendments, unanimously adopted in Lausanne (1976).

The wider scope of the new statutes can be derived from the additional words *and Institutions* to the Federation's old name: *International Federation of Library Associations*. The familiar acronym IFLA will, however, continue to be used in all languages, while the French acronym FIAB has been abolished.

A full analysis of the new, as compared to the old statutes, cannot be undertaken here, but a mere juxtaposition of their respective purposes may serve to show the basic difference in principles and scope:

1964: The object of the Federation shall be to promote cooperation in the field of librarianship and bibliography, and particularly to carry out investigations and make propositions concerning the international relations between libraries, library associations, bibliographers, and other organized groups.

1976: The Federation shall be an independent international non-governmental organization, without profit motive, whose purposes shall be to promote international understanding, cooperation, discussion, research and development in all fields of library activity, including bibliography, information services and the education of personnel, and to provide a body through which librarianship can be represented in matters of international interest (Art. 2.1). In pursuance of these objectives, the Federation shall undertake such tasks and enterprises as may be determined appropriate and desirable, and notably:

- undertake, support and coordinate research and studies
- collect, collate, publish and otherwise disseminate information relating to library, bibliography, information and training activity
- organize general and specialized meetings and conferences
- collaborate with international organizations in the field of information, documentation and archives
- set up offices to carry out specific tasks

and shall undertake such other activities as will promote fulfilment of theoretical and practical objectives in every field of library activity.

According to the old Statutes, voting members possessed each one vote, and voting by proxy was not allowed. Now there are two categories of voting members Association Members and Institutional Members, both with voting rights in all meetings, and on all matters (Art. 12.1), each entitled to cast one vote in all but Council meetings, in which the former have a number of votes determined by a classification of four groups (possessing 5, 10, 15 or 20 votes, respectively) depending on the size of the national membership dues paid to IFLA. The number of votes of an Association Member thus depends on the number of associations belonging to IFLA in the member's country. Provision has been made in the Rules of Procedure to ensure that in a Council meeting Association Members cannot be outvoted by Institutional Members. The possibility of strictly limited voting by proxy has also been introduced (Art. 11.5).

Another innovation is the acceptance of non-voting personal affiliates. Article 4 makes it possible to grant consultative status to international or multi-national organizations, upon invitation. International library associations can, in fact, choose between Associate Membership and Consultative Status.

Articles 14–16 deal with the Executive Board. It used to consist of a president, a first vice-president and a varying number of vice-presidents. As from September 1977, (after the elections at the Brussels Congress) the Board will be composed of the President, the Chairman of the Professional Board ex-officio, and at least five, and not more than seven members, all elected for a term of 4 years, and re-eligible for one consecutive term of 2 years. The Executive Board is to elect from amongst its elected members a First and a Second Vice-President and a Treasurer for a period of 2 years. The Professional Board (Articles 17–19) replaces the Consultative Committee and the Programme Development Group, in coordinating the professional work of IFLA undertaken by Divisions (Art. 20), Sections (Art. 21), IFLA Offices, Round Tables and Working Groups (Art. 22). It will make recommendations to the Executive Board concerning the allocation of funds to support professional activities (Art. 19.3) and reports annually to the latter, and at least once every two years to the Council (Art. 19.4). The members of the Professional Board are not elected by IFLA Members, as they are the chairmen of the new Divisions and of the Steering Committees of professional units.

The Divisions are accountable to the Professional Board. The *IFLA Directory 1977* lists two Divisions, for Special Libraries, and for Regional Activities. At the time of writing the Provisional Professional Board had yet to determine the definitive grouping of Divisions; it was expected that eight of them would be constituted.

The former Sections and Committees have been replaced by two categories of Sections: type of library, and type of activity sections.

In the *1977 IFLA Directory* are listed eleven of the former, and fifteen of the latter category, including Sections of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the new structure, the Sections occupy a central position. They have fixed membership, and IFLA Members and Affiliates have to register formally, the former in as many as four, the latter in two Sections, without extra charge. Personal Affiliates are entitled to belong to one Section. The composition of the various Standing Committees is determined by postal voting.

A Division coordinates the activities of the Sections of which it is composed. It is managed by a Coordinating Board consisting of the Section Chairmen and Secretaries. Round Tables may be set up by Divisions or Sections, subject to approval by the Professional Board. At Lausanne one was set up, concerned with documentation and research centres of children's literature.

Finally: The Council (the former General Council) is the general assembly of Members, and the highest IFLA organ. (Articles 10–11). Members may send several representatives to its meetings, but only one delegate has the right to vote in a

Council meeting. Affiliates are invited to be represented by one or more observers to Council meetings (Art. 10.3). Normally, the Council meets at least once every two years (Art. 11.1). The *IFLA Directory 1977* reproduces the full text of the new Statutes (pp. 116–129) and the Secretary General is the author of an article in *IFLA Journal*, vol. 2 (1976), no. 4, pp. 224–227: *The new constitution of IFLA*.

The fact that, on the threshold of its sixth decade, IFLA has so convincingly succeeded in renewing itself inspires confidence in its future development. May its various professional units, Sections, Divisions, Offices etc. go from strength to strength and achieve ever closer library cooperation to the benefit of their users all over the world.

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The Prehistory of IFLA

(recalling the history of international library congresses)

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The intensive development of international cooperation in the fields of culture, science and technology manifests itself most vividly in congresses, conferences and meetings, beginning with the second half of the 19th century. Mutual contacts strengthen cultural links, mutual understanding and friendship among nations. Possible ways of solving new tasks are discussed in lively debate. Further development of this form of links has led in our times to the establishment of various international professional, cultural and scientific societies, associations and federations. This general trend is also reflected in the history of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). Before IFLA was formally founded in 1927 it had taken the international library community more than half a century to establish an international library federation.

The main purpose of the present paper is to describe the major events connected with the history of international library conferences of the late 19th and the early 20th century. The titles of each conference are given according to Cannons' *Bibliography of Library Economy, 1876–1920*. ALA, Chicago, 1927, 680 p.

I. International library links of 1853–1876

It is usually considered that the official history of any fields of culture, science or technology starts with the first official documents. The first report on the first convention of librarians from different countries, published in the American journal *Literary and Educational Register for 1854* (1,1a) by the American publisher Ch. Norton, can be regarded as such a document in librarianship. The first conference of librarians was held in New York in 1853 and although it was sponsored by American librarians and publishers it can be considered as an international library conference, as papers were read by foreign librarians and dealing with topics concerning many countries. Thus, the conference considered the proposal by the well-known French figure Alexander Vattemare (1797–1884) aimed at organizing an international exchange of official publications issued in the countries of Europe and America. More detailed information about this conference can be found in the memoirs by the American pioneer of librarianship S. S. Green (1837–1918).⁽²⁾ He writes that the question of creating a catalogue of printed books was first discussed not only in the USA but also in England, and that the French librarian reported about the book classification system accepted by the Bibliothèque Nationale of France. The author of the memoirs draws attention to the fact that there was not a single woman among the 82 participants of the 1853 convention.

The convention set up a commission responsible for the preparation of the statutes of a librarians' union and the next conference of librarians, but due to various circumstances it was only convened a quarter of a century later, in 1876, when the centenary of American independence was observed.

The following conference of American librarians was held in Philadelphia in October 1876. It was attended by 103 librarians from 30 libraries, including delegates from England and some foreign librarians as guests. This conference cannot be regarded as an international one, as most papers were of national character. Nevertheless, the 1876 conference made a great contribution to the development of international links among libraries. Many librarians consider the year 1876 a historic one in the development of librarianship. It was at this conference that the American Library Association (ALA), the world's first association of librarians based on professional interests, was established. The same year saw the founding of the first professional library journal *The American Library Journal* which is issued to this day under the title *Library Journal*. In his article devoted to the ALA organization Melvil Dewey (1851–1931), then almost unknown to American librarians, but soon to be widely known among librarians of many countries, wrote: "Through all coming time 1876 will be looked upon as the most eventful year in the history of libraries – the year in which the librarian fairly claimed and received at the hands of the public his place among the recognized professions. Something of this feeling has spread not through this country alone, but in nearly all countries a new interest and activity in library matters is noted."(3)

In his interesting opening address the chairman of the conference, scientist, historian and librarian J. W. Wallace (1815–1884) dwelt upon broad prospects opening up before librarianship. He spoke of the problematic character of the proposal to collect all books issued in the country in one library and questioned the trend to turn all libraries into universal ones. He favoured the transition to specialized libraries. In conclusion he said that he regarded the 1876 conference as the first in the series of library conferences or congresses of librarians of all parts of the world.(4)

The conference proposed that an international congress of librarians should be held in the following year, 1877. The British proposal to convene the congress in London was accepted.

II. The International library conferences of 1877–1926

1. *The 1st International Conference of Librarians, London, 1877*

An ad hoc committee for the calling of an international library conference was set up in England. The conference was attended by 219 delegates from 9 countries: Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, and the USA. In his ceremonial address the president of the conference Prof. John Winter Jones (1805–1881), curator of the Library of the British Museum in London, touched upon many aspects of librarianship. "We live in the age when the advantages of the interchange of thoughts, ideas, and experiences are fully appreciated, and the benefits to be derived from unity of action in the affairs of life are recognized"(5). This is how Mr Jones began his speech. Over 30 papers were presented at the conference. Most of them caused a lively discussion. The printed catalogue of the British Museum was very widely discussed. The paper by W. Axon

(1846–1913) *The British Museum in the relation to provincial culture* (5a) stressed the idea that the British Museum should serve not only London but the country's provincial towns as well. He said that this goal could be achieved by issuing a printed catalogue of the Library. Axon told the audience that as far back as 1848 the British writer and historian Thomas Carlyle (1795–1881) said the following in his report to the Board of Trustees of the British Museum: "A library is not worth anything without a catalogue" (Report of the British Museum Inquiry, 4472).

Some papers were devoted to cataloguing and description rules. For the first time mention was made of card catalogues (author and systematic) which were to be introduced in libraries. In this connection it was pointed out that it was necessary to describe the book only once for all libraries, and that catalogue cards should be duplicated and sent to all libraries of the country. The participants of the conference took a great interest in the speech by Melvil Dewey who for the first time told the broad library community not only of his country but of other countries as well about the decimal classification system he had developed. Many delegates were suspicious of the new system and some treated it even with antipathy. Some delegates, on the contrary, called Dewey's system "great". The paper and the discussion made a great contribution to the further development of library classification. Exchange of experience in rendering library service evoked great interest. The conference discussed the question of assisting readers of all age groups, including children.

A heated argument flared up about the question of open access. Most likely, the libraries of the USA and Western Europe had introduced open access because of absence of catalogues. Rare books and manuscripts were kept in locked cases and lent by librarians. However, as the readership grew, books from open access shelves began to disappear. The delegates shared their experience in securing the safety of stocks (including the employment of detectives at libraries), but not every library could afford such a luxury. The resolution passed by the conference pointed out that open access could be introduced only in libraries which could ensure the safety of books. It was proposed that all public libraries should have reading halls and that books requested by readers should be sent to them. But the question of organizing and introducing library catalogues again came to the fore. Mention was also made of the preparation of uniform lending rules, of the conditions for the postage of books from town to town and of the responsibility borne by the library for the safety of its books.

It was reported at the final meeting that Great Britain had set up an association of British librarians. The conference adopted the statutes of the Association.(6)

The first officially recognized international library conference was a success. For the first time the decisions of a conference dealt with questions of international significance. Certain prerequisites were created for international cooperation in librarianship in the future.

2. *The International Conference, Paris, 1892*

Despite a number of attempts of the library associations of Britain, the USA and Canada to convene an international library conference right after 1877, the next international conference was held only in 1892. The year 1892 saw an upsurge of librarianship in Britain: the association of British libraries marked its 15th anniversary; the government issued a new law providing for the growth of the network of public libraries in Britain; *Library*, the association's organ, was being published for two years already. The British librarians decided to share their experience with their colleagues in other European countries and held their annual conference for the first time in a European country. Formally it was a regular conference of British librarians, but in fact it was international, and in Cannons' guide it was called "international conference". The conference was held in Paris in September 1892. It was attended by 180 participants. The conference programme was prepared jointly by French and British librarians and included papers on various aspects of librarianship. The main papers dealt with library catalogues. It was recommended to compile a catalogue of English editions published before 1640 and kept in British and French libraries. It was decided to compile the catalogue jointly and issue it as a supplement to the printed catalogue of the British Museum.

Wide coverage of the work of the Paris international conference in the press attracted the attention of the library community of many countries and promoted the consolidation of professional links and private contacts among European librarians.(7)

3. *The International Conference of Librarians at the World Exhibition in Chicago, 1893*

The next international conference of librarians was held within the framework of the Congress organized on the occasion of the world exhibition in Chicago in 1893. For the first time a model of a small typical American public library was on display with a book stock of 5,000 specially selected and fully processed titles. The books were arranged on shelves according to two systems: the Dewey Decimal Classification and the "expansive classification" by Ch. Cutter (1837–1903). The entire collection was covered by the alphabetical subject catalogues. The catalogue of books issued in 20,000 copies served as an example for many countries in establishing similar libraries. The International library conference was held in Chicago in July 1893 simultaneously with the conference of the American Library Association. 305 participants, including 221 librarians, were registered. The attendants included representatives of libraries of Britain, Germany and Canada and of publishing houses and book-selling organizations of many countries. Only three foreign librarians presented papers dealing with international matters. Thus, a paper prepared by the German librarian Otto Hartwig (1830–1903), then Director of the University Library at Halle, was read in which the author argued that it was necessary to effect inter-library exchange of manuscripts.(8)

The report about international book exchange was prepared for the Chicago conference by the German librarian Konstantin Dziatzko (1842–1903). It was published at the end of 1893 under the title *International mutual relations of libraries* in German and American library journals.(9) K. Dziatzko said that libraries should become international vehicles of thoughts and ideas of all nations and of all times. He proposed that distribution of books from different countries should start by exchange among libraries, first of all by the exchange of duplicates. Then Dziatzko dwelt upon the history of the development of book exchange among states starting with the early 19th century, but, he believed, practical exchange of printed matter among libraries began only in 1886 when the *Library Journal* issued the *Bulletin of duplicates for exchange or sale and books wanted*.

The main question discussed at this conference was that about public libraries. For the first time the tasks and goals of a public library were clearly defined. A drive for a new type of public library, similar to the public libraries of America and, to some extent, of Britain was begun, and quickly swept the whole of Europe. The essence of American public libraries was brilliantly described by Ch. Cutter in his report *The Note of the American library*. He said that the libraries were young and small, that they could not be used for scientific research, that the bulk of their stocks consisted of relatively modern and cheap books but the main thing was that the libraries had found new ways of attracting a broad readership. He believed that the main tasks of libraries were the desire to serve an ever larger number of readers in case of a small book collection, and wide dissemination of knowledge and education among people.(11)

The Chicago International Conference gave a new impetus to the development of business contacts among librarians of the USA and European countries. Cooperation had assumed larger proportions, but the main thing was that the experience gained by libraries of different countries had become more widely known.(10,11,12)

4. *The 2nd International Library Conference, London, 1897*

The 20th anniversary of the British library association approached. During the 20 years that had passed between the 1877 and 1897 library congresses, serious shifts had taken place in the development of librarianship of many countries where more attention was given to libraries and to the expansion of the library network, to the training of librarians, to the raising of the professional level of libraries, etc. The interest taken by librarians in the 2nd international conference was extremely great. It was held in London in 1897 and was attended by 641 delegates from fourteen countries representing 313 libraries. Among the participants were representatives of the libraries of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ceylon, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal and the USA. The US delegation consisted of 20 people. This conference was attended by prominent specialists in librarianship, whereas 20 years before the participants had been young enthusiasts only. Forty-six papers were presented at the conference. Attention was again focused on questions dealing with the development of public libraries. The German delegate, the well-known library scientist F. Milkau (1859–1934),

said that the development of public libraries had entered a new era, the so-called "sociological" one. The technical questions of organizational nature discussed in 1877, were relegated to the background, whereas educational activities of public libraries came to the fore.(13) M. Dewey put forward a programme of developing public libraries. His interesting paper *The relation of the state to the public library* was devoted to the educational impact of public libraries.(14) He spoke of the pernicious influence of sensational journalism of that time. "It is better not to teach a child to read at all than to give him such knowledge and let it lead him to mental and moral destruction", he said. "The state should understand, he went on, that libraries were necessary for the life of a nation just as air, light and water. It was the libraries that could stand up to the pernicious influence of sensational materials published in newspapers, which poisoned the minds of their readers who did not know their best writers but were very familiar with the latest dog fights". (13) At the same time the conference discussed such questions as the training of librarians and the qualities required of a professional librarian. Whereas at the first Conference J. W. Jones had maintained that a librarian should be an "educated scientist" and "know foreign languages", at the second Conference M. Dewey spoke about his "ideal" of a librarian, stressing that a future librarian need not be a scientist, that he must have a clear head, a strong hand and a great heart, and that perhaps, women would make the best librarians.(13) A number of papers were devoted to cataloguing, classification and cooperation between libraries of various countries in these fields. The Conference paid much attention to international cooperation in bibliographic work, in particular to the joint publication of a "cumulative index of periodicals". The complex question of relations between librarians and bibliographers had repeatedly been discussed at international conferences. It also evoked a lively discussion at this one. For librarians the 1890s were a period of search for organizational forms of bibliographic work. The international Conference of 1897 had favourable opportunities to unite the work of librarians and bibliographers organizationally, the more so as Brussels played host to the second Congress of Bibliographers at about the same time but, according to F. Milkau, the "opportune moment was lost". (14)

The results of the Conference were widely covered in the press of many countries. Its transactions were published in separate editions.(15) The opinion of many authors – participants of the Conference – was not unanimous, but they all pointed out that it had played an important role in the development of librarianship at the end of the 19th century and should take a worthy place in the history of the latter.

5. The International Library Conference on the Preservation of Ancient Manuscripts, St. Gallen (Switzerland), 1898

The holding of a number of international library conferences on special, very narrow questions testifies to the development of library thought as well as to expansion and growing complexity of the problems which faced librarians in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This refers to the International Conference on the Preservation of Manuscripts.

Librarians had long been anxious about preservation of manuscripts. Certain countries exchanged experience in restoration work, but joint measures had not been undertaken. The Vatican Library was the first to have expressed alarm about the danger of losing manuscripts. An international conference of specialists dealing with manuscripts in libraries was convened on its initiative. The conference was held at the small Swiss town of St. Gallen in 1898, and was attended by librarians from Austria, Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands and Switzerland. Problems concerning the preservation of manuscripts, above all, manuscripts on parchment and paper, as well as palimpsests (ancient manuscripts on parchment with an obliterated or washed away original text) were discussed. The main paper was read by the representative of the Vatican Library F. Ehrle, who spoke of how manuscripts were kept in his and other libraries. He formulated a number of concrete proposals drawing on the experience of his library. This paper was published in full in the German library journal *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*. (16) After an exchange of experience the participants of the Conference passed a resolution which incorporated a number of proposals including one that provided for the establishment of an international organization to conduct joint theoretical studies aimed at preserving manuscripts. The conference set up a permanent committee to carry out the tasks outlined in the decision.(17)

6. The International Congress of Librarians, Paris, 1900

At the turn of the century a peculiar tradition was established: conferences and congresses held for the purpose of exchanging experience and achievements in various fields of human endeavour were timed to coincide with world exhibitions. This was the case at the Chicago World Fair in 1893 and at the Paris World Fair in 1900. The International Library Congress met at the Sorbonne in August 1900. The Congress was attended by 241 delegates from 22 countries such as Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Russia, Sweden, the USA and other countries. The director of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris Leopold Delisle (1826–1910) was in the chair.

The programme of the Congress provided for the work of four sections: 1) history of libraries, legislation, organization of public libraries, deposit copy, copyright; 2) library buildings and equipment; 3) acquisition of all kinds of printed matter, restoration of manuscripts, binding, stock taking, catalogue; 4) use of books within the library and outside it.

In his address of welcome the Congress President L. Delisle summarized the librarians' proposals and set forth the needs of libraries. He called attention to the fact that while the role of the popular library and of the library connected with a school or college was well-defined, that of the large general library was as yet undecided. Moreover, it had lost it, and there was need of an intermediary – none other than a reader – who could offer convincing arguments in favour of rendering library service to all fields of science. The speaker pointed out that the most serious drawback in the work of large scholarly libraries was caused by gaps in their collections. He thought that the main reason for this was lack of funds. The

question of setting up central libraries or special reading halls for periodicals in large towns was raised for the first time. The congress resolved that “. . . efforts should be made toward the creation in large cities of special libraries charged with the collection of political journals and newspapers”.(18)

The conference paid particular attention to the preservation of library stocks. A special paper devoted to the protection of books from insects evoked a lively discussion. At the end of the meeting the General Secretary of the congress said that a prize had been announced for the best essay on the subject: “Insects – enemies of books and methods employed to destroy them”, and on the subject: “Destruction of insects injurious to bindings”. The prize money had been collected from donations contributed by the congress participants.

The 1900 Paris Congress decided to request its organizing committee to convene international library congresses every five years. The proceedings of the Congress and the 30 papers presented there, were issued in French by Welter Publishers in Paris in 1901 (19) and also published in library journals.(20)

7. The Library Conference at the St. Louis International Congress of Arts and Sciences, USA, 1904

A library section was set up at the International Conference of Arts and Sciences held within the framework of the International Fair in St. Louis in 1904. The section decided to organize jointly with ALA an international conference so that papers of international character should be discussed at the morning sessions, and group and sectional papers at the evening sessions. The Conference was held in Washington, D.C., in September 1904 and was attended by over 600 participants from 17 countries: Austria, Belgium, Britain, Chile, China, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Sweden and the USA.(21) More than half of the participants were women. The Director of the Library of Congress G. Putnam (1861–1955) was in the chair. The Director of the St. Louis Public Library F. M. Grunden, one of the organizers of public libraries of “a new type”, read a paper on *The library: a plea for its recognition* in which he produced proofs that a public library was a vehicle of human progress. The Director of the Royal Library in Florence G. Biagi (1855–1925) read a paper on *The library, its past and future*. The speaker saw the main directions in the development of libraries in inter-library cooperation, international cooperation and book exchange, including cooperation in reproducing valuable books.

The paper by the British librarian W. Axon from Manchester, was devoted to the topic *The library's link with science and life*. He spoke about an “ideal” library the stocks of which would include the world's most valuable books. The largest libraries of Europe, such as the British Museum Library and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris with their printed catalogues could serve as examples. It was there that international cooperation among libraries should be particularly active, he stressed.

All three papers which had aroused great interest were published in the *Library Journal*. (22)

In conclusion the Conference passed a resolution concerning the establishment of a federation of library associations. It recommended that a committee should be set up which was to submit proposals concerning the establishment of an international organization of libraries and international cooperation jointly with national associations and organizations of librarians in a number of countries, and with representatives of states where there were no such associations or organizations. (21,22)

8. The Conference of the library section at the International Historical Congress, Berlin, 1908

The International Historical Congress was held in Berlin in 1908. The recognition of library science as an independent scientific discipline was proved by the organization of a special conference held simultaneously with other conferences within the framework of the International Historical Congress. The agenda of the Conference included such items as international exchange of books and printed matter, centralized cataloguing and international book loan. Some papers were published in the German library journal *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, including the papers on the Swiss union catalog, on the *Printed card catalog* of the Library of Congress and its distribution, and about international library loan. The conference contributed to the development of scientific links among libraries of Europe. (23)

9. The International Conference of Librarians and Archivists, Brussels, 1910

Unlike previous international library conferences which had generally been held on the occasion of world exhibitions and jubilees, the Brussels International Conference met independently. It was sponsored by the Belgium Association of Archivists and Librarians in cooperation with the Bureau of the 1900 Congress of Librarians, and held in Brussels in August 1910. It was attended by 515 people from 22 countries: Belgium, Brazil, Great Britain, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Russia, the USA and other countries. At about the same time (25–27 August 1910) Brussels played host to the Congress on Bibliography and Documentation. A number of delegates represented their countries at both conferences. The International Conference of Librarians and Archivists included four sections – two on libraries and two in archives. Forty papers were devoted to libraries. The discussion of these papers, particularly of those on urgent subjects, such as theses, information bureaus at libraries, official publications and their exchange among states, an international directory of cataloguing rules, etc. proved the timeliness of holding this international conference. Concrete decisions were taken and subsequent events showed that most of them had been implemented by libraries in many countries.

It should be remembered that the early 20th century saw an upsurge in the development of librarianship in general. New library networks were set up, books were

published in larger editions, new library buildings were erected. It was in this period that library associations were created in a number of countries: in Germany (1900), Denmark (1905), France (1906), Belgium (1907), The Netherlands (1908) Russia (1908). Most associations started publication of their own library journals. Libraries of many countries started issuing union catalogues and bibliographic indexes in their own countries, developed cataloguing rules, introduced decimal classification, and organized library training. This is precisely why the recommendations of the Brussels International Conference paid much attention to the unification of library processes.

The Brussels conference showed once more that regular international conferences of librarians had assumed great importance. The Conference passed a general resolution to establish a permanent commission for convening regular congresses of archivists and librarians. The Commission was to include members of the Bureau of the 1910 Congress, and two delegates from each association that had been represented at the 1910 Congress. It was decided that the Bureau of the 1910 Conference should continue its work until subsequent conferences were convened. (24,25,26,27)

10. The International Congress of Librarians and Bibliophiles in Paris in 1923

World War I interrupted international links among libraries for a long time. The next library congress was held only 13 years later, in 1923, in Paris (April 3–9). It was sponsored by the Association of French librarians, the Society of friends of the Bibliothèque Nationale and a number of other libraries of France. The Congress was attended by 700 participants from 28 countries including Belgium, Bulgaria, Bolivia, Brazil, Britain, Costa-Rica, Denmark, France, the Philippines, Poland, Spain, the USA, Venezuela. The presence of so many delegates can be explained by the great interest taken in this first post-war international library congress and by the fact that an invitation to the congress had been sent to a great number of people dealing with the book – authors, publishers, booksellers, printers and others. A great book exhibition put on in the House of Books in Paris was timed to coincide with the congress. Books were displayed not only by libraries and publishers but by private collectors as well. Over 150 papers were presented at the congress. There were sectional meetings devoted to 1) library administration, 2) the use of libraries, and 3) the history of printing. The general sessions were of a formal character, and sectional meetings were so overloaded with papers that there was little time left for discussion. At the end of the Congress each session passed a resolution called “Wishes”. Thus, the Congress adopted the proposal by the French delegate to the effect that the French government should propose to Parliament the passage of a library law similar to the Czechoslovak law, the Belgian law, or the Danish law. The Congress almost by-passed questions concerning international book exchange, exchange of duplicates and uniform cataloguing rules. Perhaps that was the reason why the decisions of the Congress did not have a serious impact on the development of professional international library links.

The papers read at the congress were mainly devoted to research in the history and art of the book, and to the printing and dissemination of books. The 1923 Congress aroused comparatively few comments in the library press.

A year later, in 1924, Jouve Publishers in Paris issued the *Proceedings of the Congress* including 89 papers (500 pages). (28)

11. The International Library Congress, Prague, 1926

Three years after the Paris Congress, in the summer of 1926 an International Congress of Librarians and Book-lovers, proposed by the Library Association of Czechoslovakia, was held in Prague. It was attended by 600 delegates from thirty countries. The participants represented Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, The Netherlands, Poland, the USA, Yugoslavia and other countries. Over a hundred papers were presented and discussed in six Sections. The most active was the first Section which dealt with international aspects of library work. The French delegate G. Henriot (1880–1965), President of the Association des Bibliothécaires français, proposed that a permanent commission of international relations consisting of representatives of national library associations should be set up. The commission was to hold annual meetings in different countries and report on activities in librarianship of interest to other countries. A sub-commission was established which drew up a draft decision on the setting up of an interim committee of librarians and the Prague Conference approved it. The decision pointed out the necessity of setting up associations in the countries where the latter were not yet in existence. The committee was instructed to approach the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation in Paris and to raise the question of establishing a permanent international committee of librarians. Apart from organizational issues, the Section discussed problems concerning the training of librarians, the international exchange of publications including duplicates, international library statistics and uniform library terminology for libraries' reports. Appropriate recommendations were adopted on all items. The other sections discussed questions pertaining to the work of the International Bibliographical Institute at Brussels, to decimal classification, to the work of public libraries and the state of librarianship in different countries. When closing the Congress the Swedish delegate I. Collijn (1875–1949), the future first President of IFLA, expressed gratitude to the sponsors of the Congress. (29, 30) The *Proceedings* of the Congress were issued in Prague in 1928. (31) They showed the high level of scientific discussion and the growth of international mutual understanding among professional librarians.

The main result of the Prague Conference was that at last an *interim international committee of librarians* was set up. In the first volume of *IFLA statements* the Prague Conference is regarded as a preparatory congress for the organization of the International Library Federation. (32)

The Prague congress winds up, as it were, the prehistory of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). After 1926 a number of conferences

were held, directly connected with the establishment of IFLA in Edinburgh in August 1927 as the first and only non-governmental international library organization.

The materials of international library meetings analyzed in this article make it possible to track the evolution in the assessment of the role of libraries, the library profession and the development of librarianship as a whole by progressive library personalities of the late 19th and the early 20th century. International library conferences acquainted the world library public with the latest achievements in librarianship in the late 19th and early 20th century; with the organization of public libraries of a new type using a system of open access to the stocks and a branch system, the organization of international book exchange and inter-library loan, the compilation of printed catalogues and union catalogues, the rules of cataloguing and systems of classification of library holdings, new methods of acquisition, organization of stocks and library service, library technique, buildings, the professional training of librarians, etc. All this was directly linked with successful and rapid development of librarianship, and especially with new library technical facilities which promoted standardization and unification of library processes, and later the introduction of mechanization and automation in libraries. International library conferences played a special part in developing the social function of libraries and enhancing their role in society. Whereas the first library conferences upheld the principle of self-dependence of the library profession and were mainly concerned with methods, practices and the organization of librarianship as such, at subsequent conferences advanced libraries paid greater attention to theoretical questions and to sociological aspects of the problems concerning the place and role of libraries in society.

The history of international library conferences for over half a century prior to the founding of IFLA shows that the key-note of the development of librarians' international links is the necessity of setting a permanent organization of librarians functioning between congresses and conferences. All international conferences held since 1853 generally elected a committee consisting of librarians from different countries, to organize liaison and preparatory work aimed at convening subsequent international library conferences. However, at that period there did not yet exist essential organizational, economic and training facilities which could promote the establishment of an international library organization. Differing attitudes of countries in respect to libraries did not contribute to the official unification of librarians of all states, either. Lastly, there were no library personalities capable of taking the initiative of organizing a permanent library committee. As has been said above it took more than half a century of joint efforts of the library community to set up a permanent international library organization.

This is precisely why the prehistory of IFLA is of particular interest to us.

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IFLA – The Geneva Years

Arthur C. Breycha-Vauthier

When the International Library Committee decided, at its second session in Rome, on June 14, 1929, to elect Dr Tietse Pieter Sevensma, Chief Librarian of the League of Nations Library at Geneva, to become its first permanent Secretary General, a new era in international library cooperation opened. For, although ever since 1877 numerous, but comparatively unrelated international bibliographical and library congresses had been held, there had been little assurance that the decisions taken would be rendered effective. IFLA's link with a world organization possessing facilities for conducting correspondence in the Federation's five official languages now made such permanent contacts possible. The choice of Dr Sevensma proved also to be felicitous for the recently endowed Rockefeller Library of the League of Nations, as it found itself on the point of creating its own tradition, being destined to develop from a mere office library into one of the world's foremost libraries, serving both as a centre of international research and an instrument of international understanding. A Library Planning Committee had been set up, but there seemed to be little chance that the Administration would accept the plans put forward by the Librarian, to turn the Committee into a permanent body upon the completion of the library building.

An effective link with other great libraries needed to be forged, and IFLA – whose second President, William Warner Bishop, still chaired the League of Nations Library Planning Committee – proved a perfect partner.

For this reason also Dr Sevensma strongly recommended, upon his departure from Geneva to become Director of the Leiden University Library in 1938, that the Assistant Secretary should continue to work with him, and that IFLA's administrative centre should be maintained at the League of Nations. In 1939 Dr Sevensma attained the age of 60, and his many friends, aware of his reluctance to accept the customary memorial volume, took him by surprise by creating the Sevensma Prize.

Facilities made available by the League of Nations Secretariat, enabled IFLA to maintain a low budget, whose main items were printing and postal expenses, a part-time typist-secretary, and the travel costs of the Assistant-Secretary, the Law Librarian (subsequently Chief Librarian of the League Library), Arthur C. Breycha-Vauthier, to attend IFLA's annual meetings. Through these reduced costs no library association needed to be prevented from joining IFLA owing to lack of funds.

From the beginning the Federation proved to be really international, and as early as 1931 its first *Répertoire* listed 24 associations in 21 countries in America, Asia and Europe. By far the largest member was the American Library Association, a founding member whose moral and financial support was essential from the start,

but most of the associations of librarians in Europe and Asia also joined at an early date. So did the new countries of that era, where old libraries existed, such as Czechoslovakia, Poland and the Baltic States. They became most active IFLA supporters. The 1938 *Répertoire* reflects IFLA's steady growth: 39 associations from 30 countries. Professional work was now carried out with the help of one section and twelve subcommittees.

It was William Warner Bishop who proclaimed in a presidential address that IFLA's chief duty was in days of crisis "to hold our organization intact, ready for prompt service and development when a happier day shall dawn", and in a memorable meeting, on the eve of the Second World war, it was agreed that in spite of all controversies IFLA should remain "a heaven of peace in a stormy world". Such pronouncements helped to form IFLA's policy in hard times when contacts between members were practically inexistent and even communication between Geneva and the Secretary General in the occupied Netherlands became increasingly problematic. In order, however, to show that librarians were active whenever this was needed and that IFLA still existed, a close collaboration was started with the "Consultative Committee for reading facilities for prisoners of war and internees", a group of important international organizations set up in Geneva in 1940 with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and that distributed some 12 million books through its members together with over 3 million volumes specially edited. IFLA remained active in this group during the war and in the final phase even ensured its secretariat.

When the war ended no question arose as to the need of continuing IFLA, and the first post-war meeting held in Oslo in 1947, in a country which had so grievously suffered, showed under its new President, Wilhelm Munthe, that peaceful understanding had been resumed. So were IFLA's annual conferences, and the 1955 edition of the *Répertoire*, the last to be published in Geneva, listed 57 national associations as well as three international members, and these figures also were soon exceeded. In spite of the increase in activity, as reflected in the size of the *Actes* of the International Library Committee (renamed after the 19th session (1953) the IFLA Council), caused by the rise in membership, the Secretariat managed to carry on, though with some difficulty, under Breycha-Vauthier who had taken over since 1946 as Chief Librarian, the Geneva United Nations Library.

Dr Sevensma resigned at the Madrid Council meeting, on October 10, 1958. The Federation rendered a tribute to his unique merits by electing him Honorary President. Combining sound library traditions with a progressive but realistic vision, his reliable, steady character was tempered by an exquisite personal charm and an unflinching sense of justice. A vast store of knowledge in many fields (he had been editor of two successful encyclopedias), great linguistic gifts, a capacity for hard work, and a deep sense of duty, all these qualities had left a personal mark on IFLA's first thirty years.

A complete reorganization of the Secretariat was now due, and IFLA's ties with Geneva had gradually to be relinquished. Dr Joachim Wieder from Munich was

elected Secretary, a charge he held until 1962 when IFLA's first full-time Secretary, Mr Anthony Thompson, was appointed, and the Secretariat moved to Sevenoaks (UK). Breycha-Vauthier continued in office as Honorary Treasurer until 1963, when he handed over his charge to the former IFLA President Pierre Bourgeois in Berne. Until 1963 the *Actes* continued to be prepared in Geneva with the help of Joachim Wieder and Maria Razumovsky from Vienna. The transmission of the IFLA Secretariat was smoothly effected by these devoted successors, with a minimum of disturbance caused to the membership at large.

The fact that during several decades the Geneva Library had been the centre of IFLA's activities proved a valuable asset in the post-war period. It helped to make new generations of users appreciate the importance of the Library's international role. If during its first thirty-four years IFLA had benefitted from the facilities graciously offered by this international link, it reciprocated with continuous moral and practical support, leaving as a most positive balance, born from this happy collaboration, everlasting precious memories and a deep professional and personal satisfaction.

USA Librarians and IFLA

Foster E. Mohrhardt

Librarians in the United States with their traditional ties to European libraries welcomed with enthusiasm the 1926 proposal for an international library organization. They viewed it as the culmination of their repeated expressions of interest in establishing closer ties with librarians throughout the world. As early as 1877, seventeen U.S. librarians had attended the founding conference of the British Library Association, which was called "the first international gathering of librarians".(1) Then in 1893 Melvil Dewey, president of the American Library Association, hoped that its conference that year could be a world congress of librarians. Six foreign librarians attended, but it was not a major international meeting.

Even prior to these conferences, U.S. librarians on their trips abroad had established continuing ties with their colleagues in other countries. From their beginnings U.S. libraries have been strengthened by books and journals collected abroad. The incentives for international interest have been practical as well as philosophical. A first hand report on the scope of a European trip by a U.S. librarian is found in a 1925 paper by Dr. E. C. Richardson, librarian of Princeton University:

"Last year the European visit took seven months. Its occasion was a very direct matter of international library cooperation involving the League Committee, the Brussels Institute and the A.L.A. Its chief by-product occupations were three: the visiting of as many foreign librarians as possible with reference, first, to the coming fiftieth A.L.A. conference, and second, sounding them as to their probable disposition to join with the League Committee and the A.L.A. in making the Brussels Institute a clearing-house of international bibliography; third, seeing as many union catalogs as possible and visiting as many library schools as possible. These objects took us to Paris, Brussels, London, Rome, Geneva, Zurich, Basel, Freiburg (for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the German Library Association), Frankfurt, Berlin, Brussels and Paris again, and various intermediate places."(2)

Canadian as well as U.S. librarians have been active in and served as leaders of the American Library Association. It was at a Montreal Conference of the A.L.A. in 1900 that the organization established a special "Committee on International Cooperation". Dr. E. C. Richardson says: "This was the beginning of organized A.L.A. promotion of international library cooperation."(3) Leaders of the profession were appointed to this committee, and they stimulated such international interest that the 1904 A.L.A. Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, became an informal international meeting. The following resolution, adopted at that Conference, identifies an early A.L.A. desire for a "Federation":

"The American Library Association, at its twenty-sixth annual meeting, held in St. Louis . . . has been honored by the presence of distinguished delegates rep-

representing the library and bibliographical interests of many of our sister nations, and the association has heard from them with pleasure the suggestion of a federation of the various library associations and bibliographical societies of the world. "Believing that international cooperation, which has already done so much to promote interests common to all nations, may be expected to be effective in the field with which we are concerned.

"Be it resolved, That the incoming Executive Board be requested to appoint a special committee of five to consider plans for the promotion of international cooperation among libraries, that the committee be directed to ascertain whether the library associations and bibliographical societies of other countries are disposed to entertain favorably such a proposal; that the committee be instructed to report to the next annual meeting of the association, with such recommendations as it may deem fit."(4)

An attempt was made to find out how much international interest there might be in formalizing international cooperation. Although there was some interest, particularly in bibliographic projects, there was not enough support from other countries to encourage the A.L.A. to take further action. Americans continued to work cooperatively at the international level, and a large group of Canadian and United States librarians participated in the Brussels Congress of 1910.

Although there is no further evidence of A.L.A. stimulation of cooperation in the next few years, librarians of major U.S. academic and research libraries travelled to Europe on book buying missions. Some became better acquainted with foreign booksellers and publishers than with the librarians of these countries. They felt that an international library organization would have made it easier for them to meet and consult with their professional colleagues.

Individual librarians and library committees during the first two decades of the 1900's discussed the growing need for more formalized international library cooperation. E. C. Richardson summarized in 1925 the readiness of American librarians to join with librarians in other countries in cooperative work:

"International cooperation, to Americans, begins with the fact that they have been so long and so largely indebted to the courtesy of European libraries for the books and manuscripts needed in their researches. This free service of books has been almost wholly one-sided as a matter of direct use, probably one hundred to one. Very few European scholars use American collections. It is true, of course, that in the intellectual world learned production itself is counted an equal consideration in any cooperative service, but this does not affect the obligation of American libraries to European libraries or their strong general wish to express their sense of indebtedness in some form of reciprocal service.

The American Library Association is the natural but not the only channel of international cooperation as regards libraries. The association is itself international and operates internationally as to Canada. It maintains, moreover, four or five committees concerned directly with international cooperation.

The possibilities of a wider cooperation with European libraries has often been discussed and operations to meet several of the specific international library needs of American scholars proposed. Some of these could be carried through easily and without large funds by simple organization and cooperation; others call for more money, but would obviously cost much less with organized international cooperation.

The ultimate factor of practical intellectual cooperation in library matters is the organization of the intellectual workers themselves internationally in order to synthesize national experience in direct conference over actual problems. For this, American librarians have organized appropriate committees which stand ready to join with other committees in such conference over library methods, projects, operations, or ways and means. The successful experiences of the United States and Canada together in the American Library Association have produced among American librarians a certain guarded optimism as to the possibilities of a more general cooperation.”(5)

Although library leaders in the U.S. had been disappointed by the unenthusiastic response from foreign librarians to their 1904 suggestion for cooperation between library associations, their hopes were again raised by the announcement of the 1926 Prague Conference. Carl H. Milam, Secretary of the American Library Association, was selected to represent the U.S. He had strong international interests; was an expert on the organization and management of library associations, and was influential in American library affairs. He was uniquely qualified to present U.S. interests and to give expert guidance in the deliberations about forming an international association. He was appointed to the Honorary Committee for the meeting. Professor J. Periam Danton, who was an assistant to Carl Milam, says: “When I went to ALA Headquarters in 1930, I was already an ‘internationalist,’ so I was much gratified to find that Carl Milam was very internationally-minded, and was determined that the ALA should play a strong role in IFLA. In my opinion what we did in and for IFLA in the early days was almost entirely the result of Milam’s interest and efforts.”(6)

Since the activities of the Prague meeting are reported in other chapters of this history, no attempt will be made to discuss them again here. It should be noted, however, that as a result of Mr. Milam’s report to A.L.A. on Professor Henriot’s proposal, an invitation was sent to foreign libraries to send representatives to the 50th Anniversary A.L.A. meeting later that same year (1926). The meeting was held in two places – Atlantic City, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

William Warner Bishop

It is at this point that our review of U.S.library international relations must focus on the American most closely identified with the establishment and nurturing of IFLA. This is William Warner Bishop, the second president of the Federation and the only American who has received that honor. His colleague, Dr. Lydenberg, Director of the New York Public Library, wrote of him: “Few fellow laborers in

this country have equalled him in contacts with scholars and librarians abroad, none have surpassed him as interpreter to those at home of what their friends are doing overseas, or as a representative over there of the best expressions of the stirrings, hopes, ideals of the tillers of library fields on this side of the water.”(7)

Similar views were held by his IFLA colleagues. Marcel Godet commented: “Président de la Commission pour les relations internationales de l’A.L.A., délégué comme expert par la Dotation Carnegie auprès de la Bibliothèque Vaticane, membre de la Commission des Experts-bibliothécaires de l’Institut international de Coopération intellectuelle, auteur apprécié d’un livre alors récent (the Backs of Books) qui témoignait de la largeur de ses vues, M. Bishop se trouvait mieux qualifié que n’importe qui pour représenter ses collègues des Etats-Unis dans le nouvel organisme.”(8)

Very early in his library career (1898–1899) Bishop had the opportunity to study in Rome as a Fellow of the American School of Classical Studies. He later pointed out that this was when he first became concerned with international library cooperation.

Bishop made frequent visits to Europe and became acquainted with library leaders there. However, it was in 1921 when closer association developed while he served as the official A.L.A. delegate to the British Library Association. During this trip he initiated discussions of problems common to librarians on both sides of the Atlantic. Subsequent trips abroad were made in 1922 and 1923–24, when he served as a special representative of the American Library Association. In addition to his foreign travels his early professional experience stimulated a basic concern with international cooperation. From 1902 to 1907 he was on the staff of the Princeton University Library and was encouraged by Ernest Cushing Richardson, the librarian, to develop his international interests. Bishop was most appreciative of Richardson’s thoughtfulness in sharing his professional experience abroad and his foreign and American guests with his young assistant.

When Bishop became Superintendent of the Reading Room at the Library of Congress he again was associated with a colleague who would encourage and abet his international interests – Librarian of Congress, Herbert Putnam. It was Putnam, then chairman of the A.L.A. Committee on International Relations, who appointed him to this committee, providing a channel for this special interest and giving him an opportunity to work with librarians in A.L.A. interested in foreign relations.

He left the Library of Congress in 1915 to become librarian of the University of Michigan where he had even greater opportunities to expand his foreign activities. It is interesting to note that two years before the Prague Congress, the American Library Association designated Carl Roden, George Utley and W. W. Bishop as a Special Committee to arrange for inviting foreign librarians to attend the 1926 A.L.A. meeting. Bishop was asked to extend personal invitations while on his 1924 European trip, on which he reports that he “spent much time and energy in promoting this project.”(9)

It was propitious that these arrangements had been made for extensive international attendance at the 1926 A.L.A. meeting since it provided an opportunity to follow up within a few months on the Prague proposals. As a result of Bishop's 1924 European trip and the stimulation of interest in Prague, twenty-one foreign countries sent representatives to the October 1926 A.L.A. Convention. It was also fortuitous that W. W. Bishop with his enthusiasm and international commitment had just become Secretary of the International Relations Committee. In his report on the 1926 sessions Bishop says:

"At Atlantic City a group of foreign delegates met with the Committee on International Relations of the American Library Association for an informal discussion of certain international aspects of library work. This discussion has been reported in the volume containing the *Papers and proceedings of the Fiftieth Anniversary Conference*, and more fully in a mimeographed pamphlet which was distributed to all those who took part in the conference itself. At the conclusion of the tour, an informal meeting of all those who remained with the tour until its end was held in Washington, at which certain resolutions were adopted requesting that the American Library Association take the initiative in addressing all known associations of librarians to the end that some organization of a more or less formal type might be set up to arrange for future meetings of a similar sort, and to have charge of formal international relations between libraries and librarians. Practically every American librarian who entertained the delegates, or was associated with this tour, has time and time again expressed the feeling that this opportunity to meet and discuss informally the various phases of our work as they present themselves under differing conditions in diverse parts of the world, was one of the most valuable experiences of his professional career. It has been my good fortune to meet a number of the persons who participated in this conference and this tour during a recent visit to Europe. With one accord they are of the same opinion as their American colleagues."(10)

He also remarked prophetically: "That meeting will, I venture to say, prove historical in more ways than one. It seems likely that it will be known as marking the beginning of effective, practical cooperation between librarians of Europe, Asia, North and South America."(11)

We can recapture a sense of the impact which this meeting had on other American librarians by listening to the contemporary remarks of two A.L.A. presidents. Charles Belden, librarian of the Boston Public Library, concluded his 1927 speech, "Library Service in an Understanding World", with a statement about what U.S. librarians should seek in international relations:

"We have much to give, but we have also much to gain. Library methods we do not need to learn abroad — these we can teach — but we can cultivate there our opportunities for scholarship. It was with this in mind that I stressed also the importance of finding new avenues for a broader education through the exchange of students and professors. Greater breadth and depth, not necessarily increased efficiency, are today the fundamental needs of American librarianship; welcome to every agency that helps us in this direction!"(12)

Then the next year Carl B. Roden, librarian of the Chicago Public Library, was still so exhilarated that he remarked:

“Our rapidly expanding contacts with librarianship in other countries is a development of recent years that constitutes a significant phase of our own rapidly expanding interests. The distinguished group from beyond the seas that graced our Fiftieth Anniversary Conference brought to many the first vivid realization of our essential kinship in ideals and objectives with our colleagues the world over. American librarianship, fifty years young, was there received into the family of its elder brethren rich in tradition and great in wisdom, and found itself in a company acknowledging a common heritage. It was a revelation that was arresting, chastening, and, let us believe, contributed something to our present mood of self-examination.”(13)

Again we turn to Dr. Bishop for information about the consequences of this historic meeting:

“The most important duty left with the Committee on International Relations and with the American Library Association as a heritage of the Atlantic City Conference was the task of communicating to other library associations the resolutions passed by the group of foreign delegates at Washington on the completion of their trip. With the counsel of the Committee, the President and Secretary of the Association prepared a letter which was sent to all library associations known to us, requesting them to consider the matter of an international committee or an international federation of library associations, and to send delegates to the Edinburgh Conference, to be held next September, prepared to discuss and to act upon such proposals.”(14)

Most countries were slow to respond, but this resulted from the careful consideration which they were giving to the proposal. Bishop hoped that the group in Edinburgh would at least set up a committee which would establish some reasonable pattern for calling international meetings.

Bishop was keenly aware of the serious problems that would have to be solved before librarians could establish any permanent organization. When some of the A.L.A. leaders began to speak of their 1926 meeting as an International Congress of Librarians, Bishop frankly pointed out that much more than a title was required to establish a congress or a federation. He stressed the importance of extensive preparation, governmental approval by some European countries, assured financing, and the establishment of a capable secretariat. He insisted that the 1926 meeting should limit its responsibilities to providing an opportunity for informal, frank discussions by international librarians. These talks would form the background for the formal agreements that would be reached in Edinburgh.

He also felt that any international library association would have to establish ties with existing international bodies. Hence, he brought to the attention of various groups information about the growing interest in a library federation.

Participating in a meeting of the International Institute for Intellectual Cooperation resulted in the following recommendation by its Committee of Library Experts:

“5. After having heard a statement from Mr. Bishop as regards views exchanged on the occasion of the conference of the American Library Association at Atlantic City in October 1926, with reference to the formation of an international federation of librarians’ associations, the Committee of Experts is of opinion that Mr. de Vos van Steenwijk should attend the meeting of the British Library Association at Edinburgh in September 1927 in order to ascertain the progress made in the realization of the proposals. When the matter has assumed definite shape a resolution should be adopted regarding the relations to be established between the new central service at the Institute and the contemplated International Federation of Librarians.

6. The Committee of Experts is of opinion that it is desirable to communicate the above resolutions, on the one hand to the directors of national libraries, and on the other to the presidents of associations of librarians and to bring about an exchange of views on this subject at the forthcoming Edinburgh meeting.”(15)

Unfortunately, Bishop could not attend the Edinburgh meeting. The U.S. representatives, as is pointed out elsewhere in this book, were active participants.

Carl Roden was the U.S. representative, chairing the committee which drafted the provisional constitution for the organization. Carl Milam had a prominent position at the meeting and was responsible for the procedures governing the organization. In addition to Milam and Roden, the provisional recommendations were signed by Charles Belden, George Utley, Frank P. Hill and H.H.B. Meyer, representing the American Library Association.

The recommendations for an International Library and Bibliographic Committee were readily approved by A.L.A., which appointed Dr. Bishop as the U.S. representative on the Committee. He was an active participant in the 1927, 1929, 1931, 1932, 1933 and 1935 meetings of the International Library Committee. He had accepted in 1927 the responsibility for supervision of the recataloging of the Vatican Library and was in Rome in 1927 and 1928. Financing was provided by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Professor Danton says:

“Bishop could not have done what he did without them (Milam’s interest and efforts), and particularly without the financial support Milam secured from the Carnegie Corporation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Financial support from the latter, for example, made possible the attendance at the IFLA formative session in Rome in 1928 of Milam and the ALA president.”(16)

On January 18, 1928 the American Library Association notified the International Committee that the A.L.A. Council had unanimously adopted the Edinburgh resolutions. Dr. Bishop was named as the U.S. delegate. He worked closely with Milam on plans for IFLA. It was Milam who proposed the six committees that were established by the federation. Bishop and Hanson were the U.S. representatives at the first official sessions of the committee which were held in 1928 in Rome. Reporting on his 1928 trip to Rome Bishop says:

“... the fact that Dr. Isak Collijn of Stockholm was in Rome (called in to assist in planning the cataloging of the incunabula) and that Hanson was likewise there led to a meeting of the International Library Committee in Rome.”(17)

He adds:

“To the Carnegie Endowment is due whatever credit exists for my own part in the working of the International Federation of Library Associations. It could not have been performed without the aid very generously given by that organization.”(18)

Some illuminating views of these early meetings are provided by one of the participants – Dr. Milton E. Lord, who prepared for this volume “Notes on the U.S. Participation in the Formative Years of IFLA”. Referring to the activities in 1927 and 1928 he says:

“In 1927 Bishop had been sent by Nicholas Murray Butler, President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, on a mission to Rome to propose help to Pope Pius XI (himself a former head of the Vatican Library) in connection with the modernization of the Vatican Library. Bishop’s share was to recommend modernizing 1) the catalog of the printed books, 2) the catalog of the manuscripts, and 3) the catalog of the incunabula. As I recall it, Bishop involved Collijn with the manuscripts and the incunabula, either one or the other, or perhaps both. Thus Collijn was in Rome often, and it was there that I knew him, when in 1928 I was joined, on leave for the purpose from my post as the first full-time Librarian of the American Academy in Rome, with Bishop, J. C. M. Hanson, Charles Martel, and William Randall on the work with the catalog of printed books.”(19)

Librarians in the U.S. were anticipating the 1929 World Congress in Rome, and Bishop was looking forward with enthusiasm to what he hoped would be a landmark occasion for librarians. Arriving by ship at Naples in 1929 he received an urgent message from Collijn to come to Rome immediately to help in straightening out the chaotic condition of the local planning – or lack of planning – for the first IFLA Congress. Speaking of the local secretary of the planning group and the Congress, Bishop said, “A more inefficient man never breathed”.

Sparks in his biography of Bishop reports:

“At Rome, he found Collijn, who had been ill, nearly exhausted, reduced to despair by a combination of Roman heat and the confusion resulting from the incompetent planning of the local committee. No program had been printed, no dates had been set for most of the social affairs, and nothing had been done toward scheduling meetings of sections. Almost immediately upon arrival, Bishop met with Hugo Krüss, Arundell Esdaile of Great Britain, and several American delegates to draw up a program of sorts for the Congress. Also, knowing that a business meeting of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee was a necessary preliminary to the Congress, he drew up an agenda and had it mimeographed at his own expense.

At this business meeting, Collijn presided while Bishop helped Milam act as temporary Secretary. The name of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee was changed to International Federation of Library Associations (I.F.L.A.); the Executive Sub-Committee was re-named the International Library Committee; and T. P. Sevensma was elected Permanent Secretary. When financial support of the I.F.L.A. was discussed, Bishop insisted on regular contributions from member

associations, a provision which resulted in firm financial foundation for the work of the organization. At the business meeting, Bishop presented to the International Library Committee an invitation to hold the next World Congress in Chicago in 1933; it was received with enthusiasm, but no action was taken.”(20)

Milton Lord's first-hand impressions give us a feeling of the disorganization: “In 1929 IFLA was proposing a first World-Congress of Libraries and Bibliography to take place in Rome-Naples-Florence-Venice under the presidency of Collijn as the President of IFLA. The local arrangements for Italy had been put into the hands of Vincenzo Fago, the head of the official Italian International Exchange Office. Fago was an affable, but non-performing individual, from whom in Stockholm Collijn could get little satisfaction and unresponsive replies. Collijn wrote to me in Rome from Stockholm, imploring me to see what I could do with Fago “try to get him to understand what has to be done to mount a library congress, as is done so well by the A.L.A., as I saw well at Atlantic City in 1926”. Unhappily I had little more success with Fago than had Collijn or Sevensma, the first IFLA Secretary-General.

And so the First World Congress of Libraries and Bibliography arrived at its opening day in Rome without even a printed program! The disorganization of the entire Congress was a shambles in respect to learned or professional programs. A few individuals from outside of Italy – primarily from the U.S. had to get together on the side and develop a makeshift program. I recall going to the Palazzo Corsini for the opening session and meeting Fago and others in the entrance hall, Fago remarking: “Signor Lord, it is so hot this afternoon that we have decided not to hold the session”.”(21)

Forty U.S. librarians, the third largest delegation, attended the 1929 Rome meeting – exceeded only by Spain and France. The official A.L.A. representatives were Dr. Bishop, C.H.Compton, president of A.L.A.; Carl Milam, secretary; Louis R. Wilson, president-elect of A.L.A.; and Milton E. Lord, Chairman of the International Relations Committee. Ernest C. Richardson and Joseph L. Wheeler were also designated as part of the official U.S. State Department delegation. A review of the papers and discussions shows that there was extensive participation by all of the U.S. attendees. Carl Milam was chairman of an important section on public libraries.

Unfortunately, illness prevented Bishop from attending the 1930 meeting in Stockholm. Sarah Bogle of the American Library Association served as vice-president. Charles Rush was the other U.S. delegate. It was at this meeting that a report by Carl Milam, Chairman of the Committee on Public Libraries, critically discussed the International Committee's apparent lack of interest in public libraries. After pointing out that meetings of the World Federation of Education Associations and the World Association for Adult Education covered topics pertaining to public libraries, he proposed:

“On behalf of my associates in the Public Library Committee (but without their approval, for I have not had an opportunity to consult them) I offer the following recommendations:

1. That committees of the International Federation of Library Associations be encouraged to give adequate consideration to the public library aspects of the subjects with which they deal.
2. That in planning future library congresses the International Library Committee (a) provide opportunity for the discussion of public library problems, and (b) state in its announcements that the Congress is for library workers from all kinds of libraries and library agencies.”(22)

He thus raised a subject which has been a continuing IFLA problem, and affirmative action in 1930 might have forestalled recurrences of complaints by public librarians in the 1950's and 1960's.

W. W. Bishop was Vice President of IFLA from 1929 until 1931 when he became the second president of the organization at the Conference in Cheltenham, England. Bishop reports that he presided for the first time at the International Library Committee meeting in Bern in 1932. Although he had a good working knowledge of French, German and Italian, he found it a difficult task to handle a meeting where they were all “freely used”, and he expressed his great appreciation for the help of Sevensma.

As president of an organization which was so important to him, he tried to raise funds to bring the International Committee to Chicago in 1933 for the A.L.A. meeting. Only a limited amount of money was raised, and not all of the members could come. Those who were in Chicago held the sixth International Library Committee session with the A.L.A. International Relations Committee on October 14. The members were joined by thirty-one delegates from seventeen countries. The Federation also had a meeting in Avignon in November – the only year when IFLA had meetings in more than one country. Mr. Godet presided in Avignon since Bishop could not attend.

Again Milton Lord gives us a personal report:

“Bishop succeeded Collijn as President of IFLA. Already Bishop had scored a sort of triumph – with the aid of some of the foundations – in getting a respectable representation of leading European librarians to the U.S. for holding in Chicago in 1933 a session of the IFLA International Library Committee (as the IFLA Board was then known) – more or less in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair of that year. This offered a background for the soon-to-come Second World Congress of Libraries and Bibliography at Madrid-Sevilla-Barcelona in 1935, presided in elegant fashion by Bishop, with a goodly turn-out of U.S. librarians. Good program sessions were held, as a result of Bishop's solicitude that there should be such, and there were visits to the great Spanish libraries and collections.

I recall a sticky moment at the closing session in Barcelona when the time came for offering an invitation for the next World Congress of Libraries in 1940. Krüss, the Generaldirektor of the Preussische Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, jumped to his feet with an invitation to Germany in 1940. There was considerable anti-Nazi feeling among those present (almost entirely European librarians). A tense moment ensued. Finally Milam saved the day by suggesting that the invitation be accepted “en principe”, leaving to the IFLA Bureau the taking of the matter thereafter.

But, like the Rome-Naples-Florence-Venice Congress of 1929, the Madrid-Sevilla-Barcelona Congress of 1935 did not have the results hoped for. It was followed almost immediately by the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. Publication of the proceedings went into abeyance. I had, for instance, prepared two separate papers that I had given, but I never knew whether they reached publication.”(23)

Prior to the 1935 Madrid meeting Bishop had told Milam that he planned to resign in Madrid from his IFLA presidency and his place on the International Library Committee. He hoped that a younger librarian would be appointed to represent the U.S. In announcing his resignation at Madrid he stated his belief that the presidency should not remain too long in the hands of any one country. He was persuaded to remain in office until the Warsaw meeting the next year. He could not attend the 1936 Warsaw session. Charles Rush of Yale University was selected on Bishop's recommendation as the U.S. representative.

Bishop's resignation was graciously accepted by Vice President Godet. Although Bishop did not attend any other IFLA meetings, his term as A.L.A. representative to the I.L.C. continued until 1939, and at that time the A.L.A. Executive Board re-elected him for the term expiring at the end of 1941. The A.L.A. Executive Board in 1945 elected him representative emeritus. He remained active in committee work and was called upon regularly by IFLA officers for advice on many subjects including documentation, conferences and committee appointments.

Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library, succeeded Bishop as Chairman of the A.L.A. International Relations Committee in 1934. Mr. Lord had studied in Paris, and had served as librarian of the American Academy in Rome. He had attended the 1st International Congress in Rome in 1929. Mr. Lord was outstanding among the younger American librarians. He was a member of the official delegation to the 1935 Congress in Madrid and was an active participant in the section on cooperation between countries, and presented a paper on "Union Cataloging in the United States". His notes provided for this chapter bring a vital sense of the early IFLA problems and activities. The late 1930's were crucial years for IFLA as he notes:

"In due season Marcel Godet, the Director of the Swiss National Library in Berne, succeeded Bishop as President of IFLA. Godet, together with Sevensma at the U.N. Library in Geneva as Secretary-General and Arthur Breycha-Vauthier, the No. 2 man at the U.N. Library, kept the lines of the annual sessions of the International Library Committee intact until World War II broke out, and thereafter held the threads together all through the war period.”(24)

Official U.S. delegates to the 1937 Paris meeting were Ms. J. Meyer and J. T. Vance; to the 1938 Brussels sessions, Ms. J. Meyer; and to the 1939 Hague meeting H. Craver and J.P. Danton.

Carl Milam and W. W. Bishop, the longtime A.L.A. supporters and proponents of IFLA, came to a serious disagreement about the Federation in the years following the 1935 IFLA meeting. It concerned the problem of selecting a country for the 1940 conference, mentioned by Mr. Lord in the previous quotation. As Lord in-

dicates, Milam had suggested in Barcelona that the ultimate decision on the 1940 site be left in the hands of the IFLA Bureau. Sparks in his biography of Bishop gives an account of the controversy:

“His (Bishop’s) greatest single service to the IFLA after his resignation from the presidency was in connection with the choice of a meeting place for a World Congress of librarians planned for 1940. It is perhaps not too much to say that he saved the organization from probable demise – certainly from extended controversy – by successfully opposing unwise action proposed by the A.L.A. officers and Executive Board. . . .

As presiding officer at the Madrid meeting, Bishop did not take sides in the matter, but his feelings were not neutral. He had hoped that the British delegates would come forward with an invitation, thus giving the organization a choice between Germany and Britain. After the Madrid Congress, he set to work quietly to elicit a British invitation, even securing an informal promise of financial aid from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees.”(25)

The British did not want to engage in a controversy about the location of the meeting. They indicated a readiness to extend an invitation to hold the meeting in Britain – only after the German invitation had been rejected. The German librarians stated that if this happened, their government would force them to withdraw from IFLA.

Nearly everyone regarded this possibility as tragic, since the willing spirit of international cooperation displayed by the German librarians had been a moving force in the organization.

“Carl Milam, who was rabidly opposed to accepting the hospitality of a government that nullified and ridiculed most of the ideals cherished by American librarians . . . expressed his feelings freely to the British librarians and to Godet and Sevensma . . . It would be a shame if the Germans withdrew, he said, but it would be far worse to fail to protest the actions of the Nazis. Bishop agreed in private with some of Milam’s feelings, but he was distressed by the Executive Secretary’s letters to the European librarians. While an American rejection of Germany as a meeting place might retain a sense of independence and self-respect for the Americans, it would make trouble for the German colleagues who were laboring to uphold the old traditions of scholarship and service which had distinguished German librarianship, he thought.”(26)

The A.L.A. Executive Board passed a resolution:

“Whereas, complete freedom of investigation and expression is the basis of scholarship, in which libraries exercise so large and necessary a part and,
Whereas, the Government of Germany through its official actions, has so seriously interfered with this freedom, therefore,
Be it Resolved, that the Executive Board of the American Library Association instruct its representative to vote against acceptance of the invitation of the German Government to hold the 1940 Congress of the International Federation of Library Associations in Germany.”(27)

When word of this action reached Bishop, who was in Florida recuperating from an illness, he telegraphed Milam to delay publishing the resolution, and wrote Harrison Craver, president of A.L.A.:

"The International Federation is the one channel of international participation in library affairs remaining to German librarians. They have been withdrawn by governmental action from practically everything else. Their position is vastly more difficult than most of us realize . . .

I have given time, strength and money to the task of representing the A.L.A. in the International Committee. I served for five years as President of the International Federation, and have now been made an Honorary President of the Federation . . .

Craver, sympathetic with Bishop's viewpoint, expressed hope that the resolution could be killed . . .

Meanwhile, Wilhelm Munthe, who had received an expression of Milam's opinions, took much the same stand as Bishop. The IFLA must not break with the German librarians for three reasons he wrote Bishop: The German librarians as a body and as individuals had done their best to protect freedom to read and freedom of the press; the German withdrawal from IFLA would mean irreparable loss to the small, progressive European countries who were indebted to German colleagues for both personal assistance and loans of materials; and the IFLA would die. Munthe said, "The result would be that the International Federation; conceived in Philadelphia, born in Edinburgh, and christened in Rome, would now be killed in America. That must be prevented by all means and I hope you will do your best to find a way out of this difficulty." (28)

At the midwinter meeting of the Executive Board the preamble to the resolution was rescinded, and its action read simply,

VOTED, that a representative on the International Library Committee be informed that the Executive Board does not at this time favor accepting an invitation to hold the International Library Congress in Germany in 1940." (29)

When Marcel Godet in 1938 sent out a request for votes by members, the new invitation was from the two German library associations.

Bishop told Craver that the new invitation should influence the Executive Board to change its position.

"But if the Board vote was still averse to accepting the invitation, he said, the response to Godet should be merely a refusal to vote favorably on the selection of Germany as a site . . . Bishop was convinced by May, 1938 that the Congress could not actually take place in Germany anyway . . .

The Executive Board decided at Kansas City in June to accept the German invitation. Bishop communicated the final decision to Sevensma with a sense of great relief . . ." (30)

Then at the 1938 Brussels meeting discussions were "diplomatically turned . . . to the practical side of the Congress". Bishop told Wilhelm Munthe, when he heard of the harmony at Brussels:

“My own difficulties in the matter of the invitation to hold the next meeting in Germany have been very considerable, but I managed to get an approval of the invitation from the Executive Board of the A.L.A. . . .”(31)

During the war years Bishop found it more and more difficult to correspond with IFLA colleagues. He tried to keep A.L.A. interested in IFLA and insisted that the Association budget its full dues for 1940. “As late as February, 1941, Bishop was considering setting up a working branch of the I.F.L.A. in America for temporary purposes, with the aid of some Latin American librarians, perhaps under himself as Honorary President.”(32) The U.S. entrance into the war nullified that plan.

His influence in IFLA has been a continuing one. Three of the five A.L.A. representatives who served as first vice presidents of IFLA had been students in his classes at the University of Michigan – Bryant, Dalton and Mohrhardt.

Milton Lord’s reminiscences on the post World War II period are significant: “At the end of World War II there had to be an entire re-building of IFLA. In December 1946 an informal rump session was held in Geneva to consider getting IFLA back onto its feet. Attending were Munthe from Oslo, Sevensma and Breycha-Vauthier (the former from Holland and the latter being already in Geneva), Mlle Foncin in representation of Julien Cain, the Administrateur-Général of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, and three of us from across the ocean who were in Europe in attendance at the First General Conference of Unesco in Paris – Miss Gill from the National Research Council of Canada, Carl Milam, and Milton Lord.

The outcome was that a revival of the annual IFLA International Library Committee meeting would be attempted in the following spring of 1947 at Oslo. Munthe would be proposed as the IFLA President, Lord as First Vice President, Sevensma and Breycha-Vauthier as Secretary-General and Associate Secretary-General respectively.

The session at Oslo was held in May 1947 amid hope for the future. IFLA was on its way again, still in the hands of the Old Guard. I recall sharing a room with Godet, who for some reason took a fancy to me as “the most European of the American librarians”. At that time, so close to the end of the war, everyone in Europe looked hopefully toward the U.S. as the saviour of the future, including the welfare of IFLA. Everyone yearned to come to the U.S. for another World Congress of Libraries.

The 1947 session at Oslo was followed by a London session in 1948 and a Basel session in 1949. Great interest was developing in the possibility of convening the *Fourth World Congress of Libraries in the U.S. in 1950 after the long gap since the Congress in Spain in 1935*. Unhappily this could not be worked out in the face of the economic problem of getting enough European librarians to the U.S. to prevent such a Congress from being nothing but another A.L.A. type of gathering dominated numerically by U.S. librarians. At the time European currencies were not in a condition to permit most European librarians to travel so great a distance and at so great a cost per individual. Transatlantic air travel had not be-

come freely available at affordable round-trip rates as today. Attempts were made in vain to obtain travel subsidies from some of the more likely great U.S. foundations. And so to the great disappointment of the IFLA Old Guard the hoped-for U.S. World Congress of Libraries did not come into being at that time.

Thereafter my own direct relationship with IFLA ceased. My period as a formal officer of IFLA was confined to only one term as First Vice President, beginning in 1947 and extending into the very early 1950s. In succession there followed the Vice Presidencies of Bryant, Mohrhardt, Vosper, et al from the side of the U.S.

A strong impetus to IFLA did indeed come out of the U.S., particularly following its inception in the years succeeding to the international gathering of librarians (especially Americans and Europeans) at the A.L.A. 50th Anniversary Conference at Atlantic City in 1926. It was stimulated in most honorable fashion by Bishop, with sympathetic support and interest from key people in the U.S. library world. I recall the presence at Rome of Bishop, Putnam, Milam, Keogh, Belden, and Lord, and at Madrid Wilson, Compton, Milam, Lord, and a number of U.S. librarians on European travels. In the early years following Atlantic City and Edinburgh and thereafter the annual sessions of the International Library Committee were generally graced by the presence of an A.L.A. representative, frequently a U.S. librarian on travel in Europe at the time. At the close of World War II Milam and Lord helped to put IFLA back on its feet again. And from then on there was pretty generally a succession of First Vice Presidents from the U.S. – a Lord, a Bryant, a Mohrhardt, a Vosper, and others.”

Dean Jack Dalton of Columbia University, while serving as a U.S. representative and IFLA Vice-President, noted that in the period up to 1940:

“There was apparently no general discussion setting down the areas in which the Federation and its Committee would concentrate their work; rather, Sub-Committees were formed and discussions arose as a result of random suggestions from interested individuals and from other organizations, as well as from the Executive Committee or the International Library Committee as a whole.”(34)

He has also noted that even in the 1950's and 1960's U.S. librarians attending IFLA meetings were dismayed to find that many of the activities lacked planning and organization. It was not uncommon to find that meetings listed in the official program were abruptly cancelled – or at times those scheduled to conduct the meetings did not appear.

He reported to the A.L.A. International Relations Committee in 1960 that Douglas Bryant of Harvard University, his predecessor as U.S. delegate to IFLA, had identified IFLA's problems and had recommended stronger A.L.A. participation.

“Mr. Bryant reviewed for the Executive Board the ALA's relations with IFLA since its establishment. He said that the part played by American members (ALA, SLA and MLA) has been substantial but that it has become increasingly important for American librarianship to be influential in IFLA.

He said that there were six official European delegations at Brussels, active and well-coordinated. It is to ALA's interest to see that American influence and thinking are brought to bear to the fullest extent possible.

One need, Mr. Bryant pointed out, is for greater planning and coordination on the part of American representatives, whether they be from ALA or from the other two associations. An attempt to provide such coordination before the Brussels conference did not get far."(35)

During their terms as Vice Presidents of IFLA both Bryant and Dalton worked within A.L.A. for increased U.S. participation and within IFLA for better organization and management. The 1960's were transitional years for IFLA, when increased participation and wider representation were reshaping the association. Attempts to amend or modify the IFLA organization and activities in the latter part of the 1960's did little to solve the basic problems and pointed to the need for complete reevaluation of the purposes of IFLA and complete reorganization. Robert Vosper who became the U.S. representative in 1971 canvassed all interested groups in the U.S. and presented the criticisms, hopes and recommendations of his colleagues. His special talents as a diplomat were urgently needed and widely used by IFLA in the critical years of reorganization.

Conclusion

The United States which was so active in the birth of IFLA and at first so proud of the infant federation, later began to look upon it as a distant relative. It was under the direct tutelage and supervision of European librarians, spoke a variety of languages, and was overly concerned with receptions and social entertainment. Some criticized a lack of public library interest, and others complained that IFLA looked at the past rather than the future.

In 1957 an A.L.A. president wrote:

"There is another international organization which we have sadly neglected . . . IFLA, of which ALA is not only a member but one of the parents. It has had an ALA representative on its governing committee or council from the beginning, but here again a representative without backstopping cannot be effective. So little interest has been shown in the United States in the work of IFLA that within the last year the ALA Executive Board considered a proposal by one of its members that the ALA should discontinue its membership in this international association on the ground that the money could be better spent in some other way! . . . It is perhaps incredible that librarians, of all professional people, should have to guard against provincialism."

Many U.S. librarians concerned about international activities have noted a continuing strain of ambivalence in this broad area. There have been strong tides of enthusiasm followed by calm waters of diminished interest. Edward Holley has noted that only once has the ALA "charter been amended . . . A.L.A. was granted an amendment to its charter on February 6, 1942, which changed 'library interest throughout the country' to read 'library interests throughout the world' . . ."

Some U.S. librarians are concerned about the possibilities of overlap and duplication between IFLA and FID. Others wonder about IFLA and Unesco, and the implications of political pressures.

In assigning and outlining this chapter the editor requested a report on the early years of U.S. participation in IFLA. Hence the chapter has emphasized the first decade of IFLA's history. Whoever writes a more comprehensive history of U.S.-IFLA relations will show the growing interest and activity of the Canadian Library Association, Special Libraries Association and Association of Research Libraries in the affairs of the Federation. These organizations within the past two decades have contributed greatly to the changes and improvements in IFLA.

Although IFLA is a federation of associations and although the U.S. member associations are forceful parts of IFLA, it is the individuals as participants who have given the real strength to the organization. During periods when the interest of an organization has waned, individual IFLA supporters have continued their professional support and enthusiasm.

Notes

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- (2) Richardson E. C., Some aspects of international library co-operation. Yardley, Pa., F. S. Cook, 1928, p. 135.
- (3) Richardson E. C., Introductory remarks on "International Libraries." In: *Library Journal* 59. 1934, p. 650.
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- (5) *Op. cit.*, note 2. pp. 34-37.
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- (18) *Op. cit.*, note 9, p. 278.
- (19) "Notes on the U.S. participation in the formative years of IFLA" prepared for this volume in 1977 by Milton E. Lord.

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- (23) Op. cit., note 19.
- (24) Op. cit., note 19.
- (25) Op. cit., note 20, pp. 471–472.
- (26) Op. cit., note 20, p. 473.
- (27) Op. cit., note 20, p. 474.
- (28) Op. cit., note 20, pp. 474–475.
- (29) Op. cit., note 20, p. 476.
- (30) Op. cit., note 20, p. 477.
- (31) Op. cit., note 20, p. 477.
- (32) Op. cit., note 20, pp. 478–479.
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The Socialist Countries of Europe in IFLA

Lev I. Vladimirov

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) has become an international organization that unites librarians all over the world. The librarians of the Socialist countries have actively participated in this organization's activities and contributed in solving complex problems of librarianship and library theory. Their participation in IFLA is based on the principles and pre-conditions of the activities of any international organization once for all clearly defined by V. I. Lenin who underlined that in our politically and socially divided world an international organization could efficiently perform its role only under conditions of strict implementation of the principles of non-interference in the international affairs of a sovereign state, and of absolute equality of the two different social systems.(1)

Before IFLA's foundation the international level cooperation between library workers was limited to congresses which to a certain extent were held without any system. The year 1926 saw in Prague the International Congress of Librarians and Book Lovers. But this did not mean the creation of IFLA as yet. Its beginning is considered to be in 1927 when at the Conference in Edinburgh dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of the British Library Association fourteen countries agreed to set up an international Library and Bibliographic Committee. And due to its initiative the first International Congress took place in Rome, Florence and Venice in 1929; this Congress worked following a previously elaborated programme that included exclusively problems of international interest and importance. And thus the International Federation of Library Associations was founded and its Statutes approved by the resolutions of this Congress. Some of the library associations in European countries presently belonging to the family of Socialist states, joined IFLA at its very creation. Thus, representatives of Czechoslovakia and Poland participated in the first IFLA Congress in 1929; and, as soon as it was founded, in 1935, the Association of Hungarian Librarians also joined IFLA. Two Soviet librarians Ms B. Khavkina and Ms I. K. Derman were present as observers at the first IFLA Congress in Rome. The paper of the Soviet specialist in the field of classification Mr N. B. Rousinov merited the attention of the Congress participants. We again see two Soviet participants Ms A. G. Krachenko and Ms I. K. Derman at the second IFLA Congress (Madrid - Barcelona, May 1935). The former presented a paper about the Trade-Union Library of the Moscow Automobile Factory; and the latter a paper about the organization of library work at the collective farms. These papers for the first time acquainted the librarians of the West with the achievements of Soviet librarianship.(2)

The Second World War temporarily interrupted IFLA's activities, thus suspending the further collaboration of librarians all over the world within the framework of IFLA.

Before the Second World War IFLA represented predominantly the libraries of the developed West-European and North-American countries. The prominent Indian representative of our profession S. R. Ranganathan, when asked by IFLA President Pierre Bourgeois to speak frankly about the Organization, equated the notion "international" in IFLA with "West-European" and expressed his distrust of its goals and activities.(3) The thematical narrowness of the problems discussed in the IFLA of that time and the very limited efforts of cooperation and participation in projects could hardly attract the attention and support of the librarians of many countries to IFLA and its activities. And of course, the IFLA of that time was rather a regional organization than an international one.

After the Second World War the respective organizations or institutions of the Socialist countries one after another officially informed the President of IFLA of their intention to join the membership of the Federation and its activities. Thus the old-timers of the IFLA family: the library associations of Poland and Czechoslovakia – who had actually never broken off their ties with the Federation – were joined by other Socialist countries. In 1950, the Union of Librarians' Associations of Yugoslavia (Savez Drustava Bibliotekara Jugoslavije) in the capacity of a national member; the National Library of Serbia (Belgrade), the National Library of Slovenia (Ljubljana), and the Central Technical Library (Ljubljana) as associate members. In 1955, the Association of Hungarian Librarians (Magyar Könyvtárosok Egyesülete); in 1957, the Librarians Association of the Socialist Republic of Rumania (Asociația Bibliotecărilor din Republica Socialistă România); in 1959, the USSR Library Council, and the Cyril and Methodius National Library of Bulgaria. In 1964 at the 30th Session of IFLA in Rome, the Bibliotheksverband of the German Democratic Republic as a national member, and the three national libraries of this country, die Deutsche Staatsbibliothek (Berlin), die Deutsche Bücherei (Leipzig), and the Central Library of German Classics (Weimar) as associate members.

The 20th Session of IFLA held 1954 in Zagreb (Yugoslavia) from September 27 till October 1, was the first of its kind in a Socialist country. As to active participation of the Socialist countries in IFLA, cardinal positive changes in this question were initiated five years later during the 25th session of the IFLA General Council in Warsaw, Poland (September 14–17, 1959), attended by 110 delegates from 34 member-associations representing 25 countries and 3 international organizations, as well as 25 observers.(4) Among them were the official representatives from almost all Socialist countries.

The election of the outstanding Polish librarian Ms Helena Więckowska, Professor of Library Science and Director of the University Library in Lodz, to the post of Vice-President of IFLA and Member of its Executive Board, was one of the highlights of the session in Warsaw. The candidature of Ms Więckowska was proposed by the representative of another Socialist country – Matko Rojnič from Yugoslavia. Ms Więckowska was elected unanimously. Speaking in support of her candidature IFLA President Gustav Hofmann (FRG) stressed the point that the election to the post of Vice-President of IFLA of a representative of Poland manifested

the links of long standing between the Polish libraries and IFLA.(5) During the whole five-year term of her office (1959–1964) Ms Więckowska showed great professional skill and enjoyed well-deserved authority among the world library community. Since having a representative of a Socialist country in the IFLA Executive Board has become a tradition. The 25th session in Warsaw was a very important step towards the internationalization of IFLA. In his closing address IFLA President G. Hofmann expressed this in the following way: “In our work of collaboration it is not easy to pass from a plan of common good will to common action. I would not find a more appropriate example of this quality than in the person of Madame Curie-Skłodowska who declared: ‘I think that international work is a very heavy task, but I think it is indispensable to learn it at the price of many efforts and in the real spirit of sacrifice’.”(6)

The 29th session of the IFLA General Council held in Sofia (Bulgaria), 1963, was a further important step in strengthening the library ties and collaboration between East and West. It was held at the Cyril and Methodius National Library (then called Vassil Kolarow Library); and the Bulgarian hosts not only did create a favourable working atmosphere for the proceedings of the session but also presented an opportunity for the delegates to get acquainted with the rapidly developing national library system. During the general discussion V. I. Shunkov, Director of the Library of Social Sciences of the USSR Academy of Sciences (Moscow), President of the USSR Library Council, backed up the proposals of the Executive Board to improve the organizational structure of IFLA; and at the same time he suggested that the standard of its annual sessions could be raised by including in the agenda problems which could not be discussed in the sections and committees but formed a part of the long-term programme. He meant such problems as the role of libraries in the development of education, science and culture; libraries of the future, etc. Thus these sessions would give a new impulse to library thought. Ms Z. Mateeva, Head of the Library Section of the Committee of Culture and Arts in Bulgaria, when speaking about the future relations of the Socialist countries and IFLA, stressed the point that the future exchange of library know-how could only succeed if all member-organizations would play an active part in IFLA . . . The Executive Board of the time, with its rigid structure, and without any representative from the USSR, a state with more than 300,000 libraries, was seriously criticized.(7)

On her proposal supported by a number of delegates, the 30th session of IFLA in Rome elected V. I. Shunkov as a Member of the Executive Board and Vice-President of the Federation. Unfortunately, his illness and death prevented this distinguished Soviet librarian from carrying out his plans of strengthening ties and developing cooperation between the libraries of the Socialist world and IFLA. His undertaking in this field was carried out by others, in particular by Ms M. I. Rudomino, Director of the All-Union State Library of Foreign Literature (VGBIL) at the time. In 1967 Ms M. I. Rudomino was elected to the IFLA Executive Board where she successfully acted in the capacity of Vice-President till 1973. This was preceded by her activity as representative of the Soviet library community. In this

connection one should mention her paper presented at the 31st session of the IFLA General Council in Helsinki, 1965, where she made several definite suggestions for strengthening the ties between the Soviet and foreign libraries.(8)

The Soviet Library Association played a considerable role in the preparation of the 36th session of the IFLA General Council held in Moscow and Leningrad (August 29–September 9, 1970). This session marked a milestone in the history of IFLA. The year of 1970 having been proclaimed the International Education Year the general topic of the session was “Libraries as a Force in Education”. This session is also remarkable for the fact that in connection with the celebration of Lenin’s centenary a special plenary session on the theme “Lenin and Libraries” was held. The Deputy Director-General of Unesco Mr Malcolm S. Adiseshiah in his paper, presented on that occasion, characterized these two main topics as a “happy coincidence, because Lenin, whose impact on the modern world as a political figure was great, had also a very real part to play in the development of library services”. Considering libraries as a very important force in education of the masses, of the man-in-the-street, Lenin at the same time looked at libraries as a very important means for exchange of know-how and information. He encouraged the international exchange of literature and instructed the Soviet libraries to “. . . borrow from the leading bourgeois countries all the methods for the wide distribution of library books which they have evolved. We must make books available to the masses as quickly as possible”.(9)

Several distinguished librarians from different countries spoke about Lenin’s ties with the libraries of their respective countries and about his contribution (USSR) to librarianship.(10)

One of the foreign participants of the Moscow session appraised it as “a good seminar on internationalism”. It attracted great interest. The total number of participants was 747 – a record figure for all thirty-six preceding sessions of IFLA. Attendants came from 40 different countries including representatives from developing countries.(11)

The 38th session of the General Council in Budapest (1972) was an important contribution of the Socialist countries to the activities of IFLA. This session was devoted to the International Book Year and to the problems of reading in a changing world. Not only did the Hungarian hosts provide excellent conditions for carrying out the meetings but they also introduced the participants to the fairyland of the Hungarian book and to the dynamic development of libraries and book reading under the Socialist conditions.

In 1973, at the 39th session of the IFLA General Council in Grenoble, Ms M. I. Rudomino’s time of office as Vice-president came to an end and she was awarded the title of Honorary Vice-President.

Ms L. A. Gvishiani, Director of the All-Union State Library for Foreign Literature (VIBIL) was unanimously elected the new Vice-President representing the Socialist world.(12)

At the 41st and 42nd sessions of the General Council and in the intervening period as well, great efforts were made in working out, discussing and adopting the new IFLA Statutes, in which the Socialist member countries, took an active part. Representatives of the Socialist countries participated in discussing all Drafts Statutes and submitted their comments and proposals to the IFLA Executive Board. Some comments and proposals put forward by the Socialist countries have been reflected in the new IFLA Statutes, compromise settlements being reached on some other points. Ms L. A. Gvishiani, Vice-President of IFLA, and other representatives of the family of Socialist countries greatly contributed to the preparation of the new Statutes.

The Socialist countries have produced from their ranks a great number of distinguished specialists who made constructive contributions to international library cooperation in general and to IFLA in particular; many of them work at present in various sections of IFLA's complex organizational structure.

At the 29th session of IFLA (Sofia, 1963) Professor V. I. Shunkov, Member-Correspondent of the USSR Academy of Sciences, made the proposal "to include in the IFLA sphere discussions on problems of the bibliographic work of libraries" stressing the point that "... a reasonable balance must be found between documentation as a separate field, at the one extreme, and the mere preservation of books in libraries, at the other. It would be good if IFLA would take this initiative and define the role of libraries in documentation and more specially the scope and policy of bibliographical work in libraries".(13)

A committee on bibliography was established at the 30th session of IFLA in Rome.

The initiative of O. S. Chubarian, the former Deputy Director of the Lenin State Library of the USSR, led to the creation of the Committee on Theory and Research. Mr Chubarian had been Chairman of this Committee during several years and skillfully guided its activities till his death in 1976. The main principles of the programme of the activities of this Committee were defined in the paper presented by Mr Chubarian at the 36th session of IFLA in Moscow (1970) and published in *Libri*.(14)

The fact that the directors of the national libraries of the Socialist countries take part in the activities of IFLA enhances the authority of these countries' representation in the Federation. In the Soviet Union this participation has become a kind of tradition beginning with Mr I. P. Kondakov and Mr O. S. Chubarian and continuing with Mr N. M. Sikorsky, the present Director of the Lenin State Library of the USSR.

Certainly, the contribution of the Socialist countries cannot be confined only to the above facts. Besides their assistance in organizing IFLA sessions the Socialist countries support the efforts of this organization in many other ways. Thus they cooperated in organizing and carrying out a number of symposia and conferences, such as: the "International Symposium on Metropolitan Libraries" (1966); the "International Conference on Library statistics" (1971); the "International Symposium on European Library Systems" (1972); the "International Colloquium on

the Technical Equipment of Central Libraries" (1974). All four were organized in Prague with the support of the Government of Czechoslovakia and under the auspices of Unesco and IFLA.

The International Seminars for librarians of the developing countries were much appreciated. They were organized by the USSR Ministry of Culture under the auspices of Unesco and IFLA: the first of them was held in Moscow and Tashkent in 1972; and the second one in Moscow and Alma-Ata in 1975.

The Soviet librarians are well informed about activities of IFLA. Just after they joined IFLA, a reference booklet with information about the history, goals, structure and activities of IFLA was issued in the Soviet Union. (15) And beginning from January 1964 the Russian translation of *IFLA News* has been regularly published for many years. Detailed information is given about each IFLA session in the publication the *Librarianship and Bibliography Abroad* issued by the Lenin State Library of the USSR in Moscow. Its newest 58th issue (1977) contains B. P. Kanevsky's article *The 42nd Session of IFLA*. The sessions of IFLA are also reviewed in some of the library periodicals of the Soviet Union Republics.

In Poland the sessions of IFLA are regularly reviewed in the annual *Informator Bibliotekarza i Księgarza*, in the journal *Przegląd Biblioteczny*, and in other library periodicals. In this connection two excellent studies by Ms Helena Więckowska should be mentioned; *Polish Librarians and the international organizations in the years 1923–1939* (16) and *The Polish Library Association in the international library movement in 1945–1970*. (17)

These two studies give special attention to various aspects of the Polish Library Association's relations with IFLA.

The Association of Hungarian Librarians regularly informs its members about the IFLA activities in the pages of the periodical *Könyvtáros* (Librarian), and in the monthly *Bulletin* of the Association. The comprehensive monograph about IFLA *A Könyvtáros egyesületek nemzetközi szövetsége* written by István Gombocz and published in 1972 is a very important Hungarian contribution to the cause of IFLA.

The Library Association of the German Democratic Republic (Bibliotheksverband der DDR) accomplishes a great deal of work in keeping libraries informed about IFLA, its activities and problems. It has issued the *IFLA Standards for Public Libraries* in the German language; it regularly publishes the materials of the IFLA sessions (18) and surveys on those sessions. Among the authors of the surveys published in the *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen*, *Der Bibliothekar* and other publications we meet names well known in the library world.

In Bulgaria the sessions of IFLA are reviewed by the monthly *Bibliotekar*. Each year this journal gives detailed information on the latest session.

Materials about the activities of IFLA are regularly published in the library journals of Yugoslavia and Romania.

About a hundred papers were presented at the last five sessions of IFLA by representatives of the Socialist countries.

The author of the present survey on the contribution of the Socialist countries to the activities of IFLA by no means pretends to be comprehensive, but even so the survey shows the growing interest of the librarians of the Socialist countries in strengthening library links and in further expanding the international cooperation within the framework of IFLA.

The standpoint of the Soviet librarians on the problems of further development of international library relations was expressed in the statement of their delegate Ms L. A. Gvishiani at the 41st session of IFLA in Oslo, 1975. She stated that the last two decades mark a new stage in the evolution of international relations that can be called a period of international detente. This period is characterized by the development of international relations in the economic, scientific, technical and cultural fields.

The results of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe held in Helsinki, August 1975(20) are a vivid demonstration of these trends. The favourable political climate created by this Conference also creates new favourable conditions for expanding the international cooperation of the librarians within the framework of IFLA.

Notes

- (1) Leninskij Sbornik 36, str. 451–455, G. J. Morozov. – *Meždunarodnye Organizacii*. Moskva 1969, str. 118–119.
- (2) IFLA and the role of libraries. The Hague 1974, IFLA, p. 7. – Ošanina E. A., *Meždunarodnaja Federacija Bibliotečnih Asociacij*. Moskva, VGBIL, 1959, str. 7.
- (3) Ranganathan S. R., IFLA what it should be . . . Libri 5. 1954, pp. 182–189.
- (4) Wieder J., Twentyfifth Session of the IFLA Council. Warsaw, 14–17 Sept. 1959. In: Libri 9. 1959, pp. 215–239.
- (5) Wieder J., *Op. cit.*, pp. 241–242.
- (6) Libri 9. 1959, p. 253.
- (7) IFLA Council 29th Session, Sofia, September 2–6, 1963. In: Libri 13. 1964, pp. 267–268.
- (8) Rudomino M., International relations of Soviet Libraries. In: Libri 16. 1966, pp. 61–68.
- (9) Adishesiah M. S., Libraries as a Force in Education. In: Libri 20. 1970, pp. 318–329.
- (10) IFLA Annual 1970, pp. 102–151.
- (11) Libri 20. 1970, p. 278.
- (12) IFLA Annual 1973, p. 71.
- (13) Libri 13. 1964, p. 267.
- (14) Chubarjan O. S., Librarianship in the System of the Sciences. In: Libri 21. 1971, pp. 336–349.
- (15) Ošanina, *op. cit.*, note 2, p. 45.
- (16) Więckowska H., Bibliotekarstwo Polskie na terenie międzynarodowym w latach 1923–1939. In: *Studia o książce*, t. 3. Wrocław 1972, pp. 197–227.
- (17) Więckowska H., Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich w międzynarodowym ruchu bibliotekarskim 1945–1970. In: *Rosznik Biblioteki Narodowej*. Warsaw 1971, pp. 529–551.
- (18) See: *Materialien der 38. Tagung des Internationalen Verbandes der Bibliothekar-Vereine*. Budapest, 1972, Berlin, Bibliotheksverband der DDR, 1974.
- (19) Kanevskij B. P., 41-ja Sessija IFLA. *Bibliotekovedenie i bibliografija za rubezom*. 1976 g., str. 66–67.

Reminiscences of IFLA

Sir Frank Francis

My first experience of IFLA was at its 14th session in London in 1948 under the Presidency of Wilhelm Munthe. It was a happy occasion for me. Not only did I meet for the first time Wilhelm Munthe himself and the other members of the Bureau, the Vice-Presidents Milton Lord, H.M. Cashmore, Dr Hahn, the Secretary General Dr Sevensma and his Joint-Secretary Dr Breycha-Vauthier, but I was exposed to the characteristically easy and happy atmosphere in which IFLA meetings have traditionally been held. I was lucky enough to meet at that meeting Isak Collijn, whose work in Scandinavian bibliography I had long admired and who had the additional distinction, to quote Wilhelm Munthe's words, of "leading the Federation on its first staggering steps" as our first President.

The 1948 meeting was the second meeting after the war. At the first, Marcel Godet was concluding his remarkable reign as President, which, because of the war lasted twelve years! He had been named Acting Vice-President at the Assembly at Cheltenham in England in 1931 and he presided, in the absence of the then President, William Warner Bishop, at the meetings at Avignon in 1933 and at Madrid in 1934. He was elected President at Warsaw in 1936 and in the ordinary course of events would have retired from his Presidency in 1941. But once the war broke out all thoughts of continuing the Association's business had to be abandoned and Godet's tenure of office had to be extended for an indefinite period – in fact until 1947. I cannot forbear quoting the words with which he brought his period of office to a close and welcomed his successor.

"J'ai présidé déjà six réunions plénières du Comité international, sept en comptant celle d'aujourd'hui. Ma présidence a duré douze ans (c'est-à-dire trois fois plus longtemps que celles de chacun de mes prédécesseurs). C'est dire que j'ai fait largement mon temps. J'ai passé soixante-dix ans, j'ai quitté il y a plus d'un an la direction de la Bibliothèque nationale suisse. Je pense donc avoir le droit, mais plus encore le devoir de me retirer. Car, et c'est là l'essentiel, j'estime qu'il est dans l'intérêt de la Fédération qu'un autre prenne en main les rênes. De façon générale, il n'est pas bon qu'un président s'éternise. Cela, à l'heure où nous vivons, plus que jamais. A des temps nouveaux, il faut un homme nouveau. Il faut surtout quelqu'un de plus jeune, dont la formation et les capacités répondent mieux aux besoins actuels. Et cet homme nous avons parmi nous. Nous sommes venus ici le chercher. Vous le savez, c'est notre cher et éminent collègue Monsieur Munthe qui connaît bien les affaires de la Fédération pour avoir collaboré à ses travaux dès l'origine, qui joint à une grande expérience une énergie intacte, qui possède parfaitement l'anglais, connaît les bibliothèques américaines aussi bien que celles de l'Europe et s'est acquis par son caractère et sa belle humeur, autant que par ses travaux, l'estime et la sympathie de tous."

The departure of Marcel Godet marked the end of an era in IFLA's history. Let me quote finally some of the noble words with which he referred to the changes that had taken place in the world as he had known it and as it was at that time.

“Le monde actuel est né de la guerre mondiale. Celui d'avant-guerre ne reviendra pas. Il serait stupide de s'attarder à regretter le naufrage en gardant les bras croisés. L'écrivain déjà cité l'a dit, dans une juste image: 'Il ne s'agit pas de sauver le vieux vaisseau qui sombre. On perdrait son temps à bourrer d'étoupe les voies d'eau. Il s'agit de porter sa cargaison dans le vaisseau neuf!' Les bibliothèques sont responsables d'une partie, et non la moins précieuse, de cette cargaison en danger de perdition: richesses du savoir, valeurs spirituelles, semences fécondes de vie supérieure, qu'il importe de sauver, de transmettre, de répandre, de fructifier dans le monde nouveau.”

At the end of the hostilities IFLA was disorganized and reduced in numbers. Some of its member organizations had disappeared in the holocaust, others were inactive because of political upheavals, or because of changes in the political frontiers or of territorial divisions: many of its members who had played an active rôle before the war had been eliminated or had died or retired. Among this last group was my colleague Arundel Esdaile, with whom my official career was linked, in a rather curious way. My first appointment to the British Museum in 1926 was as a result of Esdaile's appointment as Secretary of the Museum; and in 1946 I again followed Esdaile as Secretary of the Museum, as I had already succeeded him as Lecturer in Historical Bibliography in University College, London, School of Librarianship. Esdaile had been closely associated with IFLA – indeed he was a Vice-President – before the war, and I can well imagine the pleasure he would take in – and contribute to – the friendly and informal meetings of IFLA to which I have already referred. I should like to have seen him in action in the conclaves of this Association. Unfortunately I never did.

For reasons which I cannot now recall, I did not attend the 15th (1949) Congress in Basel. I have thus no reminiscences to record. I do recall that 1949 was the year that the British National Bibliography, in which I was much involved, was begun and which may well have taken up much of my time.

1950, the year of the celebration of the Centenary of the first Public Libraries Act in England, saw IFLA back once again in London and allowed the participants in the 16th session to enjoy many of the special events organized by the Library Association in connexion with the Centenary. For me personally this meeting was of significance, because I became involved in the work of the Sub-Committee on Uniform Catalogue Rules, an involvement which led, albeit ten years later, to the International Conference on Cataloguing Principles, held in Paris in 1961.

An important feature of this session was a special joint meeting of the Bureau and the Rapporteurs of the sub-committees to examine the methods of work of the sub-committees which had caused some dissatisfaction. The problem was essentially the problem of ensuring continuity of the work of the sub-committees from session to session. Various aspects of this enduring problem were discussed, particu-

larly the need to ensure the interest of the member associations and the importance of finding the right persons to act as rapporteurs. This problem remained – and still remains – central to the effectiveness of IFLA's work. Its solution may only be found in the adequate funding of a much more complex type of organization such as is now being worked out.

At the time we are speaking of, 1950, attendances at the annual sessions were small, rarely rising above 60. Brussels, with 105 participants plus “accompanying persons” in 1955, was an exception because the meeting was held in conjunction with the Third International Congress of Libraries. The smallness of the gatherings helped to maintain the easy, friendly atmosphere of which I have already spoken, but it led also to the feelings of frustration and even of dissatisfaction to which I have just referred. One reason for the smallness of these numbers was of course the smallness of the membership and the inadequacy of IFLA's financial resources. IFLA was having to exist on a shoe string, accepting the idea of a hand-to-mouth existence.

However, changes were in the offing. By 1960 IFLA membership had increased by over one third. The Secretariat, which had not increased during the previous five years, was now having to ask itself how it could fulfil all its necessary tasks. These had become more numerous and more complex with the growth of membership and the geographical extension of the countries covered.

At Lund, in 1960, the President, Gustav Hofmann, in a reference to Sweden, the host country, made clear his deep concern. “The subject on which, in my opinion, we ought to concentrate our considerations this year and the view it demands seems to agree with the somewhat detached and yet practical attitude of a country that notwithstanding its highly developed system of libraries has kept clear of the unsound, feverish planning and business of our time. The fact is that neither vague high aims and enthusiasm nor a multitude of participants, a wide sphere of schemes and assiduous work will suffice to save an international organization from tumbling down like the Tower of Babel. The rapid growth of IFLA, the question how to finance the increasing administrative tasks as well as the necessity to finance not only the correspondence between its members but also personal contacts, compel us to strengthen the economic foundations of IFLA as much as possible. In the second place it is necessary to define our programme precisely and to organize our cooperation with associations and institutions working in neighbouring fields, especially with Unesco and FID. Finally, we have to rationalise our energies and concentrate on the really important and urgent projects though they may be difficult and require much exertion and still more money. In order to realize these plans IFLA has to set a clear and detailed scheme of work. We cannot expect institutions which might provide our resources, above all Unesco but also similar national organizations, to further vague projects of IFLA.”

President Hofmann went on to outline the practical steps he thought needed to be taken: “I have drafted an IFLA programme that, however, can only be a rough design, giving the outline of future activities. It wants elaborating or critical prun-

ing, is largely based on the work done up to now and does not pass any definite judgments on new possibilities. What is most worth considering is, to my mind, its attempt to indicate the points of contact and consequently of fertile cooperation with similar organizations, as well as to stress the fact that not all our projects have the same urgency or the same chance of immediate realization. In my opinion these latter points are not contained in the comprehensive and detailed FID Long Term Program. Certainly one should take the whole field of the respective profession as a starting point as FID has done in its programme. Yet one should arrive at a relatively small number of well-defined proposals. I do not intend to suggest by which time the entire programme may be realized. A more detailed elaboration of certain projects – at first mainly undertakings already started – may result in requesting Unesco or other organizations for their assistance. It may also require some changes in the committees of IFLA itself or additional commissions and offices for joint work with similar organizations. In consideration of these possibilities and the discussions of FID about their Long Term Program in Rio de Janeiro in July, this year, and with regard to my correspondence with Mr. Alexander King, its President, I sent to M. Poindron, representative of IFLA at that meeting, a summary of those items of my draft for an IFLA programme that, according to the FID programme, seemed to be of interest to FID. I should welcome in many other fields of our activities such personal cooperation with the documentalists as the Catalogue Commission has already achieved.”

The President was able to end this examination of IFLA’s position on an optimistic note by referring to a Unesco proposal “which might initiate a most important development in IFLA administration if it is to realize its programme: we intend to request Unesco to help financing the full-time post of a Secretary with an office in Paris.” Dr Hofmann saw great advantages and chances for further development for IFLA in this proposal, especially in regard to the ever increasing work of the Secretariat in its contacts with the developing countries. When it came to his turn to speak, Mr. Petersen, the representative of Unesco, was able to confirm that the Unesco subvention to IFLA (as well as to FID and ICOM) would be increased in the following biennium to \$ 10,000 per annum. Thus the way was laid open for the employment of a full-time Secretary and for the striking increase in membership which came about in the sixties. For the new Secretary the choice of the Bureau fell on Mr Anthony Thompson, who took up his new duties for the time being in Munich in the middle of 1962, thus relieving Mlle Razumovsky of Vienna, who had temporarily undertaken the duties of the new post.

In 1963 Mme Kalajdzieva, Acting Librarian of the Vassil Kolarov National Library in Sofia and President of the Section of Librarian Workers in Bulgaria, welcoming a record number of delegates and guests to the 29th Session, emphasized that this was “a favourable indicator of the necessity for a further and closer collaboration of librarians from all over the world.” Dr Hofmann in his opening speech touched upon many important aspects of IFLA’s activities, referring in particular to the fact that we were meeting for the first time an important group of new colleagues and were for the first time brought face to face with the problem of being under-

stood. Correspondence and official communications were certainly within the competence of IFLA, but when it came to oral discussions it had become clear that simultaneous translation such as had been generously provided by our Bulgarian hosts was becoming essential. Consecutive translation was too slow and too fatiguing. Language difficulties were an obstacle to the participation in our meetings of younger librarians and specialists. Knowledge and the practice of languages have become fundamental for the librarian of the present day. Another serious obstacle in the way of participation in the work of IFLA came from distance; Dr Hofmann concluded pessimistically that it was quite illusory to expect to bring together participants from non-European continents. How unreal these fears were was conclusively demonstrated the very next year when IFLA met in Rome and attracted not far short of 400 people! Nor was this a mere flash-in-the-pan. The number of participants remained about this figure each year and this more than justified the hopes and expectations which, if not explicitly stated by our pre-war predecessors must have been in their minds when they contemplated the desirability of wide cooperation in the effective utilisation of the stored expertise and wisdom of the past of which libraries are the repositories.

Looking back over the past thirty years of my association with IFLA meetings I have the abiding impression that all those involved in its activities, especially but by no means exclusively the officers, have been men of great capacity and achievement, animated by devotion to the profession in its widest aspects. To recite their names would be sufficient for those knowledgeable about the history of librarianship to indicate the quality and capacity of the men and women who were willing to devote themselves to the work of IFLA. We have had a remarkable series of dedicated and accomplished presidents. They were, however, *primi inter pares*, and there are many others who share with them these outstanding qualities. They have been among my dearest friends.

Personal Recollections of IFLA

Herman Liebaers

Toronto 1967, Moscow 1970, Liverpool 1971, Budapest 1972, Grenoble 1973 and Washington 1974. These are the cities and the dates of IFLA General Councils where I had the honour and the pleasure to preside. In Toronto, it was by accident because the president, Sir Frank Francis, was ill. I arrived innocently at the airport to learn that I had to take over in my capacity of first vice-president. I was scared to death. What worried me most was the fact that I had to read out the opening address which Sir Frank had prepared and I knew from previous meetings that it was written in an elegant style full of subtle quotations from the most outstanding English authors. It was Shakespeare who was my most certain enemy. Even before reading the president's text I was sure to meet Shakespeare after a couple of paragraphs, because once Sir Frank had told me – I think it was on a bus trip to Plovdiv – that you always could quote Shakespeare in any circumstance. Fortunately I felt relieved when Foster Mohrhardt, another vice-president, accepted to read Sir Frank's paper. It pleases me to be able to quote here immediately the name of Foster Mohrhardt who has meant most to me in my IFLA years. He has been the engaging link between the New and the Old World. I would also add between the old and the new IFLA. For me he is also the one who allowed me to merge professional and personal relations: a librarian and a friend. Over the years I made many friends among my colleagues and I owe it to Foster's inspiring kindness. My only regret is that circumstances prevented him from becoming president of IFLA. He would have been outstanding, just as he was a good ALA president in his home country. Writing now more than two years after my retirement as president, I would like to pronounce in the same breath the name of another vice-president, another potential president of IFLA, another former president of ALA: Robert Vosper, another dear friend.

Moscow was my first regular meeting as president. I look back to it with mixed feelings. It came too soon after the Frankfurt meeting in 1968, where in the middle of the General Council, the news reached us of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. The day before this happened the Board had decided to nominate me as president and that, in the meanwhile, I would only have a very light responsibility, more particularly taking care of international good will relations. As a result I spent the better part of the following night running back and forth between the hotels where the Soviet delegation and the Czechoslovak librarians stayed. The two groups were sad, silent and bewildered. They couldn't make up their minds whether to stay or to leave. I asked them to take no decision under the stress of the first hours. Next morning all participants met in the large hall of the university library and inevitably political discussions overtook professional matters. A relief fund was organized to help the Czechoslovak colleagues, which they actually did not

need at the time. Measures were taken for the physical protection of the Soviet delegation, which appeared to be not completely useless. I remained the link between the antagonistic parties. Both however agreed to stay and to participate in the meetings. Near the end of the Conference, the German hosts had organized a reception in the Goethe Haus. The weather was sweet, it was full moon, the music in the garden was wonderful, the Rhine wine was delicious and I brought the two groups of librarians together to shake hands. It was a moment of hope, which did not last.

Next day at the closing business meeting the tension was heavy and nobody cared about rare books, catalogues or other bibliographical matters. A proposal was passed to postpone the 1969 meeting in Moscow, which had been approved the year before in Toronto. At this critical moment in the history of IFLA a small group of Danish librarians took it upon themselves, on the spot, to invite us to Copenhagen in 1969. This was a relief indeed.

I want to add a footnote. In October 1968 I went to Prague and to Bratislava. This trip was planned before the events of August. In Brno I had dinner with a group of librarians in a restaurant which was a former prison. Food and wine were excellent and those members of the group who had been in Frankfurt thanked me for the assistance I had given them during those difficult days. In February 1971 I went to Moscow and Erevan. In the capital of Armenia, I had a breakfast in the reading room of the rare books department of the national library. Food and cognac were excellent and those members of the group who had been in Frankfurt thanked me for the assistance I had given them during those difficult days. Brno and Erevan, a restaurant full of librarians and a library full of food, but in the two cases human beings and for me, once more, that absolute certainty that libraries can only develop in peace. Our profession is irrevocably linked to peace. In too many opening addresses I had to refer to this truth because war was always raging in some part of the world.

Being elected at Copenhagen, taking over in Moscow and ending in Washington seems now to me to be rather symbolic for my way of looking at international co-operation. Like the Danes, my natural environment is a small democracy with a King at the top. I firmly believe that an individual who comes from a small country and to whom personal freedom is a sacred privilege has many advantages on the international scene. Certainly when the organization one is serving is only concerned with professional matters and is working with an obsolete constitution. At Copenhagen the elections were still a joke, at Washington they began to look serious. By the way, my successor is a Dane. I am not sure that if this trend towards formalism continues the Federation will be improved. Later I may be blamed for having been the first over-serious president of IFLA.

I hope that my predecessor agrees with me that together we cover a transition period in the development of IFLA. He inherited what I would call a "Bourgeois Club", not referring to the social status of the directors of national libraries but to Pierre Bourgeois who was for many years president (the one but longest term of any

president) and director of the Swiss national library at Berne. After his death I published an obituary and some Swiss librarians protested against the profile I had drawn. In retrospect I think they were right, but at the time I was so full of the new IFLA matters that I failed to see that the weaknesses of Pierre Bourgeois caught too much of my attention and his qualities too little. The IFLA I received from Sir Frank had still a number of Bourgeois features, in fact the one I handed over to Preben Kirkegaard had still too many. I am however no longer sure, as I was during my presidency, that we have to eradicate them drastically.

Starting in Moscow it seems to me appropriate to analyze the cooperation with the Soviet librarians and those of the other socialist countries. Formally the Soviet Union joined in 1959. That is four years after I attended my first IFLA meeting. I have a vague recollection of V. I. Shunkov, director of the Library of Social Sciences in Moscow, as a distinguished scholar and a shy man. Margarita Ivanovna Rudomino was my real introduction to Soviet librarianship and she opened the Soviet Union to IFLA. Over the years we became good friends. I had the privilege to attend the fiftieth anniversary of the library of Foreign Literature in Moscow which she herself had founded in 1921. This was a unique event in librarianship and I was proud to congratulate her on the service she had done for international cooperation. I read the following message in the usual way: one sentence in French, followed by a Russian translation, and so on. If you are familiar with your interpreter this exercise gives you the feeling that you understand Russian. Unfortunately this feeling vanishes with the last sentence . . . : "La communauté internationale des bibliothèques serait plus pauvre sans l'existence de la Bibliothèque de littératures étrangères à Moscou. La vocation internationale de la Bibliothèque que nous fêtons aujourd'hui est inscrite dans sa charte de fondation. Il est donc normal que, pour vos amis étrangers, cette Bibliothèque symbolise le lien entre eux et les collègues soviétiques. Dans une célébration comme celle-ci on confond volontiers l'institution et la personne qui la dirige, mais comment ne pas pousser cette confusion à l'extrême lorsque la directrice d'aujourd'hui est la fondatrice d'hier. C'est un fait unique dans les annales des bibliothèques de votre pays et du monde. Margarita Ivanovna, ma chère collègue, ma grande amie, dans votre personne, je remercie vos collaborateurs et vos dirigeants du rayonnement que vous avez donné à la profession qui nous réunit ici autour de vous. Si je devais essayer de résumer en une phrase ce rayonnement, je dirais que vous avez ouvert la bibliothéconomie soviétique au monde et la bibliothéconomie étrangère à l'Union Soviétique. C'est une contribution essentielle à l'entente entre les peuples et à notre métier, qui ne peut se développer que dans la paix. Au nom de la FIAB, j'ai l'honneur et le plaisir de vous remettre – vous qui êtes aussi la première vice-présidente de la FIAB – un souvenir, qui devra vous rappeler cette belle journée, qui est aussi l'apogée de votre brillante carrière."

Liverpool will remain for me the breakthrough of developing countries within IFLA. After long negotiations with Unesco we were finally able to organize a pre-session seminar for librarians from those countries. Travel expenses and accommodation were provided for English speaking librarians by Unesco, the British

Council and the Commonwealth Foundation. The Liverpool experiment set the tone for the following years and it also created new problems with which IFLA is still struggling. It was however worthwhile to be faced with specific problems of cooperation with librarians from developing countries. This is no place to repeat what I so often said publicly and wrote about those problems. I just want to emphasize once more that there are no basic differences between librarians from industrialized and developing countries. Each conversation with a colleague from Asia or Africa started with the same words "In my country library development has a low priority" and my answer was also the same each time "In my country also". Just as among American or European librarians it is only a small minority which is interested in international cooperation. There is however one big distinction to be made. The uninterested Americans or Europeans stay at home, while the uninterested Asians, Africans, Arabs or Latin Americans are always on the move, travelling mostly on Unesco money. Over the years a real jet set of developing country librarians has developed, whose only international interest is to attend a meeting (or its opening and closing session) in Paris or New York and to forget about it as soon as they get home, where their only concern is to get ready for the next trip. I could quote names, but this would not be fair because the responsibility lies not with them. Those who create false problems in the field of international cooperation are the local authorities and the international governmental organizations which pick out the wrong people. This being said it is marvellous to remember some of my friends of the Third World, who crossed language and other barriers, to work closely with us. I learned a lot from them, foremost to be modest in the face of reality.

The succeeding pre-session seminars struggled with the language problem. All participants had to be at least bilingual. An international language is an indispensable key to international cooperation. A good knowledge of such a language, let's say English for an Indian or Spanish for a Columbian, is however no sufficient warrant of real library development. Parallel to the international communication is the local language. In recent years most new countries have developed their vernacular languages and this is certainly of the utmost importance for raising the average level of development in order to avoid having a trained elite turned into a self-conscious ghetto. President Senghor of Senegal is an outstanding example of a fighter on two fronts. While being a creative artist in French, he used the International Book Year momentum of 1972 to decree officially six national languages in his country. The Emperor Charles V is said to have observed that a man familiar with two languages had the value of two ordinary men. Let the world, the country, the city, the village become as bilingual as possible. Peace will profit.

I would like to come back a last time to the pre-session seminars. They were essentially a means to bring librarians from developing countries to the regular sessions of the General Council of IFLA. And looking in retrospect a successful means. Unesco was always very serious about the themes of these pre-session seminars. I couldn't care less. Once the theme was agreed upon we tried to do our best, but the ultimate purpose was to expose these new librarians to the problems of inter-

national cooperation. I still remember vividly that for the first time we invited the participants in the pre-session seminar at Liverpool to attend a meeting of the Consultative Committee. Some of them were quite shocked, discovering that international cooperation had so many weaknesses. It is my firm belief that such a shock is less harmful than all the blah-blah about the generosity of the rich for the poor.

It would be a lack of courtesy and an example of false modesty not to mention that a few months before the Liverpool meeting, exactly on 9 July 1971, I received a doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of Liverpool for service rendered to scholarly and international librarianship.

1972 saw us all together in Budapest, the beautiful city on the Danube with a strange mixture of socialist regime and remnants of the old Austro-Hungarian empire. Like Moscow, like Liverpool, a new experience. For me the most bookish year of all my life. The theme of the General Council was *Books for All* and was to become IFLA's major contribution to International Book Year (IBY).

I was ready to accept any commitment because IBY provided me, as a librarian, with an opportunity to try to convince the other representatives of the book profession that librarians had broad interests and did not limit themselves to cataloguing technicalities. Earlier I had already been able to follow a similar line with educationists, when I worked with Carlos V. Penna on problems of library planning. Actually repeating a previous experience with architects and designers because I had been involved for nearly fifteen years in the building of the new national library in my own country.

At Budapest the main papers were given by non-librarians and they have been published under the title *Reading in a Changing World*. I wrote the introduction to this book more than three years after the lectures were given and it gave me a wonderful opportunity to catch again the spirit of IBY. From a more particularly IFLA point of view Budapest saw the beginning of a basic improvement of its work as a whole. Before I became president the wise decision had been taken to have at each General Council a main theme (f.i. in Toronto: *Library service for a nation covering a large geographical area*, in Moscow: *Lenin and libraries*, in Washington: *National and International library planning*.)

Before Budapest the main theme was only dealt with at the opening session where two or three relevant papers were read. After Budapest sections and committees began to deal with the main theme from their particular angle.

Parallel a newly set up Programme Development Group (PDG), chaired by Kees Reedijk, director of the Royal Library in The Hague, began to give a real backbone to the IFLA structure. This started the long process of overall restructure which was finalized at Lausanne last year. I am proud that I backed PDG from the outset and I do believe that it was the driving force which gradually allowed IFLA to speak for the whole international library community.

Besides PDG I would not hesitate to claim a certain share in setting up an effective publication programme for IFLA. During many years I had been a witness, generally a passive one and sometime an active one, of well-intended efforts to establish a publishing policy within the Federation. As early as 1963 I did my share in the writing of Leendert Brummel's *Libraries in the World*. Quite a number of faithful IFLA-members voiced brilliant ideas about books we ought to issue, but unfortunately action did not follow suggestion. However one day the miracle happened in 1972 and IFLA started a publishing programme which is flourishing today. If I try to explain this miracle in retrospect I would quote three reasons, in declining order of importance: Wim Koops, Klaus Saur and me. The first one, who is currently the director of the University Library at Groningen, Netherlands, had a long and leading experience in the publishing business. It made of him, at least theoretically, the ideal editor of our publications. But practically he had two qualifications which were much more important and which account for the success of the whole venture: he has a legal training and he is unique in the fact that he blends admirably warm seriousness with dry wit. The second, Klaus Saur, director of Verlag Dokumentation at Munich, was the ideal commercial partner for Wim Koops, to become IFLA's publisher. They strike a queer balance between agreement and disagreement, but new items on our publication list appear always when we need and want them. This is a rare compliment. The difference between these two angels is a rather serious one, which I can illustrate with an *ad hoc* example: Wim Koops will have checked and rechecked this text before sending it to Klaus Saur, while the latter will have printed and distributed it without reading it. They are both equally useful. I quoted myself as the third partner in the game, but I must frankly admit that not much space is left to me. I guess it is just a human weakness of someone, who considers himself foremost to be a bookmaker (literally speaking), that when volume after volume of the series and IFLA Publications issue after issue of the IFLA Journal reach his desk he thinks he had somehow a finger in the pie.

It seems to me that the preceding paragraphs about my share in the Programme Development Group and in the Publication Programme are not exactly examples of modesty. I can as well go on in the same vein and add that IFLA would be poorer if I had not proposed to appoint Margreet Wijnstroom as secretary general. Anthony Thompson, who was secretary when I became president, and I had nothing in common and it has been from the beginning to the end a "dialogue de sourds". He wanted to remain a faithful personal secretary to the president, and I was convinced that all the Federation needed was a general secretary as independent of the president as possible. Margreet Wijnstroom has given me the chance to prove that I was right.

From Budapest to Grenoble means for me from IBY to UBC, Universal Bibliographic Control. IBY remained of course after Budapest and UBC was already with us before Grenoble, but the charisma should be linked to the name of those two cities. I guess that over twenty five years I shall be called the UBC president of IFLA. Right now I do not yet see a reason to be ashamed. In my opinion IFLA

badly needed for a major programme since a number of years. It is open to argument to believe that IFLA needed a major programme because it had come to maturity or, on the contrary, that a major programme brought IFLA to maturity. I have no strong personal opinion, but I am slightly inclined to believe in the causal effect of UBC. I am not going to dwell on UBC because Dorothy Anderson writes better on these matters than I could pretend to do. I only had to invent the acronym, which happened probably during a sleepless night way back in 1967. All the rest existed: years of steady work by IFLA's Cataloguing Committee, able and devoted leaders like Hugh Chaplin and Dorothy Anderson, computer progress in cataloguing, financial assistance from the Council on Library Resources, awareness in developing countries and, finally, Unesco backing. The future of IFLA's UBC programme looks bright and it will not be long before everyone will realize that this programme contributes to the development of each individual library, large or small, old or new, rich or poor.

Since a couple of years IFLA had taken such an importance in my professional work that I had the growing feeling that I began to neglect my own library in Brussels. I am absolutely incapable of organizing my life in compartments, of drawing dividing lines. Because international problems received all my attention, I lost interest in local library matters. To be honest I must add that I derived much more satisfaction from the international role I found myself playing, than from quarrels at home with a bureaucratic authority. The Council on Library Resources (CLR) gave me most generously an opportunity to devote nearly all my time to international library development by appointing me consultant to its international programme. I took a year's leave of absence from the Royal Library in Brussels and began my work in Washington at the CLR on 1 May 1973. I spent exciting months with the Council, which I knew already well as can be inferred from the preceding paragraphs. I travelled a lot outside the U.S., but mainly in the United States where I went to places with which I was less familiar. I had accepted to update Wilhelm Munthe's excellent book on *American Librarianship from a European Angle* published in 1939. The scene had so much changed since the thirties, the world had become so much larger that the more I noted the more I became aware of the impossibility to update the book and that a new book was needed. I had collected enough material to allow myself to consider an application to be appointed writer-in-residence at the Villa Serbelloni at Bellagio, sometime in the middle of 1974. Through recommendations of Gordon Ray, Bob Vosper and Louis Wright I was accepted, and was preparing my notes and myself for the Villa, where I had already attended a five day meeting in 1971 to prepare International Book Year. The Villa, which belongs to the Rockefeller Foundation, is one of the most congenial places one can imagine.

Circumstances however were going to decide otherwise. On 12 October 1973 I was presented with the first International Book Prize Award at the Opening of the Frankfurt Book Fair. Chancellor Brandt did not read the paper which had been distributed in advance, but said – I quote and translate from memory – “Once again war is threatening the world and I am not going to speak about books . . .”

How right he was. Next day I went back home and the King of the Belgians asked me if I would consider working for him. I had been for thirty years a happy librarian, first inside my country and later outside, and in my inner horizon there was no profile of a royal palace. Once the surprise of the proposal was over, I humbly accepted. The Council on Library Resources allowed me to leave on 31 December, 1973, four months before the end of my contract. I resigned as president of IFLA at the Brussels Board Meeting of 18 December 1973 and my resignation was accepted by the Board "to become officially effective at the conclusion of the Washington General Council in November 1974". Although I could not give much of my time to IFLA during the last months of my presidency, I was happy to stay till the Washington meeting and to quit my beloved Federation in a country with which I have had a love affair for over a quarter of a century and which had always been a source of inspiration.

Recently I have gone over these relations at the occasion of a lecture I gave at the ALA Centennial Conference in Chicago last July. To do it again here would give me a feeling of plagiarizing myself and we have all learned at school that this is the worst form of plagiarism. Though I am no longer sure that it is true, I shall not do it. The title of my Chicago paper was *The Impact of American and European Librarianship upon each other*, which normally should leave out personal recollections. Unfortunately I stated in my opening sentence that not much research went into the paper, because I had been too much of an actor, and too little of an observer. So the paper became quite personal which was undoubtedly a mistake at such a formal occasion. And which actually prevents me now from giving to American Librarianship its right share in these recollections. Eventually my paper will be published by ALA with five other centennial lectures under the title *The Life of the Mind*.

It is awfully difficult for me to avoid quoting such names as Verner Clapp, Bob Vosper, Foster Mohrhardt, Fred Cole, David Clift, Jack Dalton, Rudy Rogers and so many others with whom I had different but always inspiring associations over the years. Fascinating sounds to my ears are also names like Library of Congress, New York Public Library, Yale and Harvard Libraries, and so many other again. Let me just note here, what I did not do in my Chicago paper, that I would have left the profession more than a quarter of a century ago, if I had not been exposed to American librarianship. My early experience at home had left me with a feeling of obsolete narrowmindedness, with a world of gentlemen and spinsters who had built a huge wall of books between them and the world at large. On the ship which brought me home after my first American trip in 1951 I promised myself that I would try to make my library a part of the surrounding world and to use the books to build bridges. At the time this was not so clear in my mind, but vague feelings belong to the youth. I owe it to the importance of my American experience to thank both the United States Educational Foundation and the Belgian American Educational Foundation which offered me a fellowship in 1950.

Would it be relevant to say here that five years after my first visit to the United States I left the Royal Library to become associate secretary of the Belgian American Educational Foundation? Two years later I went back to the Library as its director. Though I was still rather young, the dividing book wall must have taken a precise meaning at that time. It was also the beginning of my interest in IFLA. I never missed a General Council since 1956, I was chairman of the section of national and university library from 1959 till 1964, I was coopted as a Board member in Rome in 1964 and I became a vice-president in Helsinki 1965, first vice-president in 1967, president in 1969, honorary president in Washington in 1974. It is undoubtedly with a feeling of gratitude for the confidence of the membership that I write down these dates. Behind these dates I see many faces of human beings and as I said on quitting in Washington before the largest audience IFLA ever had, "it is you who made me like my work for IFLA". My daughter and my son-in-law belonged to that audience. I was happy and proud that they were repeating, in their own field, my American adventure of a quarter of a century ago.

Poets like to use in their verses the names of cities and an innocent geographical name receives through their talent a transcendental dimension. To conclude I would like to imitate the poets and list a series of proper names, which for one reason or another I was not able to quote in this paper and which belong to people whom I still meet very often in my mind when library matters are being overshadowed by human feelings. I first considered listing *pêle-mêle* all names of which I thought spontaneously, but an army of friendly profiles was assaulting me and so I decided rather arbitrarily to limit myself to a few names beginning with "P". I always had a weak spot in my heart for the letter "p", because it is the first letter of papyrus, parchment and paper. So, with an apology to all the other characters of the alphabet and the names they would introduce, I salute Laina Peep, Günther Pflug, Maurice Piquard, Roger Pierrot, Angela Popescu and Minna Poznanskaya.

IFLA's Future – The View from the Library of Congress

William J. Welsh

The Library of Congress has been an enthusiastic supporter of IFLA from its very beginning in Rome in 1928, but this relationship has intensified dramatically in recent years with the arrival of the computer and the explosion in world-wide publishing. Today the Library looks to IFLA as the guiding force in developing a truly international system for the control and exchange of bibliographic information and for the promotion of interlibrary cooperation.

In the following pages the hopes of the staff of the Library of Congress for the future of IFLA are briefly outlined. This is essentially a practical list. The Library looks to IFLA for pragmatic solutions to world-wide problems of librarianship. We believe this will come with IFLA's assumption of the leadership and with support from other national libraries and library associations. Our pledge of financial support for the IFLA Office of Universal Bibliographic Control is symbolic of our hopes for IFLA's future.

In recent years IFLA has played a vital role in developing international agreement on the mechanics of the exchange of bibliographic information. This is only one aspect of international librarianship but an extremely important one that shows promise of bearing fruit in the near future. At the same time, we hope that IFLA will move rapidly in the areas of preservation, interlibrary lending, official publications and special library reference activities that are waiting the attention of an international forum.

Exchange of Bibliographic Records

In May 1976 the IFLA Working Group on Content Designators completed work on the format for the international exchange of machine-readable bibliographic records (UNIMARC). It is now the task of IFLA's Office of Universal Bibliographic Control to help those national agencies with ongoing MARC programs to secure funds and begin receiving and distributing records in the UNIMARC format on a test basis. This experimentation with the new format will hasten the day when efficient international exchange of cataloging data can take place. During this test period the UBC office should monitor the implementation of UNIMARC and report the results to the Working Group for possible modification of the format based on experience.

Under the auspices of the UBC office, a study of the bibliographical and technological problems of an on-line international network is also being carried out. This study takes into account the existing mechanisms for exchange via magnetic tape and addresses the long-term problem of maintaining control of the use of the records, i.e., exclusive agreements vs. non-exclusive agreements, and the requirements and the methods of extending and maintaining copyright privileges in both

batch and online modes of operation. This aspect of the network must be investigated and an international agreement arrived at for effective interchange.

There is no longer any doubt that in the next few years a number of national agencies will implement machine-readable cataloging systems. The number of international exchange agreements that will be made in the next few years to share this data should increase significantly. Therefore, IFLA should study the requirements and resources for an international MARC Network Office in IFLA.

Cataloging-Codes

It is fair to say that the current revision of the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* has had the salutary effect of considerably spurring the development of international standard bibliographic description initiated by IFLA. Other forces at work, e.g., the ideal of universal bibliographic control, are encouraging international efforts at uniform cataloging practices. As mentioned earlier, automated bibliographic systems are reaching an advanced stage of development and in doing so furnish increasingly clear signals for study and recommendations pertaining to all levels of bibliographic control, international or local.

IFLA could make an inestimable contribution if it took advantage of this favorable climate to act as a non-partisan, international overseer guiding study and research in the next few years, so that new national codes as well as any future revision of cataloging rules will proceed along a well-charted course. We need recommendations based on facts at least as much as theoretical speculation, and there is every reason to fear that without proper guidance from an international overseer these facts will not be collected and presented in a way that will be very useful to rule makers.

Specific areas of concern needing investigation and reporting fall into two broad categories: 1) cataloging rules and 2) management of data bases (automated and manual).

The problems with cataloging rules are several, beginning with the choice of entry for bibliographic records. While manual systems in the American community have always been tied to a main-entry concept revolving for the most part around authorship, we now recognize that this concept may have become obsolete. An automated data base affords the possibility of access from a number of equal points, and one of the reasons for main entry consequently disappears. A study, however, should be made of the idea of abandoning main entry, with the hope of discovering first of all whether there would be widespread agreement with a unit entry proposal. Manual as well as fully automated systems should be surveyed with some attention paid also to those systems in a state of transition from manual to automated mode.

Another aspect of cataloging rules relate to the formulation of access points to bibliographic records. Presently, form of personal or corporate entry varies greatly due to three factors: 1) differences in language (Firenze, Florence, Florenz, etc.;

Tchaikovsky, Tschaikowski, Chaïkovskiĭ, etc.), 2) differences in cataloging rules (France. Ministère de la défense nationale; France. Défense nationale (Ministère)), and 3) differences in interpretation of the same cataloging rules (Australia. Egg Board; Australian Egg Board). Is it possible to jettison these differences? An investigation might reveal, for example, that place names could be standardized by eschewing foreign national practices (Florence, Florenz) for native usage (Firenze) consistently. Names in a nonroman script need special treatment and the matter of romanization schemes really pertains more to the International Standards Organization, but any consideration of standardized form for access points in catalog records should include some research in this area. If no one international scheme of romanization could be developed, at least the present multiplicity of schemes per language might be narrowed to a relatively few choices, all of which could be input into an automated system with the possibility of varied output according to the needs of users. Again, study followed by recommendations is wanted. Cataloging rules and their interpretation until quite recently responded only to national or local prejudices, wishes, requirements, etc. The new climate should help to decrease the obstacle of varying romanization also.

Cataloging – Subject Access to Library Materials

While numerical systems of classification have been given considerable attention at the international level, indexing systems have been treated less intensively, due no doubt to the language problem involved in identifying topics through words instead of numbers. However, now that PRECIS (PREserved Context Indexing System) is being used by the British and Australian national bibliographies and since studies are being made on its applicability in all languages as well as its potential for automatic cross translation, IFLA should sponsor further research on the PRECIS system, or for developing an acceptable substitute indexing system. Given the unlikelihood of the adoption of a standard international classification in the near future, the development of an international indexing system for subject access would contribute significantly to the international exchange of information through standardized formulation of topic identifiers.

Serials Control

The International Serials Data Systems is an essential and effective vehicle for collecting and disseminating information about the immense universe of serial publications. Unfortunately, there remain large areas of the world that are still imperfectly covered, or not covered at all in this system. Ways must be found for all countries to share the responsibilities as well as the benefits of ISDS. IFLA should continue to promote greater participation world-wide in ISDS. It should use its influence and resources to assist countries in establishing national and regional ISDS centers where these do not now exist, and encourage the fullest support necessary to the centers that are already functioning.

International Interlibrary Lending and Reference Service

The improved bibliographic controls now available through UBC also provide the key to improvements in the international flow of information through a new and more vigorous approach to international interlibrary lending. While some existing interlibrary loan or photocopying arrangements such as that of the British Lending Library at Boston Spa work well, most international lending is slow, cumbersome, and underutilized. IFLA's role in international interlibrary lending should not only include promoting international loan agreements but also helping to provide the infrastructure of training and encouragement required to make the international interlibrary loan system work well. The creation of the Office of International Lending at Boston Spa and the adoption of Universal Availability of Publications (UAP) as a program paralleling UBC will provide the basis from which to expand.

Concomitant to the need for improved interlibrary lending is the need for an improved international library information and referral service that will aid library users in identifying and locating materials that may be useful in their research. What is suggested here is a kind of international reference system to make information *about* libraries, rather than information *in* libraries, available to potential users.

In many cases where scholars are engaged in research or study in depth, no international lending or reference service can substitute for onsite use of relatively large masses of library materials. But in many countries arrangements to gain access to library collections is tedious, time consuming, and often unsuccessful. A minimum objective should be an IFLA program to encourage the establishment of one or more clearinghouses or centers in each country to assist scholars from abroad in their problems of securing access to the library materials they need for their research.

Preservation and Conservation

The problem of preserving library materials and their contents for future generations is no longer a national problem alone, but a global one of increasingly alarming proportions. In December 1976 the Library of Congress called together preservation experts (librarians, conservators, archivists, publishers, and representatives of public and private policy and funding agencies) to lay plans for a national preservation program for the United States.

The most perfect bibliographic record attainable is of limited use so long as the books it purports to represent and control have deteriorated beyond use. Sadly, a major percentage of the current books acquired by all libraries start a process of rapid decay the moment they are placed on the shelves. One of IFLA's next major tasks must be to exercise its leadership in an international effort to encourage each country to draft a long-range program to preserve and protect its own bibliothecal resources. The more technologically advanced countries can pool their knowledge resources, disseminate information through IFLA, and

encourage the development of cooperative preservation programs. International attention should be given to the vast resources of manuscripts and printed materials facing disintegration and ultimate obliteration in many developing countries unless well coordinated plans for their rescue are begun soon.

An international preservation program should address itself to such questions as the standards for preservation in microform or other format, the development of model national plans, the enormous task of training the required number of personnel skilled in preservation tasks, and the mechanisms to publicize and make available internationally the materials reproduced. IFLA should also lend its support to convincing publishers throughout the world to use durable paper for at least the most important of their publications.

Government Publications and Documents

In future years IFLA should assign a prominent place to solving the problems surrounding the exchange of official publications. An increasing number of difficulties have become apparent in the functioning of current arrangements for the exchange of official publications. Many of these arrangements were devised and put into execution decades ago in a simpler (and perhaps less demanding) world. Today, the need for a thorough re-examination of the whole range of problems involved in the international exchange of official publications is pressing. IFLA is already working in this area but new guidelines urgently need to be set up. The whole system must be updated and brought in line with the current world situation and its economic realities.

IFLA should place greater emphasis on documents exchange by urging its membership to raise the consciousness of national governments throughout the world about the importance of official documents as tools of research and reflections of current trends and policies. Member national library associations and institutions should be encouraged to work within their countries for effective implementation of international document exchange agreements through appropriate legislation to guarantee:

- 1) establishment of national documents centers to serve as reference repositories for domestic and foreign official documents;
- 2) assurance that official publications are made available in sufficient quantity to carry on a program of international exchange;
- 3) provision of adequate physical facilities and staff for the program, and
- 4) adequate funds to cover postal and shipping expenses incurred by the program.

The 1958 Unesco Convention Concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States deliberately propounded a broad definition of official publications to allow the signatory nations flexibility in determining what constitutes the material to be exchanged. It was hoped that this would alleviate a long-standing problem with official exchanges. As the *Unesco Handbook on the International Exchange of Publications* said, "big countries had to give away incomparably more than they received, while small countries had to be saddled with a load with which they were unable to cope."(1)

Individual nations thus have widely different notions of what constitutes an official publication. At the same time very few have attempted to do anything to ensure bibliographical control over this material.

IFLA should therefore develop a model law (or decree) on the exchange of documents and work to have it adopted by all national governments. The model law should include basic provisions for defining official publications and government documents, designating a central source, requiring a sufficient supply of copies of official publications (regardless of issuing agency) at a central exchange source, distributing documents comprehensively to exchange partners, issuing periodic checklists of documents published, and others.

IFLA should also use its influence with Unesco to urge the creation of an international documents center which would not only develop a definitive international collection of official documents in a centralized depository for the benefit of the world research community, but also assist in all feasible ways with the promotion of model laws and other appropriate supporting legislation throughout the world. The international documents center should be so constituted that it could receive and distribute documents (in the original, or in microform) for nations unable to establish comprehensive programs at home along the lines suggested in the model law. Such a center, in the long run, might prove to be the only satisfactory answer to many of the institutional inadequacies encountered in exchange, especially those of restricted staff and physical facilities hampering a full-scale distribution program. Adequate legal support for the procurement of all official publications of all agencies and bureaus of national governments, and the necessary back-up instruments of enforcement, remain problems for each nation to solve. The center would be expected to advise nations on the most effective means toward solution of these problems and provide continuing leadership at the international level in the development of exchange programs.

Bibliography

IFLA is in a unique position to encourage the creation of major international bibliographies, guides, union lists, and catalogs of large bodies of specific materials now dispersed in many repositories throughout the world, making it possible for scholars to survey their fields of interest more quickly and exhaustively and beyond the limitations of national repositories. Major projects of this nature, which would be beyond the capabilities of individual countries, might be possible through international planning, coordination, and funding. Professional and special international library guides, such as a guide to law libraries throughout the world, would be useful.

Book and Library Statistics

Although Unesco has done much to collect and disseminate international book statistics, the data is still incomplete and very late in appearing. There is a grave lack of up-to-date published information relating to production, prices and international commerce of books, serials, microforms and all other forms of library

materials. IFLA should seek to give impetus to the timely and regular collection and reporting of this data by all countries in conformity with accepted standards of terminology, counting and price-indexing that would permit meaningful comparisons from country to country and year to year.

Standards

The formulation of internationally valid standards has long been one of the main concerns of IFLA, as it is clearly recognized that standardization is indispensable for coordinated activities and shared enterprises. Much has already been done in this area and much work is actually in progress, but there needs to be further effort in the following areas:

- 1) Bibliographic description of non-book materials, including, but not limited to
 - sound recordings (discs, tapes, etc.)
 - motion pictures and videotapes
 - still photographic images
 - prints and other pictorial materials
 - computer programs
- 2) Microfilming standards, including
 - technical requirements
 - film for archival collections
 - bibliographic requirements
- 3) Standards for the preparation and publication of National Bibliographies
- 4) Standards for computer formats based on UNIMARC structure as a step toward international networking
- 5) Standards for the photocopying and access to manuscripts and rare materials (Work on this has begun in the U.S., but little has been done abroad although the need is pressing, as indicated by the October 1975 Vatican Conference.)
- 6) Standardization in the flow of library materials (Procedures and forms that can be used worldwide by libraries and other consumers of library materials for requesting quotations, placing orders, obtaining reports on status of orders, negotiating exchanges of publications, and other kinds of interchange of information. Standardized multi-lingual forms would help to offset problems arising from language barriers and the diversity of practices in publishing and disseminating library materials.)
- 7) Standardization in the education and training of professional librarians would be of invaluable assistance in both developed and developing countries. A common language of librarianship will help solve problems that are increasingly international in nature. The establishment of formal programs for the international exchange of librarians should also be explored as a means for creating greater professional understanding and communication.

Blind and physically handicapped

IFLA should actively pursue the concept of providing an international meeting platform for libraries serving blind and physically handicapped individuals. The

suggestion first proposed in 1974 that IFLA could act as a cohesive agent to bring librarians and technical experts together to discuss equipment standardization and the creation of an international central catalog for talking books and braille materials has been well received. Following the organization meeting scheduled for Brussels, IFLA representatives might organize an official subsection and move to address other problems of concern to those working with the reading needs of the more than 30 million individuals in the world who cannot read regular print.

Aggressive Leadership

In the past five years IFLA has done a remarkable job making real the dream of universal bibliographic control. This task has been considered of such overwhelming importance to librarians and library users that these efforts to promote international cataloging standards and the use of numbering systems to identify serial titles will continue to have high priority, possibly the highest priority in the years immediately ahead.

But the time has now come to look beyond UBC. The objective of UBC is not, after all, to provide a comprehensive and uniform bibliographic record for its own sake or to inform the bibliophile that certain books once existed. The purpose of UBC (and the companion UAP) is to serve as the key to cooperative efforts for using and preserving the world's intellectual resources and for making them more widely available to people everywhere.

The time has come for IFLA to exercise a leadership and planning role to promote the rationalization and improvement of library services in each country. Our hopes for IFLA are indeed so closely interwoven and interdependent with national objectives that they can be achieved only if existing national library systems face the future in an orderly and planned fashion.

The cooperation of all countries will be required for international programs in sharing and preserving library resources to work well. The initiatives taken by Herman Liebaers and continued by President Kirkegaard to move IFLA away from its previously Eurocentric interest to a global view have met with initial success. The continuation and intensification of this global interest is essential to IFLA's programs and goals for the future preservation and sharing of the world's intellectual resources.

To assure a firm foundation for international library development in such diverse yet interdependent areas as automation, preservation, and interlibrary loan, it is essential that IFLA continue its current efforts on behalf of international agreements on technical standards and other related library endeavors. The greatest benefit will be achieved if IFLA aggressively takes the lead in the field of international library development. Cooperation from the Library of Congress can be assured.

- 1) UNESCO Handbook on the International Exchange of Publications, 1964, p. 58.

Thoughts about IFLA's Future

Nicolai M. Sikorski

All memorable dates arouse a natural desire to sum up what has been done, to assess the present and look towards the future. It goes without saying that the 50th anniversary of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions is an opportune occasion for such meditation.

One of IFLA's objectives as formulated in the new Statutes is the promotion of international mutual understanding amongst librarians. It is profoundly in tune with the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, held in Helsinki on 30 July–1 August 1975, and outlines prospects for the development of the Federation. We believe that this activity should be pushed further.

We would like IFLA, as one of the principal non-governmental organizations, embracing librarians from a hundred countries, to use books and libraries more actively for the cause of developing cultural and scientific exchanges between peoples and states.

This kind of initiatives should become an important part of IFLA's activities. It was at the General Council meetings of Moscow (1970) and Budapest (1972) that the need of augmenting the social role of books and libraries in modern society was first proclaimed, and the foundations for this action laid.

As a professional organization IFLA enjoys great prestige with librarians the world over. It is a good forum for a broad exchange of views on all questions of librarianship and library science. In order to make the exchange of experience even more effective and develop more fruitful relationships among library associations of different countries, it would be reasonable, in the opinion of the Soviet Library Association, to concentrate the efforts of all IFLA members on raising the scientific level of the Federation's work.

The exchange of experience will be really useful, provided it is based on serious analysis and well-founded conclusions. It is precisely for this reason that the theoretical aspects of library science, methodology and methods of research, and the application of completed studies are assuming special significance.

Soviet librarians take a great interest in the development of long-term research programmes with clearly defined goals, to promote the exchange of information in the field of science and culture. Such programmes should be equally useful for librarians in all countries irrespective of the level of their economic, social and cultural development.

We think that the programme of Universal Bibliographic Control is such an effort. It should be pointed out that the establishment and improvement of national bibliographies of current printed matter is but the first stage of the UBC programme.

Its framework will be expanded in the future to cover all problems of national and international systems of bibliographic control, including retrospective repertoires of publications. More attention should be given to the registration of all other information carriers, now not quite properly termed "non-book materials".

Standardization is another very promising field of IFLA activities. Nowadays it seems to be generally agreed that effective international library cooperation is impossible without a certain level of standardization and unification. The entire UBC programme is based on international standards of bibliographic description. Common development of standards in the broadest sense also establishes the foundation for the expansion and intensification of library cooperation in the future. If this work is well organized within IFLA, close coordination with other international organizations, and above all, with the International Organization for Standardization, will help solve many problems without additional expenditure.

Where scientific and technological progress has reached a suitable level, the development of national bibliographies and UBC, standardization, and the improvement of most other library and bibliographic processes are inconceivable without mechanization and automation. These include the application of the latest achievements of science and technology, and particularly, computers. Much is being done in this field within IFLA. However, a great deal more remains to be done, since unification and standardization are the main preconditions for the development of automation of various branches of library work.

Mention could be made here of other programmes in which IFLA can play an important organizational role, but lack of space prevents this.

I should like to dwell on some other problems on the solving of which IFLA's future depends. There is no need to increase the number of permanent IFLA offices or the number of IFLA staff and thus replace the activity of librarians by that of paid officials. Besides, such a trend will inevitably lead to considerable additional expense. Any unwarranted attempt to secure a higher budget for the Federation (e.g. by increasing membership dues or by introducing additional registration fees for joining sections) are bound to alienate from IFLA library associations in many countries.

During the 50 years of its existence IFLA has grown into an international public organization, and its future is that of such an organization rather than of an administrative or commercial centre.

There is another significant point. I believe we should all be permanently concerned with the improvement of IFLA's organizational structure, seeking to make it work more flexibly. Good prospects for this activity are opened up by the new Statutes adopted in Lausanne in 1976.

For instance, the expansion of the Federation's scientific activities will be facilitated by attracting to its various bodies the largest possible number of librarians from different countries. Fruitful cooperation could thus be established, not only at the meetings of the Council, the Professional Board, the Executive Board

and the Sections, but also, by means of correspondence, in the periods between sessions and meetings, as direct contacts are not always possible during such intervals.

Some national organizations could undertake certain projects of IFLA and bear the costs incurred; this would enable the Federation to do without permanent bodies.

In conclusion, I should like to state that we ought to stimulate and encourage contacts in every possible way, seek new forms for coordinating our activities with such large non-governmental organizations as the International Federation for Documentation (FID) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Links with international governmental organizations, with Unesco above all, should also be further promoted. All these partners of ours have many common questions to tackle. Apart from providing useful occasions for the exchange of views, such cooperation will promote the solution of several big general problems, and avoid a scattering of resources.

At the same time I believe that the establishment outside IFLA of other library associations and organizations should not be encouraged. At times they pursue extremely narrow or purely regional goals.

Thus, for three years directors of national libraries have been discussing the creation of an association of national libraries. After fruitful discussion we agreed that it was more reasonable to settle questions pertaining to national libraries in IFLA sections (such as the Section of National Libraries, the Section of Mechanization, and others), whereas specific national library problems would best be treated by setting up a "round table" of directors within the framework of IFLA, which was undoubtedly the best solution.

IFLA should favour the coordination within its framework of such closed organizations as INTAMEL and the International Association of Music Libraries. The division of IFLA members by region should not be encouraged. Soviet librarians are against the dismemberment of library activity; they favour consolidation and concentration of the Federation's efforts on the main issues uniting all librarians rather than on small, local problems which can be settled by the national bodies outside the framework of the international organization.

We hope that IFLA, entering the next half century of its history, will make every effort to ensure that the book — the great creation of human genius — serves the cause of humanism, peace and progress.

IFLA – A Provocative View

D. J. Urquhart

Libraries are concerned with collecting and making available the records of mankind. They are concerned with all types of records irrespective of how or where they are produced. They are concerned with all the techniques for promoting the use of their records. Inevitably librarians should have a world outlook on their problems for they are really the servants of mankind. To librarians national boundaries are handicaps to be overcome so they should be organized on a world basis.

So far this has not happened. It is true that there are organizations such as IFLA, ICA and FID, but are they really adequate? Each considers itself an “international” organization. Undoubtedly each has very limited resources. Unfortunately part of these resources are devoted to duplicating activities and to trying to decide the boundaries between these organizations. One effective organization would be better than three ineffective ones.

In future it will be necessary to create one organization which will cater for those who classify themselves as librarians, archivists or information officers. In designing such an organization special attention should be given to making it worldwide as distinct from “international”. Basically the problem of information transfer is the same everywhere. It is concerned with making the maximum use of the world’s store of information and ignoring national boundaries. The problem is quite different from political and economic problems. So the type of organization librarians need should not be similar to the type of international organizations designed for political purposes. But that is the type of organization IFLA is at present. To think in terms of national representatives enhances the difficulties created by national boundaries and these are what librarians should be seeking to eliminate. So somehow IFLA has to cease to be as it is now a federation of national organizations.

Besides the long term philosophical advantage of having a “world” organization of librarians the proposed organization would have some practical advantages over the existing organization. This has resulted in the representatives of associations who attend IFLA conferences being to a great extent those who hold office in their organizations irrespective of whether they have anything to contribute. Many of these regard a visit to IFLA as a “perk” which provides some foreign travel at somebody else’s expense.

As a result many are seldom seen at the conference meetings. Of course there is a good excuse for this. Many of the meetings are somewhat dreary affairs. Often the organizers ask the speakers to “summarize” their papers. There appears to be some translation difficulty in understanding this term “summarize” even to those

whose native language is English. Often it appears to mean in practice "give your complete paper and amplify it". The result is that there are long discourses, and discussion is stifled or made impossible because of a shortage of time. But the discussion of new ideas be one of the main activities at IFLA conferences. Perhaps in future there will be a statute to the effect that nobody presenting a paper to IFLA (excluding the President giving his presidential address) may speak for more than ten minutes and that those who contribute to the discussion on any paper should be allowed not more than five minutes.

A Prospective View on IFLA's Future

Marc Chauveinc

Statutes are statutes. Every organization needs statutes, and sometimes even requires a revision of its statutes so as to bring them up-to-date and in line with reigning fashion, harmonize them with legislation, or make them conform to new activities. Statutes have, however, never by themselves constituted the force or vitality of an organization, nor yet impeded it. IFLA's old statutes have not checked its development, which it owed to the initiative and energy of some people particularly devoted to the Federation.

Set up as a professional association of librarians, IFLA found itself – almost against its will – a far-reaching venture, managing funds and people, in charge of projects undertaken on a world scale, and taking part in international activities relating to libraries. This growth has suddenly faced IFLA with new responsibilities to which its structure was not adapted. The question then arose whether the structure should be adapted to IFLA's objectives, or vice versa?

The adaptation of the structure to the objectives, and a re-examination of the latter in view of their coherence and compatibility with the available means was the double reply formulated in the *Medium-Term Programme*, a mixture of ambition and reason.

I – IFLA is a large body whose life depends on the activity of its members: sections, sub-sections, committees, working groups, etc.; if they do nothing, the Federation is dead. No initiative whatever taken at top level can revive a section that is not active. Some units produce tangible results, others do not. But the advantage of a grouping of librarians, national or international, lies in the fact that the whole is more than the sum of its parts. The Federation is more than the sum of the work done by its sections and committees.

In IFLA's future this duality will become increasingly evident: the whole charged with missions of general interest, and the parts (sections) pursuing pin-point actions, more restricted and proper to their field of activity, though in some cases eventually taken up at the general level.

IFLA's missions can be defined in the terms of this statement. Whether they be general or specific, the activities of an organization like IFLA can be divided into two categories: On the one hand the information and self-regulating activities, aiming at developing good fellowship amongst its members and an adequate circulation of professional knowledge: discussions, conferences, visits, missions, scholarships, etc. They are important for the life of the organization for they help to strengthen the cohesion, but they are purely internal and can only produce self-satisfaction, friendship by feelings and, possibly, an improvement in everybody's work by means of exchanging friendly services. Very different are the actions

seeking to change the outside world and introduce in the information circuit a new mechanism or a new structure with the intention to improve it. These actions – be they of a political or technical nature – have a visible impact and bring progress to the library world.

II – Four missions can be assigned to IFLA:

- a) an information mission
- b) a political mission
- c) a long-term action mission
- d) a mission of specific activities.

a) Like all organizations, IFLA must serve as a link between its member associations, institutions, individuals . . . and ensure the circulation of all information on its activities and on those of the others: newsletters, journals, congresses, etc. are useful for this purpose. This mission can be improved. (Cf. hereafter).

b) IFLA must act as a Federation and publicly pronounce itself at international gatherings on behalf of librarians and libraries. It can cooperate, for instance, with Unesco or intervene with a government to defend or promote libraries. Its role is to be present wherever libraries or documentation are at issue, asserting with authority their place and function.

This mission can be associated with one of education and initiation. IFLA must be able to keep its member associations and individual librarians in their local difficulties by furnishing information, technical advice, give them the support they need or, should the occasion arise, by intervening cautiously with the responsible authorities. This function of technical adviser should be important in the future, though difficult to fund.

“Library Policy”. the philosophy of libraries, clearly defined or vaguely implied in IFLA’s action must indicate the evolution of present-day librarianship and influence library development in every country. Even if the standards of living vary, IFLA’s influence must be capable of making itself felt, little by little, in all countries, and determine a general library policy, a certain conception of the library’s nature, function and place in society.

This political conception of libraries ought to be the result of ample reflection on the part of IFLA Sections, and based on several facts characteristic of the twentieth century:

– World-wide dissemination of information is no longer a privilege of a small group of scholars who live in isolation, but a need of the masses, and the common responsibility of all countries. For research as for general reading we must think in world terms.

– Libraries can no longer remain aloof of the phenomenon “mechanization” and organization that enables all human institutions to survive. Mechanization and organization are the libraries’ only safeguards against the encroachment of documents and the multiplication of users.

– The traditional library is breaking up. New information supports proliferate and one asks oneself whether the utilization of the printed word will not sooner or later become obsolete. Up to now it is the privileged form, but will it always be the only one and will there not be (or are there already?) more flexible, safer forms, more practical for storing and transmitting information?

– In this age of rapid evolution, conservation becomes less important than transmission, to remember less important than to foresee. We are becoming active people and cease to be meditative. Memory ceases to be developed for the benefit of reflection. We are turning into active intelligences working with external memories. The libraries' role consists of making information available, not to store paper. Instead of concentrating on sterile conservation, libraries need to orientate themselves towards communication. That is why the distinction between libraries and documentation centres is bound to disappear.

c) From these facts can be easily deduced the third mission of IFLA: to foresee, undertake and pursue long-term universal actions aiming at the establishment of a mechanized network of information transfer. Often, these general projects appear to be mere big empty words, and their definition seems rather abstract in comparison with the everyday and unhappy reality libraries have to cope with. But a perspective is needed to make sense of various activities, apparently unrelated to each other, and to organize them into a coherent whole.

Some of these projects aim at creating institutions for international cooperation, others, for want of means, must be limited to the preparation of implementation only in the countries concerned. The UNISIST, UBC and UAP projects belong to the first category and conform to the first principle mentioned earlier.

Two programmes that belong to the second category should be developed, one pertaining to library mechanization, the use of better and better computers, the establishment of national and international networks, and the development of communication techniques, the other concerned with library planning and management.

These world-wide projects, i.e. actions undertaken by IFLA as a whole, will no doubt gain in importance in the years ahead, and lead to a certain centralism. Is this not essential for achieving greater efficiency?

d) Finally, specific actions. They are undertaken by Sections and correspond to the needs of a type of libraries or a type of activities. They are important and should not be neglected.

Sections dispose of limited means for these activities: annual meetings, goodwill, and sometimes contracts and subventions.

Without denying the interest of meetings and the papers presented there, which constitute an important source of information about the activities of IFLA members, and a means of exchanging or even inspiring new ideas, meetings do not in actual fact advance the Federation's work. Can a lecture of thirty minutes be called a subject study, and form a section's programme? Is there not disproportion

between the amplitude of certain themes, and the dearth of means and time afforded to them? This traditional (and very useful) method of work cannot be discarded, but we can try to make certain improvements:

- devote several meetings to a given theme, i.e. have it treated by several speakers, leave enough time for discussion, try to cover several aspects of the subject, and come to practical conclusions. This solution can in itself offer two possibilities:
- limit participation to a few experts who discuss a question in detail during two or three days;
- use the Round Table formula, with an exchange of views on a certain subject by a number of experts in front of an audience;
- set up smaller working groups that, meeting several times during the year, submit the result of their work to the Section's general assembly. This method, successfully employed in the past, deserves to be developed;
- create professional units with full-time staff for the execution of a project. The UBC Office is a good example of this;
- obtain contracts enabling one or more persons to undertake a study and present its result.

The first solution already brings an improvement compared with the present debates that are too short. It makes possible a more thorough discussion of new projects, but is not sufficient to accomplish the latter.

The other three solutions, and in fact all serious work, require both financial means and manpower.

The former can, possibly, be obtained from contracts concluded with Unesco or other funding bodies attending to the development of international relations, and particularly with national libraries, the natural knots in exchange networks, and therefore more directly concerned in international library cooperation.

One of the conditions for IFLA's success is to make every country admit that it cannot stay outside the world network of information and must bring its contribution to the edifice.

The means will, however, never be sufficient. IFLA's action must, therefore, be a double one: firstly, find funds, obtain the means needed for its projects, but, subsequently, adapt the latter to the money actually secured. If looking ahead is essential, taking a right view of things is not less so. The promotion or support of Utopian projects entailing a waste of human and financial resources should be avoided, and a proper measure maintained.

And what of the men?

We can at least hope that the new Statutes will infuse new blood into IFLA by the enrolment of individual members, the more active participation of institutional members, and more official commitment on the part of association members.

But enrolment procedures are not enough, the more so since certain habitués of the pleasant and unrestrained amateurism of the present conference will not care to be obliged to become personally involved in international activities.

The new Statutes have made a rather risky bet in asking from IFLA members more numerous activities. We must indeed be fully aware of the fact that the improved functioning of IFLA that we wish to achieve depends on increased individual involvement.

How many librarians, even though convinced of the usefulness of international work are ready to give, on a voluntary basis, more of their time to IFLA activities? How many of them, already fully occupied with the very heavy tasks inherent in their position, will be able to devote themselves to IFLA?

Is it not dangerous to count solely on the good will of individuals? The good will on which IFLA has been built constitutes a fragile foundation, even though it has never collapsed. But it could fail, all of a sudden, in certain sectors, making IFLA a colossus on clay feet.

This danger can be aggravated by increasing the political aspects of IFLA's activities. The Statutes allow for voting by country and the official registration of member associations in the Sections. It is not impossible that countries or associations would designate "official" representatives, ignorant about professional matters, and not specialists as in the past. In no circumstances should technical decisions be influenced by considerations of a political nature. In the past, the co-optation of specialists ensured the presence in the Sections of competent and active persons.

The bet can only be won on two conditions: by depending less on voluntary activities and instituting sounder financial structures; and by eliminating the influence of political factors in the affairs of IFLA. Human and financial problems converge here.

IFLA will become what its members make of it, for in the last resort it is on men that the successful application of the new Statutes will depend, on their capacity to promote certain ideas; on their expertise in certain domains (was it not the grouping of a number of first-rate experts that gave IFLA its present force?); on the way they take to heart certain international problems; on the importance they accord to the latter in their activities and their availability. Without everybody's acute awareness of the development of international relations and the inevitability of his personal involvement in them (voluntary or otherwise), IFLA cannot advance. As far as librarians are concerned, nationalism is dead.

It may be hoped that some keen minds will be capable of looking ahead beyond the immediate present and transform IFLA into a more powerful body, perhaps directing (on account of financial reasons) fewer projects but broader in scope, and all orientated towards library cooperation and the establishment of an international network for information transfer.

IFLA and the Developing Countries

Alma Jordan

Prologue

Thoughts of IFLA and developing countries, when juxtaposed, conjure up a kaleidoscopic and dazzling horizon. Sundry paths and by-ways, roads and highways seem to lead everywhere at once; only the closest scrutiny reveals significant routes for a possible journey.

IFLA, on the one hand, symbolizing the essence of international librarianship, is itself overwhelmed at times by the enormity of its scope.(1) The developing countries, on the other hand, present an even more complex and diverse spectrum. Their varied languages, peoples, traditions, political, geographical, economic and social settings suggest culture shock even for the armchair traveller. To compass this horizon and plot a short but evenly-lit course, along important routes, is the challenge.

The past

IFLA's full and forceful plunge into the developing country library arena in 1971, after many years of token interest(2) and failed efforts(3), is now history and well-documented.(4, 5) Indeed concern for library development in the developing countries has never been lacking, whether on the international scene, with Unesco(6) in the front ranks (often working with and through non-governmental organizations such as IFLA and FID), or on the national scene especially in the United Kingdom and United States.(7) White(8) describes the multi-faceted nature of assistance – financial, material and human resources – which has been channelled through many sources for library development in these areas. These efforts, however, often lacked planning and coordination. It has also been acknowledged that some of these “stereotyped forms of assistance . . .” were unrelated to local conditions and “did not yield the expected results”.(9) The IFLA “breakthrough” at the first Pre-session seminar for librarians from developing countries in 1971, brought new understanding, not only of stages of development and achievements against odds, but also of the nature of their problems which “deserve to be studied from an angle of vision determined by (their) special needs”.(10)

It is to this general task that the Federation, as the leader in the profession, is now addressing itself. And so the past is prologue.

The future

For the future, a dynamic action plan, over and above on-going commendable projects, is indicated. Three basic programme areas seem necessary within such a plan. They involve promotion through (1) information, (2) research and (3) a crucial programme of co-ordination.

The objectives of the Federation are essentially promotional. “*International* understanding, cooperation, discussion, research and development in all fields of library activity” can only be achieved on the basis of fuller knowledge, information and interaction at *national and regional* levels.

Information

Firstly therefore a widespread series of intensive programmes for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information of various kinds is required at several levels. Local librarians and library associations need to collect and study more varied types of information to form the basis of their national library planning in the context of local development planning; their publics and governments need to be better informed on the role which a well planned and integrated library and information system (NATIS) can play in national development. The profession needs information also on national goals and the scale of national priorities in seeking the promotion of library services from their all too often inferior status.

IFLA, working with and through bodies like Unesco, can contribute effectively to these ideals; in particular it might seek new strategies to bring librarians and governmental representatives into *international* dialogue. Deliberate dovetailing of the next NATIS inter-governmental conference with that year’s Council is one possible strategy.

Secondly the profession at large needs easy access to this general store of library science information as it is gathered for discussion, comparative study and co-operative planning regionally and internationally.

Indeed, a substantial literature already exists on librarianship, documentation and related issues from the developing country point of view. It is not, however, readily recognizable being partly hidden in newsletters, symposia, conference papers and addresses or scattered amidst general topics, any of which can be treated from this slant. The unconventional and official report literature is largely unknown. It seems urgently necessary, therefore, to control these resources; a first assignment within the several sections of the new Regional Groups should be an annotated bibliography or state-of-the-art study for the local library and related literature. Parallel analyses of the literature from developed countries could be gradually undertaken while annual reviews might keep this record up-to-date for the developing countries as Soosai(11) suggested. These are but a few of many new possibilities.

Research and Publications

A logical outgrowth of the first process of information gathering at all levels is the identification of areas for in-depth study. Unusual studies, reflecting developing country interests(12) have been done, some as theses, but many areas of needed research remain unexplored.

It is for IFLA to assert leadership in this field by encouraging its member associations to initiate and sponsor local investigations and by itself developing a com-

prehensive Research programme under a new special unit(13), seeking suitable support and links with library schools at the outset. This is virgin territory for the promotion of development. Research on the many facets of the profession in application to developing area needs, deserves full IFLA attention. Possible topics are legion and the regional groups should find little difficulty in proposing priorities from practical experience. Parker's(14) Sevensma Prize essay gives an interesting lead and many more spring from the literature.

The current publication programme could be expanded to include significant selections from the journals of member associations, not otherwise abstracted or indexed and/or contents listings from these, in addition to more regular association news items featured in the journal. If the new regional groups can become more closely linked with (or even one and the same as) existing regional library associations, such as ACURIL in the Caribbean, unnecessary overlapping and duplication would be happily avoided.

Co-ordination

New information and research programmes apart, there are still wider horizons to be explored and bolder challenges to be confronted. The re-ordering of the organization of the profession, the co-ordination of overlapping efforts in many spheres, the reshaping of education programmes, restructuring of co-operation and the bringing of the new library technology within financial reach in all-embracing networks – all these new directions beckon for attention. Stronger ties and joint action committees with Unesco and FID, so often recommended and yet to be achieved, are especially prominent goals. The developing world has more than ordinary interest in IFLA's realization of these aims.

Scattered and piece-meal efforts at assistance to developing countries in their struggles with the familiar problems enumerated by Gardner(15), could be greatly improved by co-ordination. The many international and national governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and foundations could well provide joint consultative bodies to work with local professionals for co-ordinated projects in library development. IFLA must take the initiative in engineering such joint activities, (as it has done with ICAE) as a natural strengthening and formal outgrowth of existing informal co-operation and consultation with many of the same organizations.

No greater service could be rendered to the library concept, and indirectly to library development, than IFLA's weaving together from the many linking strands – librarianship, archives, documentation, information science and informatics – of one multi-coloured but perfectly blended and integrated whole – a family profession united by common objectives and related complementary characteristics.

Unlike developing countries where they originate and may contribute to a rich diversity, in the less-developed world these divisions(16) are artificial and impoverishing; they can fragment limited resources, distort the professional image

and detract from over-all effectiveness. History(17) notwithstanding, unity is imperative and strenuous efforts must continue towards joint meetings(18) and activities, regionally and internationally.

The multiplicity of regional associations with special slants and overlapping geographic groupings could greatly profit from the "creation of (IFLA) regional offices, permanently staffed, to provide a secretariat and co-ordinating centre."(19) A first secretariat function in co-operation could well be seeking funds for participation in regional meetings involving some of the same personnel with harmonized locations and calendars.

Such a spirit of oneness must be sought for nurturing in the library school cradle and the present loose structure of education for these strands needs closer attention. Attempts at standardizing core content(20) and moreso at harmonizing the plethora of programmes and qualifications,(21) throughout the world, should be accelerated. If we believe in the "one world of librarianship", a new international concept(22) must seep into the future generation of librarians and information specialists now in training everywhere. There are many roads on the international library horizon but drawing closer together with greater understanding, they can all lead to the same haven where every reader's needs are met.

Epilogue

The journey is ended. The day of the computer in libraries everywhere has arrived. In developed and once less-developed countries throughout the world, interlocking systems transmit facsimiles of books and documents to readers anywhere and relay information instantly at the touch of a command button. The world has truly shrunk; the people of all countries have access to the world's store of information through an effective network of international library co-operation promoted and developed by a united family of Associations known as IFLA.

Such a dream fulfilled would fittingly complete this brief excursion into the twin worlds of IFLA and the developing countries.

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The developing countries and IFLA

J. Stephen Parker

The library problems of the developing countries have received serious attention from IFLA only during the last few years, with the organization of special pre-session seminars at the Liverpool, Grenoble and Washington General Council meetings and the formation of special Working Groups for Developing Countries. These developments have both reflected and encouraged a steady growth in developing country membership of IFLA, and in January 1976, half the Federation's member associations and institutions were located in the Third World.(1)

The growth in Third World membership of IFLA has not, however, been matched by the level of participation of librarians from the developing countries, either in General Council meetings or in the running of IFLA itself. At the Lausanne General Council in 1976, for example, the 39 delegates from developing countries constituted only eight percent of the total attendance; and of some 350 positions on IFLA boards and committees in 1976, only 22 were held by librarians from the Third World.(2)

In an attempt to give developing countries a more effective voice in IFLA, its new Constitution provides for the establishment of a new Division for Regional Activities (DRA) "to promote and coordinate professional work of particular regional relevance, and more specifically to promote the objectives of the Federation in particular regions".(3) Three regional sections have so far been established within the Division, reflecting the areas of interest of the former Working Groups for Developing Countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Each section will have a regional secretariat under the supervision of an honorary regional secretariat under the supervision of an honorary regional chairman, and the sections will be divided into a total of 14 subregional groups, each of which will also have its own chairman.

It is intended that "the launching of the Regional Development Programme, which has been given very high priority in the last five or six years, should be seen as evidence of the . . . intention to make IFLA a truly world-wide organization".(4) An examination of the present membership of the regional sections, however, raises some doubts as to whether they are meant to represent all countries, or only developing countries, in the various regions, and also reveals how far they still have to go before they can claim world-wide membership even among the developing countries.

Among the 26 countries covered by the Asian region, for example, are two – Greece and Turkey – which are regarded by the United Nations, not only as developed countries, but also as parts of Western Europe.(5) Israel, which is also classified by the UN as a developed country and has recently been admitted to the European regional group in Unesco, is, however, excluded. Seventeen of the 25

least developed of the developing countries(6) are not included in any of the regional groupings – including at least one country, Botswana, whose well-developed national library service is an Associate Member of IFLA. In all, only 61 of the 100 or so members of the so-called ‘Group of 77’ developing country grouping are at present covered by the regional sections.

IFLA’s Medium-Term Programme includes under the heading *Advance towards world-wide membership and activity* most of the general developing country activities of the DRA. The programme for professional activities by type of library and type of activity, however, also includes several proposals specifically relating to developing countries, as well as proposals for international programmes which will affect developed and developing countries alike.(7) There is clearly a considerable risk of lack of coordination and duplication of effort, particularly between the broad regional interests of the DRA and the more precise professional objectives of the other divisions. In the DRA more than in any other division, therefore, “program planning . . . must be done with imagination and care to prevent overlapping, to stimulate new projects and to avoid uncontrolled growth”(8); and the proposals for the establishment and operation of the Division must be examined with care to see if it is likely to be able to perform its difficult geographical and professional coordinating role satisfactorily.

The main difficulties likely to be encountered in the work of the DRA arise largely from its very nature as a regional professional organization. In a recent study of regional library cooperation in the developing countries, the writer pointed out that successful development of the library profession at the regional level is largely dependent on its strength at the national level; yet this is precisely what is so often lacking in the developing countries. It was also suggested that efforts towards regional library cooperation were more likely to be successful if confined to reasonably small geographical areas and limited to countries at similar levels of library development.(9) These conditions are far from being met in the present structure of the DRA. The size and diversity of membership of the present regional sections and of many of the sub-regional groups suggests that they will be able to cooperate effectively only with intense and prolonged professional effort, backed by substantial human and financial resources.

By no stretch of the imagination can the resources at present allocated to the regional programme be said to be substantial. Despite the claim that the programme has been given “very high priority”, it is to receive no financial support from the Federation’s regular budget, but is instead made entirely dependent on external aid.(10) The dangers of excessive reliance on external funding are well illustrated by the cancellation of the proposed pre-session seminar at Lausanne in 1976, due to the withdrawal of a promised Iranian grant.

For 1976 and 1977, the work of the DRA will be financed by grants totalling some Can.\$ 56,400 (about £ 34 thousand) from the Canadian International Development Agency and the Australian National Library. These funds are to be used to finance research and development projects in the regions and “to set up

certain regional offices, and to enable colleagues from the various regions to participate in the seminars and workshops organized by IFLA and Unesco and in other meetings".(11)

The experience of the present regional office for Asia, in its former role as the Secretariat, first of the Working Group for English-Speaking Developing Countries and subsequently of the Regional Working Group for Asia, suggests that, even with additional support from local sources, a substantial proportion of the Division's budget will be required to meet administrative expenses and travelling costs. Between June 1973 and July 1975, 19 percent of the Asian office's budget was spent on staff salaries and other office expenses, 45 percent on travelling and subsistence and only 27 percent on project finance, with a nine percent surplus remaining at the end of the period.(12) With three regional offices to maintain and travelling and subsistence expenses for 17 regional and sub-regional chairmen to meet, it seems likely that the DRA will have an even smaller proportion of its budget available for project finance, and that the actual amount available for this purpose, seen in relation to the needs of the 64 countries covered by the existing regional sections, will be far too small to support projects of any real significance in more than a handful of countries.

Considerations such as these, which lack of space prevents us from examining in more detail at present, must raise serious doubts as to the ability of the DRA and its sections to perform a useful function as a project funding agency in its own right. If the Division is not to be involved in project funding, however, one must then question whether the remaining prospects for regional activity, given the limited funds available, can be said to provide the most fruitful means of participation in the work of IFLA for librarians from the developing countries.

It may well be that a more fruitful way of using the money at present allocated to the regional development programme would be to support the direct participation of more librarians from developing countries in the main work of the professional divisions and sections of IFLA – not as token representatives of the Third World, but as professional librarians in their own right.

The librarians from the developed countries who at present form the majority of members of IFLA boards and committees hold their positions, not as representatives of the developed countries, but as individuals with a contribution to make to the work of IFLA based on their own professional experience and ability. No one would suggest that there are not many able and dedicated professional librarians in the developing countries with an equally valuable contribution to make, not in the role of supplicants seeking aid for their own libraries, but as professional leaders contributing to the development of world librarianship. The provision of financial support for full participation in the work of the international professional body by Third World librarians may do far more to enhance their status – and hence the status of librarianship and libraries in general – in their own countries than could ever be achieved under the existing wideranging but underfinanced regional development programme.

Whilst such a course of action is in line with IFLA's long term aim of "making the distinction between more and less developed countries unnecessary" (13), and the regional programme is "not considered to be a permanent solution" (14), IFLA can hardly be expected to drop the programme without giving it a trial. The question therefore remains, as to whether or not some means can be found to make the regional development programme, with all its limitations, more effective.

Perhaps the only way in which, even as an interim measure, the regional programme can expect to achieve useful results is for its efforts to be concentrated on one key professional problem area. In the broadest sense, there seems strong justification for concentrating on the development of the library profession. If IFLA truly "aspires to speak with authority as the voice of the library profession of the whole world" (15), there is perhaps nowhere where that voice more needs to be clearly heard than in the developing countries. All improvements in library service must ultimately depend on the level of professional development, and strong support from IFLA for the development of professional associations and the recognition of professional status could bring real and lasting results.

Even this relatively narrow focus may be too broad for effective action on a world-wide scale, given the limited resources available. Within the general area of professional development, there can be little doubt that the most important single obstacle to effective library development in many developing countries is the lack of educated professional manpower. If all the efforts of the regional development programme were to be applied in this one direction, pressing for increases in the number of library schools and increases in the output of trained librarians and attempting to raise standards of professional education and to encourage library research, the long term benefits could be incalculable.

Without a specific focus of this kind, there is a grave danger that the regional development programme of IFLA, underfinanced as it is, will expend its limited resources on uncoordinated minor projects of such limited value that the funding agencies on which it relies so heavily will eventually withdraw their support. If this happens before steps have been taken to increase developing country participation in the mainstream of IFLA's professional work, the developing countries will find themselves worse off, in relation to IFLA and its programmes, than they are at present.

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Library education in the Global Village

Ben Rugaas

“It’s what you learn after you know it all that really counts.” Alfred E. Neuman.

In his excellent article *On the design of information systems for human beings*, Maurice Line writes that “information systems should as far as possible be built around users”. (1) And he goes on saying that systems inevitably affect use and users, and we should ensure that the effects of changes are desirable ones”. This may sound fairly obvious, but nevertheless one can find numerous libraries and other information-handling institutions where these “self-evident truths” have not been taken into consideration to the extent one would wish, at least not from the user’s point of view. Far too often effort has been focused upon the library’s housekeeping routines as seen from the librarian’s position. This often made the librarian forget that many systems – sophisticated and effective from a technical point of view – will be more or less unusable for a greater part of its users. A similar concentration on the library’s housekeeping technicalities is reflected in the library schools. The most promising achievement in library education in recent years is the growing tendency to focus on the needs of users and to relate all systems development to different aspects of user studies.

The NATIS-programme has presented us with a number of objectives for national and better integration in national and international information systems. For the library profession this is a gigantic challenge, and, as stated in the NATIS objectives, the long-range effect will largely depend upon the ability to meet user needs and at the same time provide the manpower necessary to run the systems. The successful realization of a concept as ambitious as the NATIS-programme will mean a much higher degree of international standardization and integration than has been the case up till now. Scientific developments having already in principle presented us with global solutions, it is now up to the human beings running the different national systems to agree on practical operational matters. Another challenge for library education and also for organizations operating on different levels like, for instance, IFLA.

The last issue in 1976 of *IFLA Journal* contains the *Standards for Library Schools 1976* (2) as approved by the Section for Library Schools at the General Council Meeting in Lausanne. In my opinion this will prove a very useful framework for continued discussions concerning all aspects of library education. Among these aspects I would like to draw particular attention to the following:

- Curriculum development.
- National and international harmonization of professional qualifications.
- Library education in developing countries.
- External factors affecting the library profession.
- The unification of the profession.

As for curriculum development this is a most controversial term. What curriculum and what development? Considerate of space I am not allowed to go into detail, but for our purpose I do not think it is even necessary. As indicated earlier the new library techniques, ranging from all sorts of micromedia and computers to international networking, have in a way made us more aware of the user and his problem. This man/machine constellation has led to reorganizing old subjects and the creation of new subjects like user studies and the library's place in society. And gradually we are overcoming the computerphobia so that we can look at the computer as a useful tool alongside other more traditional tools, and not as something mysterious to be handled by a handful of specialists as something in its own right. In times of great transition it is always useful to know what other people are doing. For library schools it is of vital importance to dispose of possibilities for measuring their own performance as compared with the activities of others. This applies especially to library schools in smaller countries where there may be only one national school.

The question of national and international harmonization of professional qualifications is another important matter. As we are gradually moving into what Marshall McLuhan termed "the global village", the question of equivalency for professional qualifications obtained in different parts of the world will be brought up more and more frequently. A starting point to such harmonization might be found within the framework of IFLA's *Standards for Library Schools*, 1976.

The developing countries are a significant part of today's global village. Librarianship is one facet in the aspirations of these countries, and library education is among the more important aspects of this facet. The problem is to build up in these countries a library education which combines the basic knowledge of traditional librarianship with the specific needs and traditions of one particular country. The solution of importing an instant library service, just adding users to it, has proven itself a bad one. And yet the efforts made to achieve better library service in developing countries has sufficient traits in common to allow these countries to profit from sharing experience and knowledge. This has been underlined by many library educators from developing countries. A good example is the situation in South-East Asia as described in the book *Barefoot Librarian* (3). The trends towards a growing internationalism have led to increasing governmental concern in large-scale solutions, integrated systems, cooperation and networking in many forms and in most areas of society. The field of librarianship is no exception. The British Library, UNISIST and NATIS are names that fit into this pattern. In the long run this will undoubtedly affect library education much more than it has done already. And here is the heart of the matter; the decisions to be made in reaching new large-scale solutions should preferably be found by informed people belonging to the library profession. If members of this profession are not capable to suggest new solutions, and work on them together as professionals with common interests, we may be sure that others will take over. The librarians influence in planning the national information network might be considerably strengthened by input from international professional experience.

There are many definitions of librarianship as a profession. Some are very broad, covering the information handling process in the widest possible framework, others are more exclusive trying to single out librarians as opposed to various types of information scientists. Personally I am in favour of a rather broad concept of librarianship. Basically, librarians are engaged in the same activity as teachers: they are communicating knowledge. The methods employed may vary greatly, and the work done may be differently labelled in consequence, in essence it all amounts to organizing information. It covers all aspects of life, from a basic knowledge of our culture, to pure science and leisure-time recreational reading. To me underlining the community of the work being done in the wider framework of librarianship and the neighbouring areas of education makes more sense. I think D. J. Foskett has got a good point when he says "Nothing distinguishes an information scientist from a librarian unless it be that a librarian lacks the ability to comprehend and transfer or circulate information, and I do not believe that this is the case".(4)

Stressing the unity of the profession seems to be an important task for library education. And our age of the global village makes it necessary that this be done in an international framework.

I was asked to give a provocative view on what IFLA should stand for in the future in the field of library education and library schools. So far I have hardly mentioned the name IFLA, but pointed out instead some in my opinion important areas which in different ways will have great impact on library education and library schools in the years to come. Undoubtedly many more important areas could have been mentioned as well, but I think this is enough to make my points clear.

In all problem areas I have indicated some kind of international cooperation will most probably prove useful. Do we have any forum for the discussion of these and related problems? Did I hear somebody suggest IFLA? Now, who could that be? It seems to me that far too many librarians know far too little about IFLA to make this suggestion work. For too many librarians IFLA is an acronym amongst other international acronyms; perhaps we even know that it has something to do with librarianship. It is said that any group of people forming an organization gets the organization it deserves. Librarians have got IFLA, and I think that it is here we should stop and simply state that for better or worse, that is what we have got. As with the work of all international organizations, our expectations of IFLA's work should be modest. As professionals we do need an international platform of some kind, and IFLA is already there, and it is the only organization of sufficient scope to cover all aspects of a profession which should be stressing the features that all its many-sided activities have in common.

IFLA's new structure gives good hope for the future. But much is to be done in promotion and communication work before IFLA ceases to be just an acronym. Why are so many library institutions not yet members of the Federation? The old structure, reorganization – yes, I know. But still, this is where we stand today. As for library education, much work goes on and will still be going on, regardless

of IFLA, at national, bilateral or regional levels. Even without IFLA we all would most certainly survive in our global village. But as things stand today, for better or worse, we have got IFLA. And in my opinion the reorganization gives us a good chance to work for an even better IFLA. This means reaching down to the grass-roots on the national level to make them familiar with the information on IFLA as more than a mere acronym. It also means involvement on the part of IFLA members, both national associations and institutions and, most important, the individual professional. This might prevent any future General Council meetings developing into sessions where too much time is spent in complaining about things not being done. Because involvement means a chance and a responsibility of doing it yourself. This also means strengthening IFLA's information about its own work, and such encouraging work as is being done at the national level. Last year's National Library Week in Norway had the slogan: "What did not happen on the local level did not happen at all!" For an international organization that wants to see result from its work this is an important consideration to bear in mind.

So, for myself and my views on library education and library schools within IFLA, the outlook for the future is one of reserved optimism. If the implementation of the new structure gives the Federation a new momentum in its professional work, then IFLA could be the international mirror reflecting all our national efforts in library education and other parts of the profession. And as the global village grows stronger we hopefully will be able to use these reflections to cope with the new large-scale solutions that will inevitably affect us anyhow. And in library education, as in every kind of professional learning, the international overview will always give a new dimension to domestic problems. It's what you learn after you know it all that really counts.

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General Council Meetings

Session			Actes/Proceedings
1	1927	Edinburgh	
2	1928	Rome	vol. I
3	1929	Rome, Florence, Venice	I
4	1930	Stockholm	II
5	1931	Cheltenham	III
6	1932	Berne	IV
7	1933	Chicago and Avignon	V
8	1934	Madrid	VI
9	1935	Madrid and Barcelona	VII
10	1936	Warsaw	VIII
11	1937	Paris	IX
12	1938	Brussels	X
13	1939	The Hague and Amsterdam	XI
14	1947	Oslo	XII
15	1948	London	XIII
16	1949	Basel	XIV
17	1950	London	XV
18	1951	Rome	XVI
19	1952	Copenhagen	XVII
20	1953	Vienna	XVIII
21	1954	Zagreb	XIX
22	1955	Brussels	XX
23	1956	Munich	XXI
24	1957	Paris	XXII
25	1958	Madrid	XXIII
26	1959	Warsaw	XXIV
27	1960	Lund and Malmö	XXV
28	1961	Edinburgh	XXVI
29	1962	Berne	XXVII
30	1963	Sofia	XXVIII
31	1964	Rome	XXIX
		Index cumulatif/Cumulative index, 1928-1964	XXX
32	1965	Helsinki	XXXI
33	1966	The Hague	XXXII
34	1967	Toronto	XXXIII
35	1968	Frankfurt a.M.	XXXIV
			IFLA Annual
36	1969	Copenhagen	1969
37	1970	Moscow	1970
38	1971	Liverpool	1971
39	1972	Budapest	1972
40	1973	Grenoble	1973
41	1974	Washington	1974
42	1975	Oslo	1975
43	1976	Lausanne	1976
44	1977	Brussels	1977

**List of Presidents and Secretaries General of IFLA
1927–1977**

Presidents

I. G. A. Collijn	1927–1931
W. W. Bishop	1931–1936
M. Godet	1936–1947
W. Munthe	1947–1951
P. Bourgeois	1951–1958
G. Hofmann	1958–1963
Sir Frank Francis	1963–1969
H. Liebaers	1969–1974
P. Kirkegaard	1974–

Secretaries General

H. Uhlendahl	1928–1929
T. P. Sevensma	1929–1958
J. Wieder	1958–1962
Ms. M. Razumovsky	1962
A. Thompson	1962–1970
Ms. M. Wijnstroom	1971–

List of Sevensma Prize Essay Subjects and Winners, 1947–1977

1. Subject: *Simplification and Unification of Catalogue Rules*.
Prize Essay: Unit Cataloguing,
by Valter Ahlstedt (Stockholm, Sweden) 1948. Published in *Libri* 1 (1950),
no. 2, 113–170.
2. Subject: *A Study in the Field of Rural Library Services*.
Prize Essay: A Rural Library,
by Olga S. Newman (Northallerton, Yorks., Great Britain) 1950. Published in
Libri 4 (1953), no. 1, 26–60.
3. Subject: *A Study in the Field of Photographic Reproduction in Libraries*
(photocopy, microfilm, microcard, etc.), their possibilities and limits.
Prize Essay: (Title not mentioned. Not all aspects of the subject had been treated)
Author: Walter Denis Richardson (Leeds, Great Britain) 1952.
4. Subject: *Structure and Organization of a Union Catalogue in Relation to its
Utilization*.
Prize Essay: Der schweizerische Gesamtkatalog,
by Eugen Josef Egger (Zurich, Switzerland) 1952. Published in *Libri* 6 (1956),
no. 2, 97–170.
5. Subject: *The Information Service in the Library*. Dateline extended to 1-7-1959.
Prize Essay: (Two authors shared the prize; each received one half of the prize
money):
 - The Information Service in the Library,
by Harry Fairhurst (Salisbury, British Rhodesia).
 - The Reference Service in the Library,
by Wanda Polaszewska (Poznań, Poland) 1961.
6. Subjects:
 - a. *Reading Rooms in National and University Libraries*.
 - b. *Central Library Storage of Books*. Dateline extended to 31-12-1963,Prize Essay: A Study on Storage Libraries,
by Philip W. Plumb (London, Great Britain) 1963. Published as Central Library
of Storage Books by the Library Association, London 1965, 56 p. (Library
Association. Pamphlet no. 24)
7. Subjects:
 - a. *Specialized Reading Rooms in National Libraries*, problems of organization.
 - b. *The Co-ordination of Activities between National and Special Libraries*,
Book Purchase, Bibliographical Work, Readers.

- c. *Libraries for the Handicapped*, with special reference to co-ordination between Voluntary and Charitable Organizations on the one hand, and Statutory Bodies for Library Provision on the other.
- d. *The Need for University Libraries to adapt their Philosophy and their Traditional Structure to the present situation*, in which the number of Students and of Publications is ever increasing, while at the same time Scientific Research tends to become more and more specialized.

Prize Essays: 1st Prize: *Libraries for the Handicapped*, by M. Joy Lewis (London, Great Britain) 1968. Published by the Library Association, London 1969. 48 p. (Library Association. Pamphlet no. 33)
2nd Prize: *University Library Problems, a study and suggested solutions*, by John Lubans (Troy, N.Y. USA) 1968.

8. Subject: *The Problems of Comparing the Library Services of Different Countries.*

Prize Essay: Alfred David Burnett (Durham, Great Britain) 1971,
The essays by Mrs. S. Simsova (London, Great Britain) and Mr. R. K. Gupta (Hyderabad, India) were highly commended by the jury.
The three essays were published on behalf of IFLA, by The Library Association as: *Studies in Comparative Librarianship*, London 1971. 95 p.

9. Subject: *Regional Co-operation in Library Services, an Opportunity for Developing Countries.*

Prize Essay: *Regional Co-operation in Library Services: an opportunity for developing countries*, by J. S. Parker (Aberystwyth, Great Britain) 1975. Published in *IFLA Journal* 2 (1976) no. 1, 1-33.

10. Subject: *Co-operation between Libraries and other Components of the Information Community, 1977.*

(No prize was awarded)

Contributors

- Arthur C. Breycha-Vauthier. Chief Librarian of the United Nations Library at Geneva, Switzerland, until he became Austrian Ambassador to Lebanon in 1964. Assistant Secretary of IFLA 1929–1958. Treasurer of IFLA 1958–1963. Editor *Actes du Conseil de la FIAB* 1930–1962. Honorary Member of IFLA since 1964.
- Marc Chauveinc. Former Conservateur de la Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Grenoble, Section Sciences. Conservateur en chef au Centre Bibliographique national, Paris, France. Secretary IFLA Subsection of University Libraries since 1973 (since 1976 Section of University Libraries).
- W. E. S. (Milisa) Coops. Deputy Librarian 1946–1968, Chief Librarian Unesco Library Paris 1969–1972. Co-editor of *IFLA Annual* since 1972.
- Sir Frank Francis. Former Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum, London, Great Britain. Retired 1968. President of IFLA, 1963–1969. Honorary President of IFLA since 1971.
- Alma T. Jordan. Librarian, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, W.I.
- Preben Kirkegaard. Rector of the Royal Danish School of Librarianship, Copenhagen, Denmark. Treasurer of IFLA 1966–1973. President of IFLA since 1974.
- Willem R. H. Kooops. University Librarian, State University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands. Chairman IFLA Publications Committee since 1971. Secretary Section of National and University Libraries since 1969 (since 1976 Section of National Libraries).
- Herman Liebaers. Former Director of the Royal Library Albert I, Brussels, Belgium. Grand Maréchal de la Cour de Belgique since 1974. President of IFLA 1969–1974. Honorary President of IFLA since 1974.
- Foster E. Mohrhardt. Former Director of the National Agricultural Library of the U.S.A. Program officer Council on Library Resources, Washington D.C., U.S.A. Vice-President of IFLA 1965–1971.
- J. Stephen Parker. Partner in a library consultancy firm, London, Great Britain. Sevensma Prize award 1975.
- Margarita I. Rudomino. Founder and Director of the All-Union State Library of Foreign Literature in Moscow, U.S.S.R. Retired 1973. Vice-President of IFLA 1967–1973.
- Ben Rugaas. Director of the Norwegian School of Librarianship, Oslo, Norway.
- Nicolai M. Sikorsky. Director of the Lenin State Library, Moscow, U.S.S.R.
- Donald J. Urquhart. Former Director General of the British Library Lending Division at Boston Spa. External Professor Loughborough University, Dept. of Library and Information Studies, Loughborough, Great Britain. Chairman IFLA Section on International Lending and Union Catalogues 1972–1975.
- Lev I. Vladimirov. Professor of Library and Information Science, V. Kapsukas State University of Vilnius, U.S.S.R. Secretary IFLA Committee on Library Education 1970–1973. Chairman IFLA Section of Library Schools since 1973.
- William J. Welsh. Deputy Librarian of Congress, Washington, U.S.A.
- Joachim Wieder. Former Director of the Library of the Technological University in Munich, Federal Republic of Germany. Retired 1977. Secretary of IFLA 1958–1963. Vice-President of IFLA 1967–1973.

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Publications of Verlag Dokumentation, Munich:

IFLA Annuals

Proceedings of the General Council Meetings. Annual Reports

IFLA Annual 1976 (42nd Meeting, Lausanne). 1977. 266 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4302-2. DM 58.00

IFLA Annual 1975 (41st Meeting, Oslo: The Future of International Library Cooperation). Ed. by W. R. H. Koops, P. Havard-Williams, W. E. S. Coops. 1976. 232 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4301-4. DM 58.00

IFLA Annual 1974 (40th Meeting, Washington: National and International Library Planning). Ed. by W. R. H. Koops, P. Havard-Williams, W. E. S. Coops. 1975. 314 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4300-6. DM 58.00

IFLA Annual 1973 (39th Meeting, Grenoble: Universal Bibliographic Control). Ed. by W. R. H. Koops, P. Havard-Williams, W. E. S. Coops. 1974. 256 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4299-9. DM 48.00

IFLA Annual 1972 (38th Meeting, Budapest: Reading in a Changing World). Ed. by W. R. H. Koops, P. Havard-Williams, W. E. S. Coops. 1973. 252 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4298-0. DM 48.00

IFLA Annual 1971 (37th Meeting, Liverpool: Organisation of the Library Profession). Ed. by P. Havard-Williams, W. R. H. Koops, H. J. Heaney. 1972. 239 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4297-2. DM 48.00

IFLA Annual 1970 (36th Meeting, Moscow: Libraries as a Force in Education). Ed. by Anthony Thompson. 1971. 336 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4296-4. DM 48.00

IFLA Annual 1969 (35th Meeting, Copenhagen: Library Education and Research in Librarianship). Ed. by Anthony Thompson and S. Randall. 1970. 289 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4295-6. DM 48.00

IFLA Directory 1977

1977. 148 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4414-2. DM 20.00

The Directory gives addresses with telephone and telex numbers of all IFLA offices, bodies, members, etc. It also contains statutes, conditions for membership and a list of publications.

Universal Bibliographic Control

A Long Term Policy – A Plan for Action

By Dorothy Anderson. 1974. 87 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4420-7. DM 16.80, IFLA members DM 12.80

This study was originally prepared as a working document to be presented by IFLA to the Unesco Intergovernmental Conference on the Planning of National Overall Documentation, Library and Archives Infrastructures.

The International Exchange of Publications

Proceedings of the European Conference held in Vienna, April 24–29, 1972

Edited by Maria Schiltman. 1973. 135 pages. ISBN 3-7940-4311-1. DM 28.00, IFLA members DM 21.00

This study on the inter-library loan and the international exchange of publications reports about problems and solutions made in this field to serve the needs of readers and to facilitate the cooperation between libraries world-wide.

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Serial IFLA Publications

Edited by Willem R. H. Koops and Peter Havard-Williams

- 1 **Special Libraries – Worldwide.** A collection of papers prepared for the Section of Special Libraries. Edited by Günter Reichardt. 1974. 360 pages. DM 68.00, IFLA members DM 51.00. ISBN 3-7940-4421-5
- 2 **National Library Buildings.** Proceedings of a colloquium held in Rome, 3–6 September 1973. Edited by Anthony Thompson. 1975. 144 pages. DM 28.00, IFLA members DM 21.00. ISBN 3-7940-4422-3
- 3 **Le contrôle bibliographique universel dans les pays en développement.** Table ronde sur le contrôle bibliographique universel dans les pays en développement, Grenoble, 22–25 août 1973. Edité par Marie-Louise Bossuat, Geneviève Feuillebois, Monique Pelletier. 1975. 165 pages. DM 38.00, IFLA members DM 29.00. ISBN 3-7940-4423-1
- 4 **National and International Library Planning.** Key papers presented at the 40th Session of the IFLA General Council, Washington, DC, 1974. Edited by Robert Vosper and Leone I. Newkirk. 1976. 162 pages. DM 36.00, IFLA members DM 27.00. ISBN 3-7940-4424-X
- 5 **Reading in a Changing World.** Papers presented at the 38th Session of the IFLA General Council, Budapest, 1972. Edited by Foster E. Mohrhardt. 1976. 134 pages. DM 28.00, IFLA members DM 21.00. ISBN 3-7940-4425-8
- 6 **The Organization of the Library Profession.** A Symposium based on contributions to the 37th Session of the IFLA General Council, Liverpool 1971. Edited by A. H. Chaplin. 1976. 2nd edition. 132 pages. DM 28.00, IFLA members DM 21.00. ISBN 3-7940-4300-X
- 7 **World Directory of Administrative Libraries.** A guide of libraries serving national, state, provincial, and Länder-bodies, prepared for the Sub-Section of Administrative Libraries. Edited by Otto Simmler. 1976. 474 pages. DM 60.00, IFLA members DM 45.00. ISBN 3-7940-4427-4
- 8 **World Directory of Map Collections.** Compiled by the Geography and Map Libraries Sub-Section. Edited by Walter W. Ristow. 1976. 326 pages. DM 48.00, IFLA members DM 36.00. ISBN 3-7940-4428-2
- 9 **Standards for Public Libraries.** 1977. 2nd corrected edition. 53 pages. DM 12.80, IFLA members DM 9.80. ISBN 3-7940-4429-0
- 10 **IFLA's First Fifty Years.** Achievement and challenge in international librarianship. Edited by Willem R.H. Koops and Joachim Wieder. 1977. 158 pages. DM 36.00, IFLA members DM 27.00. ISBN 3-7940-4430-4
- 11 **The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. A Selected List of References.** 2nd edition, revised and expanded. Compiled by Edward P. Cambio. 1977. VI, 52 pages. DM 16.80, IFLA members DM 12.80. ISBN 3-7940-4431-2
- 12 **Library Service to Children.** Edited by Colin Ray. 1977. ISBN 3-7940-4423-0. In preparation for 1978

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