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American Libraries in Foreign Service
Richard H. Heindel

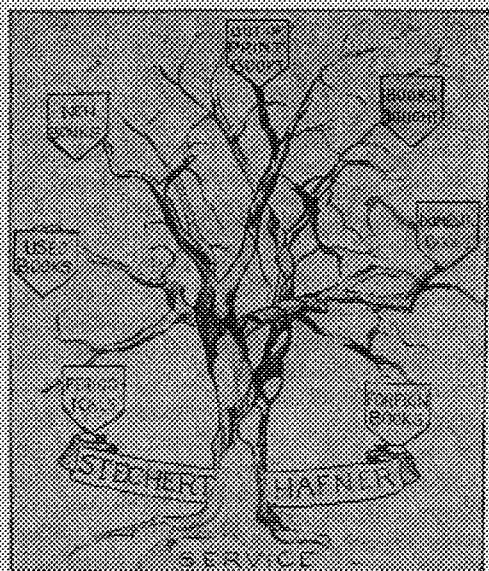
A Special Librarian Abroad
Francis B. Thorne

The Classification of Patents
Norman T. Ball

Library of the World's Oldest Parliament
J. V. Kitto, C.B.E.

Our New Chapter
Betty Joy Cole

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Library Literature*

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AMERICAN LIBRARIES IN FOREIGN SERVICE

By RICHARD H. HEINDEL

Chief, Division of Libraries and Institutes, Office of International Information and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D. C.

THE Division of Libraries and Institutes, abbreviated hereafter as ILI, is concerned with the institutional development abroad of the U. S. information libraries and cultural centers, American-sponsored educational institutions, local small cultural projects in the Western Hemisphere, in the exchange and distribution of information and cultural materials (books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, documents, maps, scientific apparatus, music and art) and with the translation of non-government books. It is divided into two Branches: a Program Management Branch and a Books, Materials and Services Branch to which is attached a small acquisition unit in New York.

The cultural centers, mostly in the Western Hemisphere, are not much different from the libraries, but in their development they have stressed more the teaching of English. The centers or libraries differ widely in size, correlated activities and adaptation to the local environment, but all of them are very acceptable to the foreign community and reflect high standards of professional integrity. Most of them include the best of the American public and special library experience. These libraries have been an important step in the diffusion of information in a world that was hungry for American data. It is hard to tell whether their greatest contribution is national or universal.

It is estimated that 3½ million persons used the libraries in the fiscal year 1946, ending June 30. This does not

include those who drew on the individualized documentation service to some 275 overseas diplomatic and consular establishments, nor any figures relating to the 13 libraries and 11 reading rooms in the occupied areas turned over to the War Department on June 30. About 192,000 reference questions were answered during the past year in Europe and the British Commonwealth alone. At the moment, the libraries usually have but one American complemented with locals; the largest American library staff is at Mexico City (5).

Developed in the first instance to aid the information and cultural programs to reach the foreign communities, it is believed that the library service from here, with good supervision in the field, will aid the daily work of all diplomatic and consular posts abroad, a field hitherto relatively neglected. I cannot stress too much the importance of this observation for the broadening horizons of librarianship.

An additional 720,000 persons made use of the 27 cultural centers and 20 branches during the past fiscal year. Through self support the centers paid an average of 56% of the total operating costs. Student enrollment reached a total of 38,000. During 1946 the centers were provided with the services of 69 American citizens who serve as teachers of English and administrators. The cultural centers have developed student clubs in order to consolidate the American interests of returning scholarship students. The centers and libraries both have done much in the foreign countries for the development of libraries and teaching programs.

¹ Speech given before the Washington Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, October 8, 1946.

The libraries adapt themselves to non-English speaking countries. But I am not so sure that we do not underestimate the implications of the spreading knowledge of English throughout the world. This broadens the overseas use of all American publications, and often makes the library collections a key source for both beginning students and strategic clientele. The English-teaching program continues to grow in effectiveness in the other American Republics. Great demands for a similar program in many parts of the Eastern Hemisphere can be expected, and here there will need to be improvements in the resources of materials and personnel in the United States. I would like to add here the hope that librarians will also pick up more language equipment.

Languages can, however, be barriers, so that anything that can improve or stimulate the selection of American books for publishing or translation overseas—always a haphazard process—will help the industry, the creative writers and the public of both countries. Several of our programs, including the libraries, assist the process. Many of the foreign rights to 100 titles purchased by the Office of War Information helped to fill a gap in an emergency. Meanwhile, the program for the Western Hemisphere continues. Assistance has been given to about 150 books. Such assistance, used where commercial considerations are not enough, aims to increase the number of translations; to bring down prices in the field of translated books to the point where much wider distribution may be had, and to improve the quality of translations in all fields. The overseas opportunities as well as the difficulties occasioned by the dislocation of wars are being faced seriously for the first time by many groups, including publishers. One of our guesses is that U.S. Government documents and learned periodicals also have a usefulness—nay, a market—abroad that has never been fully realized.

Improvements in exchanges, abstracts, documentary services, bibliographical devices, translations, exhibits, personnel, perhaps even in microfilms and micro-cards will help.

I suppose that the Division will disseminate or help to disseminate yearly about 2,000,000 American publications overseas, in terms of local requirements. There is also national recognition for repairing, improving and intensifying the use of the exchange technique, whether by treaties or otherwise. War-time dislocations have made this a priority task for many institutions and libraries, and for the information program. The Division assists the exchange technique wherever appropriate. In time, perhaps, there can be something like a U. S. Exchange Office which will help all parties to establish and coordinate the inflow and outflow of such materials in terms of supply, usage, public relations and research benefits both here and abroad. Something like the American Book Center to aid war devastated libraries may be adjusted to other needs.

There is no doubt about the world's avid curiosity regarding scientific and technological developments in the United States. There is now also considerable momentum behind the various ways to learn about that experience. This curiosity continues to be one of the major assets of the cultural program. Nevertheless, it should not overwhelm the field staffs and can and should be used as a starting point to broaden the interest to include political, social, literary and cultural matters for a more balanced comprehension of the United States. For this reason we think much is being accomplished with the art and music programs. It may surprise you to learn that American music of all kinds, both scores and recordings, comes very near the top of our requests, and small, but inter-locking, music collections must be attached to the libraries.

Enough has been said about these other things to come now to the point that emphasizes the personnel and professional significance of these developments. The demands and challenges placed upon the library personnel overseas are very great. The personnel has responded efficiently. But this should not obscure the fact that the overseas work calls for many combinations of talents and training, and that it is in itself a training ground which is entirely new for the American library profession and one, many observers have agreed, which can benefit *all* levels of age, reputation and experience. There is the need for wide experience with libraries and publications, an understanding of other media, a capacity for public relations, a knowledge of foreign relations and of the host country, and, this goes without saying, an acquaintance with most fields of knowledge and with the United States. The compensation and status for all of this, one hopes, will be at least as high as in the United States. But there are also many rewards inherent in the jobs that cannot be measured in this way. One sustaining feature is that domestically there is more recognition of real for-

eign service on behalf of a great nation.

It is a troublesome fact that not everybody accepts high-powered definitions of either libraries or librarians. Many schools and agencies are aware of this and work together in disposing of this fact through demonstration. Further, the selection of publications, no matter with how much cooperation, is always a dangerous political occupation, but I think the democratic underpinning of the American library tradition can safeguard us.

Whenever called upon, the Division has contributed what it could to strengthening the position of the Library of the Department. There are many ways in which the goals of the Library and ILI are inter-related. For example, whatever leads to the full and economical utilization of modern library services in the Department charged with foreign relations will, in a period of time, create habits in the field that will extract every possible use, hence, satisfaction, from the overseas libraries. This is but one small part of the paths of cooperation—with other Government agencies, private organizations, and the people of the United States—to build a better world.

A SPECIAL LIBRARIAN ABROAD

By FRANCIS B. THORNE

Assistant Librarian, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, D. C.

AT the request of the Government of Brazil, and under the provisions of an act approved May 3, 1939 (U. S. Public Law No. 63, 76th Congress)¹, I was detailed by the United States Department of State to

May 3, 1939, authorized the temporary detail of those United States employees who possess specialized and technical qualifications to serve under the governments of the other American republics, the Philippines and Liberia. Such legislation has been one means of implementing this Government's policy of cooperation with those countries."—*Detail of U. S. Personnel to other Governments*, by Henry H. McGeorge. U. S. Department of State *Bulletin*, Vol. XIV, no. 342. Jan. 20, 1946.

¹ "Congressional approval of an act on May 25, 1938, and amendment by an act approved

assist the Government of Brazil with the organization of the Library of the Instituto Agrônômico de Norte in Belém.

This Instituto is one of four experimental centers eventually to be established by the Ministério da Agricultura in the North, the Northeast, the South and the West of Brazil, under the immediate jurisdiction of the Centro Nacional de Ensino e Pesquisas Agrônômicas. At present, only those in the North and South are in operation; they are the equivalents of our experimental centers in the United States Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of the Instituto Agrônômico do Norte is to explore and develop agricultural resources of the Amazon Basin. The area of this little-known and most sparsely inhabited part of Brazil is nearly 1,235,000 square miles, or 40 percent of the country. At the Instituto in Belém are located the experimentation and research, which it is hoped will realize the agri-economic potentialities of this vast region. The program and a proposed school of agriculture to function in conjunction with the Instituto will correlate all scientific and technical knowledge necessary to agronomical welfare as well as emphasize information on particular subjects, such as rubber. These activities are of urgent importance to the Amazon because the region has been exploited without regard for the development and conservation of its resources, or improvement of social conditions.

LIBRARY COLLECTION AND LOCATION

Dr. Felisberto C. Camargo, Director of the Instituto, has always been aware of the vital function of the Library as a service to scientific and technical research in agronomy. Since 1941 he has acquired a useful and valuable collection of about 1200 books, 4500 unbound pamphlets and approximately 1000 volumes of bound periodicals. The estimate of original resources does not include unbound periodicals and serials.

Special efforts have been made to secure both bound and unbound serials. Through agents and dealers in New York, London and other foreign and Brazilian cities, not only new, but also old and rare publications have been purchased. Exchange of Instituto publications for those of other Brazilian and foreign institutions, especially those working in tropical agriculture, is an increasingly important source of new material. Both the Library of Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture have supplied items on this exchange basis.

A distinctive feature of the sets of periodicals and other continuations is that a large percentage of them are complete. Some items in the Library are not to be found elsewhere. Agriculture, botany, geography, geology, genetics, veterinary medicine, economics, history (particularly of the Amazon) and other subjects bearing on the work of the Instituto are represented. The collection is quite strong in chemistry and rubber, and many textbooks have been included with a view to the anticipated needs of the proposed school.

It must be appreciated that great distances are a real problem in Brazil. Railroad and highway communication between Belém and the South do not exist; transportation and travel must be by boat or airplane. Rio de Janeiro, the major library center, is 1,538 miles distant from Belém by the interior route via Barreiros, and takes about nine hours travel time. The route via Natal, or the coast, is 2,298 miles, and requires two days, involving staying all night in Fortaleza. In relation to the United States, Belém is 3,194 air miles from Miami, Florida, and is a two day trip, with an all-night stop in Port of Spain, Trinidad. When I returned to Washington, it was possible to fly directly to New York, a distance of 3,582 miles, in 18 hours. My air travel, including a trip to Rio and São Paulo, reached a total of 11,824 miles for the year.

Since Belém is geographically isolated from all library centers, the Library of the Instituto must be largely self-sufficient. Therefore, the collection is more comprehensive than would be necessary if there were easy exchange of recorded knowledge between libraries. Adequate reference material and "tools" for library work are especially required, since it usually consumes weeks to obtain information and publications by mail, and, to my knowledge, no system of inter-library loans between different sections of Brazil exists. Cooperation and joint activity among Brazilian libraries as found in the United States is yet to be realized, but these phases of library development will inevitably evolve from the rapid progress being made in various sections of the country.

Two large, well-lighted rooms in the Administration Building house the library, one being occupied by the combination work-room and reading room, and the second one being the stack room. The card catalog, reference books, current periodicals and working equipment are so arranged in the work-reading room as to be convenient for both readers and staff. With six desks, a drawing board and a large reading table, the perennial problem of space is acute. In the stack room space is also at a premium because the collection is increasing so rapidly that additional room for shelves soon will be necessary. The use already made of native hard woods for some of the furniture suggests possibilities for creating beautiful library equipment of woods indigenous to the region.

The usual government working day of six hours is observed; the hours in the morning are from 8 to 11:30 o'clock, and in the afternoon from 2 to 4:30. Incidentally, one delightful practice is the custom of serving coffee about 9 o'clock in the morning and again at 3 in the afternoon. The coffee is served in small cups, and is known as a "cafezinho".

The staff members of the Instituto have access to the Library at any time, regardless of the hours when it is open. This is quite a convenience for them because most of them are in residence, and do not confine themselves to specific working hours. Holidays were not the interruption that I had expected them to be; in fact, they were not much more frequent than in the United States. Employees are granted 20 days of vacation leave a year, and provision is made for absence due to illness. Salaries are much lower than in the United States, but no comparison can be made because of radical differences in the economics of the two countries.

ORGANIZATION OF LIBRARY AND TRAINING OF STAFF

One year is a very short time for organizing even a small scientific library and training a staff, especially with the additional factors of a strange nation and personnel having no previous contact with the new system. These elements were present in this assignment. The program could never have been consummated without the intelligent cooperation and diligent work of the six members of the staff. All the plans in the world are useless unless there are willing, able workers. The keen interest in the project and deftness in learning new techniques expedited our progress. Collaboration of the staff combined a Brazilian viewpoint with library procedures, and was an invaluable aid.

The objectives and services of a library as regarded in the United States are new ideas in this part of Brazil. The Library of the Instituto Agrônômico do Norte is the first one in the north of the country to be organized in methods used in the United States. Reference service and specific aids for making information quickly and easily available were departures from the customary practice of leaving a reader to find his own material, without such help. With this fact in mind, all training and dis-

cussion stressed that the ultimate purpose of every function and procedure was to get the book or information to the reader. Informal chats were an important part in indoctrination, and articles in *SPECIAL LIBRARIES* were most useful in showing practical applications of library theory; consequently, reading this journal was a regular part of our curriculum. An endeavor was made to create new library attitudes and habits, so that an efficient, lasting organization would come into being.

After a survey of the existing allocation of duties, a plan was made retaining as much of the former schedule as was feasible, while incorporating new positions and re-grouping others. Of course, the scheme had to be flexible to allow for unforeseen situations which might arise. One factor governing assignment of duties was the employe's reading knowledge of English, because the majority of the books were in that language. Briefly, the scheme provided: (1) administration, reference, selection and ordering of publications, correspondence and bibliography (librarian); (2) cataloging and classification; (3) circulation and periodicals; (4) typing, filing and general clerical work; (5) preparing books for the shelves; (6) care of book-stacks and messenger duties. This plan was an outline for explaining the functioning and relationship of duties in a library.

Training and organizing were coordinated in the program, and went on simultaneously. There was no time for a formal course in library science before starting operations. Teaching procedure was by group instruction (which we called "conferences") and individual guidance in specific duties. Before beginning to catalog, classify or do other technical work, conferences were held wherein theory, methods and procedures were explained. At the same time instruction was given in using reference books and such other "tools" as were available. A special effort was made to

have the staff understand how to use these aids, and to depend on them as guides. They were urged to ask questions whenever in doubt about anything, and they did; then explanations were given, and the staff was advised where the precedent could be found, if we had the book. During conferences, discussions and questions brought out further points and clarified uncertainties. Cataloging and classification required several conferences, while other subjects could be sufficiently covered in one or two. Theory was always followed by actual work using the procedure.

Individual instruction followed the same pattern. When any of the staff assisted me with special tasks, processes were explained. The two people being trained as librarian and cataloger were taught all duties, even shelving books, and performed them long enough to become familiar with the processes. The same training, with the exception of cataloging and classifying, was given to the employe in charge of circulation and periodicals, whereas the other three staff members were trained in their specific work. In time, the librarian was able to assist in supervising, thereby gaining practical experience. Responsibility for administration and supervision was gradually passed along to him as he became proficient, although he continued under general direction.

I always kept clearly in mind that a library in Brazil and for Brazilians was being organized; therefore, changes and new procedures were first considered from the angle of suitability under local conditions. After a while, the United States almost became a "foreign country" to me in respect to library work. We avoided elaborate and complicated schemes, and simplified and consolidated operations wherever possible.

The Library had been originally set up by a system which I later discovered is still much used in Brazil. The collection was divided into three main groups:

(1) books, (2) periodicals, institutional bulletins and proceedings, and (3) unbound pamphlet material. Books and periodicals were then shelved by accession number under subjects such as agriculture, botany, chemistry, geography, genetics, rubber, soils, etc. Adoption of Dewey decimal classification changed all this arrangement. As books were cataloged and classified they were shelved in proper order preceding the uncataloged portion. Periodicals and serials were temporarily arranged alphabetically by title or institution. Printed cards for about 100 of these publications were obtained from the Library of Congress. Upon receipt of the cards, classification numbers were assigned and these sets were shelved with the classified group, with temporary entries for the card catalog until they could be cataloged. In this way there were only two groups of material, cataloged and uncataloged, thereby disrupting service as little as possible.

Pamphlets had been shelved in the reading room by accession number. This arrangement made them difficult to locate because it was always necessary to consult the card catalog for the number to find anything; furthermore, series were scattered all through the group. The serials were first withdrawn and cataloged and classified; then single publications were alphabetically arranged by author or title, and shelved in the book-stack until they could be similarly treated. This released space for shelving the reference books more conveniently as well as shelf space for displaying new books of interest and a file of current periodicals.

Cataloging and classification were started immediately, and at the same time some of the records were consolidated. New procedures were introduced as the staff became familiar with routines. The card catalog was reduced from three separate files to one dictionary arrangement for author, subject and title. Accession records had been kept

in four large ledgers. The volumes for bulletins, periodicals and duplicates were eliminated, and all accessions except periodicals were listed in one book. Bulletins are now entered on cards in the catalog, and a serial record takes care of periodicals and other continuations. In connection with cataloging and classifying, a shelf-list and a file of subject headings was begun.

We found time to inaugurate an order card file, so that eventually the exact status of a publication from the time it was ordered until it reached the shelf could be expeditiously ascertained. The charging system was revised to enable us to eliminate card pockets in books, and to have a file by borrower as well as by book. We took considerable pleasure in devising a vertical file and making subject headings for it. These innovations gave some variety and helped to sustain interest.

American Library Association and Library of Congress rules were followed in cataloging. The Library of Congress list of subject headings, the Sears' list for small libraries and a special list for chemistry libraries published by Special Libraries Association were our authorities for subject headings. Cataloging was emphasized, and a great deal of time and care were given to teaching it. Considerable attention was devoted to cataloging of serials and continuations, as a large part of the collection consists of this type of material. All cataloging was very carefully revised, then discussed with the cataloger. The tendency to use broad, general subject headings gradually disappeared as we kept working to find the specific subject heading to fit the particular book. The problem was many times solved by the simple question, "What is the book about?"

Translating subject headings often presented real difficulties because some terms had no equivalents in Portuguese; for example, we found no specific term for "Dairying", so we made the

phrase "Produção de leite". Again, word arrangement after translation resulted in subjects which should be together being separated in the catalog, as in the case of "Rubber" and "Rubber industry and trade", which in Portuguese became "Borracha" and "Indústria e comércio de borracha". Localisms and several words used almost identically created other problems. Cross-references took care of many situations where phraseology could not be manipulated, or where one term of several was selected as standard. Sometimes the English word was used, as was the case with "seedlings". However, where in English an inverted phrase is used, quite often the Portuguese form obviated the need for inversion. In this aspect of the work I depended on my colleagues' knowledge of their own language, although occasionally I had the temerity to question a translation, whereupon we all cited authorities and had some lively discussion before reaching a conclusion.

One reason for adopting Dewey decimal classification was that it is the one most generally used by Brazilian libraries which are using new methods; also, I found it well adapted for classifying a collection outside of the United States. The *Compendio de Classificacao Decimal e Indice Alfabético*, by Antonio Caetano Dias and Luiz Cosme, also *Classificacao; Sistemas de Classificacao Bibliografica*, by José Soares de Souza, both published by the Instituto Nacional do Livro, were very helpful in teaching and using the Dewey book, which is available in the English version only.

The United States library system is being more and more widely adopted

in Brazil. There is great need for complete translation of subject heading lists, cataloging rules and the complete Dewey decimal classification into Portuguese. A simple, practical guide for organization and administration of a Brazilian library is urgent. It was necessary for me to translate practically all of my teaching material from books in English. Mrs. Lydia Sambaquy's short treatise in Portuguese on the organization of the library of the Departamento Administrativo do Serviço Público was indispensable in the training program. Translation of library "tools" is a splendid contribution that North American librarians might make to library development in South America.

Before the year was over, we had taken the Library entirely to pieces and put it together again. Sometimes I felt as though I were putting on a juggling act, keeping all of our activities going smoothly. Occasionally, the staff was a little dubious about what was happening, but these doubts were quickly explained away, and we forged ahead at our usual tempo. By the time of my departure, we had achieved a general organization; although some details remained, provisions were made for completing these phases of the work. Best of all, my co-workers expressed enthusiastic satisfaction with the new system and the intention of continuing the procedures.

It has been a privilege to have had some part in the Brazilian library movement. I have gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of Brazil and its people, and the many kindnesses to the Norteamericano during his stay will always be remembered gratefully.

When a man's knowledge is not in order, the more of it he has the greater will be his confusion.

HERBERT SPENCER.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF PATENTS

By NORMAN T. BALL

Classification Examiner, Department of Commerce, U.S. Patent Office,
Washington, D. C.

"Classification lies at the foundation of the mental processes. Without the power of perceiving, recognizing resemblances, distinguishing differences in things, phenomena and notions, grouping them mentally according to those resemblances and differences, judgment is impossible, nor could reason be exercised in proceeding from the known to the unknown . . . It is the exertion of the classifying and generalizing powers which thus enables the intellect of man to cope in some degree with the infinite number and variety of natural phenomena and objects." Jevons, *Principles of Science*.

UNDER the patent laws of the United States, a classification that will facilitate a judgment respecting the patentability of means presented to the Patent Office is of peculiar moment. The enormous extent and diversity of the useful arts preclude the formation of a judgment on novelty within a reasonable time, unless the necessary comparisons with known processes and instruments have been previously made along lines that searches must follow and the results of such comparisons made available in the classification. U. S. patents constitute a large percentage of available disclosures. The specialized problems of interference, infringement and right to use searches relating to the inventions *claimed* require that the Patent Office Classification must be adjusted to the analysis, diagnoses and orderly arrangement of the claimed disclosures of U. S. patents and applications to facilitate such searches. Unclaimed disclosures, and the disclosures of foreign patents and publications of all kinds, can be integrated with the classification formed on the above basis.

No effective precedents have been found in any prior classifications of the arts. The classifications of the principal

foreign patent offices have not been materially different in principle from the United States Patent Office classifications of the past. The systems found suitable for book classifications for library use have not proved adequate in exactness and refinement for a Patent Office classification of the useful arts.

The best analogies are in the classifications of the natural sciences, and in them the problems are so different that they can serve only to illustrate general principles. The broad principles of classification are well understood. The authorities are the logicians, including the ancient Aristotle and the more modern Bentham, Mill, Spencer and Jevons. The effort of the Patent Office has been to adapt and apply these well-known principles to the enormously diversified useful arts.

It may be well to insert here an authoritative definition: "A scientific classification is a series of divisions so arranged as best to facilitate the complete and separate study of the several groups which are the result of the divisions as well as of the entire subject under investigation." Fowler, *Inductive Logic*.

Investigation and study of any subject is facilitated if the facts or materials pertinent to that subject are so marshaled and arranged that those most pertinent appear to the mind in some form of juxtaposition. It is the primary purpose of the Patent Office classification to divide and arrange the useful arts so that, having the question of novelty of any defined means to answer, one may with reasonable assurance approach that portion of the rank of arts in which it will be found if it is not new, and in propinquity or stated relation-

ship to which will also be found those means that bear the closest resemblances to that which is sought, the resemblances of other units growing less in proportion to their distance therefrom. A second purpose is to so form the classification as to reduce the danger that interfering applications or infringed patents will be overlooked.

BASIS OF CLASSIFICATION

The first and most vital factor in any system of classification is the basis of division, that is, the kind of characteristics common to a number of objects, whereby the individuals of any group will resemble each other for the purpose in view more closely than any individual in any group will resemble any individual in any other group.

It is clear that a number of objects may be classified on several different bases. For example, a number of books could be divided into groups: (1) according to the subject of their contents; (2) according to the language in which the books are written; (3) according to the size of page; (4) according to the binding material; or (5) according to the color of the binding. Each of these may be useful classifications for some purpose. For the student of literature none is of value except the first; for the connoisseur in bindings, only the last three. A classification of animals including classes of land animals and water animals would hardly suit a student of zoology, as it would associate with the shad and perch such differently organized creatures as the porpoise, whale and seal. Yet such a classification might prove very suitable for a student of fisheries.

In seeking a basis for a Patent Office classification the purpose of the classification must be the guide. Allegations of ulterior or accidental uses (such as may be made merely because the inventor thought of applying his invention to those uses only, or in an effort to get the application examined in a

certain division) and other superficial bases should be avoided.

As all inventions are made with the ultimate object of satisfying some human desire, the utility of an invention appears to be a natural basis of classification. It is apparent, however, that most inventions may contribute to numerous utilities. Many processes and instruments intervene between the seed planter and the wheaten rolls upon the breakfast table. The plow may be viewed as an agricultural instrument or as an instrument of civil engineering, according as it is used for preparing the field for planting or for rounding a road. A radiating coil of pipe may be thought of as a condenser of steam or of alcoholic vapors, according as it is applied to one material or another; as a cooler or a heater, according to the temperature of a fluid circulated through it. A hammer may drive nails, forge iron, crack stone or nuts. Underlying all of these ulterior utilities, there is a fundamental one to which the normal mind will reach in its natural processes and there rest. The plow loosens or turns over the surface of earth; the coil effects an exchange of heat between its interior and exterior; the hammer strikes a blow. A classification of plows in agriculture, road building or excavating, according to stated ulterior use; of a radiator coil as a steam condenser, still, jacket-water cooler, refrigerator or house heater; of the hammer as a forging tool, a nail driver or a nut cracker, appears to separate things that are essentially alike. But classifying a plow on its necessary function of plowing, a radiator on its necessary function of exchanging heat, a hammer on its necessary function of striking a blow, evidently results in bringing very similar things together. Assuming for the moment that utility is a reasonable basis of division of the useful arts, it is deemed more logical to adopt as a basis some utility that *must* be effected by the means under consideration when put to its normal use

rather than some utility that *may* be effected under *some* conditions.

Two of the predictables of ancient logic as discussed by Aristotle are property and accident.

A "property" may be described as any quality common and essential to the whole of a class but not necessary to mark out that class from other classes. Thus, all wheel tires may be said to possess annularity; but washers and finger rings are also annular. A "peculiar property" is one that not only always belongs to a class of objects but belongs to that class alone; thus a circle has the peculiar property of containing the greatest space within a line of given length, and catalytic substances have the power of setting up chemical reaction without themselves being changed.

An "accident" is any quality that may indifferently belong or not belong to a class without affecting the other qualities of the class. That a man's name is James is an accident telling nothing of the man's physique or character.

The capacity of the hammer to strike a blow, the capacity of the radiator coil to exchange heat, are in the nature of peculiar properties.

The capacity of the hammer to crack nuts, of the coil to condense steam, are in the nature of accidents—something that follows from the impact and the heat exchange because of the particular accidental conditions of operation. To select an accident as a basis of classification is contrary to the laws of thought.

It may be said then that the Patent Office classification is based upon "art" in the sense that it collects together similar means (or processes) that achieve similar results by the application of similar natural laws to similar substances, i.e., "art" in the sense of the direct, proximate or necessary operation, function or effect, rather than remote or accidental use or application in industries or trades. A proper maintenance of the distinction between the

word "art" as used above, the phrase "industrial arts" used in the sense of industries and trades, and the term "art" in the sense of process or operation, is essential to an effective classification for the purpose of a Patent Office search. Similar instruments have been patented in three different classes, because of the statements that one was designed for cooling water, another for heating water, another for sterilizing milk; in four different classes, because of the statements that one apparatus was to separate solids from the gases discharged from a metallurgical furnace, another to separate carbon from the combustion gases of steam-boiler furnace, another to remove dust and tar from combustible gas, and another to saturate water with carbon dioxide.

Function is closely related to cause. It is an axiom of logic that cause is preferable to effect as a basis of those classifications designed for scientific research. Hence the functional basis is preferred in all cases in which it can be applied. A condenser for the fumes of zinc is much more like a condenser for the fumes of acid or the vapor of water than it is like the art of recovering zinc from its ores, and it employs only one principle, to wit, heat interchange. A water-jacket for cooling the walls of a gas-producer or glass-furnace is much more like a water-jacket for cooling the walls of a limekiln or steam-boiler furnace than it is like the art of gas-making or manufacture of glass articles. In accordance with what are thought to be correct principles, therefore, the zinc-condenser ought not to be classified as a part of the art of metallurgy, nor the water-jacket as a part of the art of gas-making, merely because these instruments have a use in these arts, but should be included, respectively, in classes based upon the more fundamental utilities effected by them.

Although it is evident that molding a button is more like molding a door-

knob than it is like making buttons by the combined operations of sawing, grinding, turning and drilling, wherefore the molding of buttons should be classified in a general plastic art rather than in a special button-making art, yet the making of buttons by a plurality of different kinds of operations can be placed only in a class based upon the product, to wit, button-making. Since, therefore, the combination of many different operations for the production of a specific article cannot be classified on the basis of any single function, it might be classified on the basis of effect or product. Thus by selecting essential function as a basis when possible, and resulting effect when the functional basis is not possible, one may approximate to the correct classification described by Herbert Spencer in *Classification of the Sciences*, as follows: "A true classification includes in each class those objects that have more characteristics in common with one another than any of them have with objects excluded from the class."

So it is deemed better to classify in accordance with the function or effect it is known a means *must* perform or accomplish, than in accordance with the *object* with respect to which an act or acts are directed or in accordance with some *effect* which may or may not result.

The phrase "structural classification" is frequently used. The application of the phrase to processes is manifestly absurd. The Patent Office never had a structural classification except in a limited sense. How could a machine, for example, be classified on structure, leaving out of consideration its function and the effect of its normal operation? In the refinements of subdivision, however, it becomes frequently desirable to form minor subdivisions on structural differences. It may also be that instruments will be presented for classification that are of such general utility as to baffle the efforts of the in-

tellect to attain to the fundamental and necessary function, in which case a structure-defined class may be a necessary compromise.

ARRANGEMENT OF SUBCLASSES

Having divided the aggregate of things to be classified into a large number of groups on a satisfactory basis, a most useful work will have been accomplished and the purpose of a classification to assemble the things most nearly alike and separate them from other things will have been partially achieved. Unless these numerous groups are arranged in some definite understandable relation to each other, the mere formation of the groups, on however good a basis, is not complete classification. Furthermore, unless the position of each group with respect to those other groups that resemble it in whole or in part is made clear, he who wishes to find other related matter must seek aimlessly with no assurance that his quest will end until the whole series shall have been investigated. Each classified group is metaphorically a pigeonhole to contain similar material. If the pigeonholes are properly labeled, one can ultimately locate those that contain the matter he is seeking if he knows the name that has been applied to it. If the pigeonholes are arranged in alphabetical order, for example, he may find all related material, *provided he knows the name of every related group of material*, even though very similar things may bear names as far apart as A and Z. But if all things were so placed that, adjacent and in certain fixed relation to each pigeonhole, other related matter could be found, the resemblances lessening in proportion to the separation, and if the entire area of pigeonholes were divided, and certain areas assigned to certain kinds of things defined in general terms, guessing and desultory search for things that may have different names, but yet be very much alike, would be lessened and all

cognate material would be bunched. A second vital factor of a system of classification, therefore, is the arrangement of the groups.

There are now over 2,400,000 United States patents alone, each presumptively covering a creation of the useful arts that is different from every other. Most of these patents also disclose a plurality of elements or acts. Each of these patented means is potentially an element of a more complex combination that may be patented. When one considers merely the number of forms of energy, the number of known substances and known mechanical elements, and attempts to figure possible combinations and permutations, it becomes apparent that the size of the numbers resulting is incomprehensible. Consider the possibilities of combination also of the enormously varied disclosures of patents. Calculations of the possible combinations and permutations of a small number of objects are familiar. Different combinations of the letters of the alphabet are sufficient to record the sum of human knowledge in many languages. The total number of possible alloys of the known metals is incomprehensible. A moment's thought respecting the numbers of the means of the useful arts will alleviate any fears that the possibilities of invention are near the limit and will give food for further thought to all concerned with the attempt to classify the useful arts to the point of refinement necessary to enable this office to pass judgment with reasonable speed and accuracy upon the large number of applications filed each year.

The much-admired classifications of zoology, botany and mineralogy are among the best available models of logical division, systematic and analytical arrangement. The most casual consideration of these classifications, however, renders apparent the relative simplicity of the task of classifying natural objects differentiated by natural laws as compared with the task of classifying the

products of the creative and imaginative faculties as applied to the useful arts. The chimera and other animal monsters occur only as figments of the mind. Zoological classification does not have to classify combinations of birds, fishes, reptiles and mammals, nor does it deal in the way of classification with the parts of animals, nor is the question of absolute numbers of instances a matter of moment to such a classification, all of the members of a species being alike for classification purposes.

Any instrument of the useful arts may be combined with some other or any part with some other part. Organizations may be parts of some other organizations, *or even mutually parts of each other, as, for example, a pump may be a part of a lubricator, or a lubricator may be a part of a pump.*

In the arrangement of subclasses in a class, those groups that are related to each other as whole and parts are arranged so that the wholes shall stand before the parts, and so that subclasses defined by effect or by special use shall stand before those defined by function or general use. A class or subclass defined to receive a certain combination is placed ahead of one defined to receive an element or a sub-combination that is a part of that certain combination. A class or subclass defined to receive means for making a particular product, as an electric lamp, is superior to a class or subclass designed to perform a general function, as pumping air from a container. Whenever a question of assignment of a patent or application that contains matters of two or more groups bearing that relation is raised, the "superior" group is selected to receive it.

Further, in those instances in which groups are formed on different bases or different characteristics, not comparable with each other, and a patent is presented having matter falling in each group, that group which is highest in position is preferred in those instances

where separate provision for means having both characteristics has not been made.

In cases of necessity, as where a combination is presented for which no class has been definitely provided, but classes exist into which the several parts would fall if separately claimed, the same practice that obtains in similar situations with respect to two or more *subclasses* of a class may be followed with respect to two or more *classes* and the patent placed in that class which, in accordance with above-stated principles, should be deemed the "superior."

Any class of objects may be called a "genus" if it be regarded as made up of two or more different kinds of objects or of two or more species. "Motors" is a genus when the class "Motors" is considered as divided into electric motors and non-electric motors, or electric motors, spring motors, weight motors, current motors, fluid pressure motors, etc.

A genus is more "extensive" than any of its species in that it includes more variants within its scope, but is less "intensive" in that it is identified by general characteristics, more specialized characteristics being required to identify the species.

A "species" is any class that is regarded as forming a part of the next larger class, "electric motors" being a species of "energy transformers." A species is more intensive in its special characteristics than the genus to which it belongs, but less extensive in the number of variants included.

DEFINITION

Definition is indispensable in any classification and is very difficult. Every class must be defined and all of the groups under it. After definitions have been made and printed, they are sometimes found inadequate and must be supplemented by reference to the de-

finitions of other classes. This is unavoidable while the complete material remains unexplored as *it constantly must in the constantly expanding field of the useful arts.*

Hitherto four of the five predictables of ancient logic have been mentioned, to wit, genus, species, property and accident. In connection with definition, the fifth predictable, difference, is useful. To define a class, it is sufficient, generally, for the purpose of office classification, to state a *peculiar property* (not an accident) of the objects included in the class; and to define a species under the class it is sufficient to state the name of the class plus the difference—i.e., with the addition of the limitations that characterize the species, since a species contains all the qualities of the genus *and more*. These additional qualities form the "difference." The electric motor has the qualities that are common to motors and is differentiated by reason of the fact that electric energy is thereby converted to mechanical motion. This procedure in definition is susceptible of application from the highest genus to the lowest species. It is advisable to define the means included within a title without any introductory words, treating the subclass for definition purposes as if it were a collection of concrete things, in the same manner as in a dictionary definition.

With the passage of time in assiduous application of the principles set forth herein to the actual arrangement of patents in effective classes, it is fully expected that new principles will appear, and that those which are now recognized will become clarified. At any rate, we have a system on which to operate, developed by hard experience over a period of 50 years, and known and understood by some thousands of patent examiners and attorneys. Absolute perfection will arrive only with the millenium.

LIBRARY OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST PARLIAMENT

By J. V. KITTO, C.B.E.

Assistant Librarian to the House of Commons from 1908-1937:
Librarian from 1937 to March 1946

THE library of Britain's House of Commons was born in 1818. Before that date the only collection belonging to the House consisted of the journals and other official records. In 1780 it was suggested that a building should be erected for their preservation. This proposal came to nothing, but in 1800 a house was leased in Abingdon Street for the Clerk of the Journals to share with the archives. An extant catalog, now in the British Museum, shows a large but patchy collection of some 17,700 volumes, dating back to the late 16th century. Here was the germ of the idea that the records of the Commons ought to be kept safe and in order.

The buying of books to help members in their public work did not begin until January 1818, when a room 17 ft. square was fitted up as a library. Such miserly provision could not serve for long; by 1825 the room was overflowing and pouring its surplus into passages, rooms, closets and chests. It was therefore an "urgent necessity that a new library be provided of sufficient dimensions to answer not only for the present but for future times". It must be large enough "to hold all the Journals, Parliamentary papers of Lords and Commons, the Irish parliamentary proceedings, the debates and other books of parliamentary authority and historical reference".

This Library was ready for use early in 1827. There was one large room (55 ft. x 23 ft. x 13½ ft.) with an upper story divided into two rooms. History repeats itself. The Library has flooded the present building and, until the bomb damage experienced during World

War II, had flowed into some 14 outlying places (rooms, passages and cellars), and instead of the papers and proceedings of one Irish Parliament, it receives and cares for the outpourings of two such bodies, besides a large proportion of the official publications of the British Dominions, the Colonies and the legislative bodies of India.

The new arrangement gave so much satisfaction that £2000 was put at the disposal of the Speaker for the purchase of books. The Library now became, in a small way, a working institution supplying what was at that time considered useful for politicians. It cannot possibly be described as a good selection. Three-quarters of the volumes consisted of books on British history, including a good, but not politically useful, range of ancient and medieval chronicles. In the modern Library, when the contemplated re-organization is well under way, most of these will go to the book stacks and their places will be filled by the large range of works covered by the general title of "Social Science"; the sole survivor from this class in 1828 will be Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*.

General literature did not exist—no Shakespeare, no Milton, except his *State Papers*, no Francis Bacon except his *History of King Henry VII*. Travels, works on British Empire, the Greek and Latin classics, law books and reports, and topography and genealogy, were conspicuously lacking.

It is commonly thought that the oldest parliament in the world must have a great accumulation of archives. But the fire of October 1834 swept away

two-thirds of the contents of the Library and "all other depositories of books and papers. Nothing was saved of the collection of MSS. in the presses in the Long Gallery, nor a single volume of the collection of tracts on English history. Everything in the office of the Clerk of the Journals perished."

What survived the fire was given a temporary £600 home and a Committee of 1835 decided that the general scheme of the original collection was "a good and sufficient foundation for a Parliamentary Library of Historical and Constitutional information". Accordingly £3000 was provided to make good the losses and to continue and enlarge the collection.

Barry's plan for the new palace included what was at the time most generous library space—four large rooms (each 60 feet long) and one smaller entrance room. At a later date another room was taken over and fitted with a gallery. It is unfortunate that this addition was not included in all the rooms. The inconvenient height of the present bookcases would have been obviated and the wasted wall space at the top would have given valuable shelf room. From the accommodation provided and the volumes which were bought to fill it, one can only infer that the minds of the architect and the librarian worked along similar stately architectural lines. There was, and still is, a most impressive build-up from floor to ceiling. An imposing foundation of outsize folio volumes surmounted by smaller folios and large quartos, and above them the gradually diminishing octavos and smaller fry. The wholly useless tomes of Graevius and Gronovius, and hundreds of similar bulk and character, have stood from generation to generation in full accessibility, whilst the most up-to-date works rose higher and higher up the ladder if they were not careful to be issued at least as large octavos.

Plans were laid before World War II for a radical clearance of decorative

lumber and for a practical re-arrangement of useful and necessary works where they could easily be reached.

Hitler intervened, and it was not until the destruction of the Debating Chamber that the scheme came into light again. The proposals for rebuilding the Chamber, and for increased accommodation of various kinds below and above it, seemed to offer a chance that the Library might at last get that adequate and concentrated bookstore which had been badly needed.

Now at last the difficulties are being taken firmly in hand; the Library will be made four times as useful to Members and be able, even in these days when a good library grows so fast, to cope with its work and increases for the next 50 years.

The reorganization proposals referred to depend for their completion on five factors: (1) a proper book-stack, (2) a radical weeding, (3) purchase of new books on a large scale, (4) an increased staff, (5) approval of the proposals by the authorities concerned.

- (1) There are admirable cellars directly beneath the Library which, so far as anyone knows, have never been used for any purpose, and which can easily be converted to a sealed and properly air-conditioned store with direct access to the Library by a book-lift and a circular stair—40 or 50 thousand volumes which must be kept, but which are only occasionally wanted, could be accommodated.
- (2) The weeding would be twofold; rejection of what has already been described as lumber and removal to storage.
- (3) Very large purchases will be needed to make up for the rigid economies of the period 1914 to 1945. Moreover the daily purview of Parliament extends now over social and economic affairs which the members of earlier parliaments were ready to leave to the interest and care of a few specialists.
- (4) The most important increase of staff should be "researchers", men of high educational qualifications who would be able to prepare bibliographies and memoranda and "briefs" on any subject an M.P. may require.

Some of these plans can be partially carried out at present. The weeding already has made some progress and the purchase of new stock has begun. The others wait on time and the goodwill of those who have to decide what is fair and reasonable expenditure in the interest of the Library and of Parliament.

The burden falls on shoulders well fitted to carry it. On March 1 this year, Mr. Hilary St. George Saunders, Assistant Librarian since February 1938, was appointed Librarian. He has been associated closely with the working out of the scheme and its presentation before the Select Committee which was appointed in 1945. His efforts were invaluable in preparation, and his energy and imagination will be a tremendous lever in shifting deadweights. The difficulties will be great. There will be much to be done by a staff already fully occupied with attendance on the ordinary daily routine and on the vastly increased calls for service by Members, and the Parliamentary recesses, during which the librarians and clerks are comparatively free, are so very much shorter than they used to be. Mr. Saunders will take all this in his stride. He had a fine reputation in three fields, thrillers, historical novels and work at the League of Nations, before he entered the Library. Since then he has gained an international reputation by his brilliant series of monographs, whose sales have run into many millions, on the work of various branches of Britain's Royal Air Force during World War II. But above all he has an intense desire to make the Library worthy of the great Parliament which it serves.

During the war the Librarian had his own batch of problems. When an invasion seemed to be within the range of possibility and an evacuation scheme was fully planned, he had to choose, and pack ready for immediate removal, a good working library to accompany the House to its selected place of refuge. For months the staff delved into

the packing cases for works requested by Members; it was a good test of the accuracy with which Members' requirements had been assessed. Later, when the two Houses made short sojourns at Church House, near Westminster Abbey, a small selection of reference books was sent over, but anyone who wanted to use the Library proper could easily take the necessary short walk.

When the bombing of London became considerable and Whitehall and Westminster were being obvious targets, it was decided to remove about two-thirds of the books to the safety of the underground store of Oxford's new Bodleian, to the National Library of Wales, and to smaller more distant libraries. Probably over 60 tons of books were sent away while the "working library" originally picked out for moving remained in its place. These plans were made easier by the co-operative goodwill which put the House of Lords' Library at the disposal of the Commons.

Despite the attacks, sporadic and concentrated, on the Palace and the number of bombs which fell on or near its area of nine acres, neither of the Libraries suffered from more than shattered windows and dirt.

In the United States of America, Congress has the enormous advantage of having quickly available the vast resources of the Library of Congress and its cohorts of research experts. Britain's House of Commons Library has no service comparable with the organization at Washington which can supply the legislators in the Capitol with books and memoranda and bibliographies on any subject, nor does it aspire to this. What it has to aim at is a good specialized collection which will provide M. P.'s with all they need to enable them to be useful and well and truly informed members of a law-making body. That surely is a fine aspiration, and the House of Commons grows more to the stature which needs and deserves that measure of help.

OUR NEW CHAPTER

SPECIAL Libraries Association need no longer hope for the time to come when it will have a Chapter in the deep South. Such an one was established on November 16, 1946 when the newly formed Louisiana Chapter held a series of meetings. The first of these was a luncheon at International House with a business meeting following. Forty-six members attended. So much thought had been given to the preparation of a constitution that, with only a slight re-wording in two or three of the sections, the one drawn-up was adopted in toto. The election of officers followed. Leonard Oppenheim, Librarian of Tulane Law School, was elected *President*; Mildred Hogan, Librarian of Louisiana State Department of Commerce and Industry, *Vice-President*; Mary Clay of Monroe, *Secretary-Treasurer*; Mrs. Dorothy Skau, Librarian of Southern Regional Laboratory, *USDA, Member-at-large*.

In the evening, there was a dinner at the Lafitte Restaurant attended by 48 members. Congratulatory telegrams were read from the Illinois Chapter, the Washington, D. C. Chapter, and the National Membership Chairman. The New Orleans Library Club and the Louisiana Library Association were represented and they, too, extended greetings to the new Chapter. Miss Eleanor LeBlanc told some interesting and amusing Cajun tall tales. Your President wished the new Chapter success in the years to come and gave a short talk on the aims and work of S. L. A.

The following morning, a breakfast and business meeting was held by the officers, at which time the personnel of committees for the coming year was discussed. Geographic location as well as personal ability were taken into consideration. Membership of the committees represent New Orleans, Baton

Rouge and the northern part of the state. This shows an evident desire not to have the Chapter dominated by any one section of the state and makes a better working unit.

In the afternoon, the Louisiana Chapter and the New Orleans Library Club had a jointly-sponsored tea at the Isaac Delgado Museum of Art. This, too, was well attended and was very pleasant. Dom Gregory, a Benedictine from Holland and an artist who has travelled and studied art in many countries, was having a one-man show at the Museum. He gave a brief talk about his work. Later in the afternoon, his paintings were exhibited with an explanation regarding some of them by the artist.

Monday was spent at Baton Rouge. While there, your President visited several of the libraries at Louisiana State University, had luncheon at the Faculty Club with several of the new members, addressed the Library School students on the opportunities in special library work, visited the capitol building and one industrial library. She also had the opportunity of seeing the L.S. U. pilot plant sugar mill in operation. This was an unique chance as L.S.U. has the only sugar school in the United States.

Back in New Orleans, more libraries were visited. There was quite a variety in buildings ranging from a former residence to the most modern of library buildings. Problems there are pretty much the same as in other parts of the country, more space and equipment being the chief concerns. The other vital matter is that of properly trained staff. But, as everywhere else, all are interested in their work and doing a fine job.

The Louisiana members are on their toes. They are enthusiastic. They have spent a great deal of time and effort to start the Chapter in the right way. They

are eager to have a part in the work of S. L. A. From a membership of 20-25 in June when the petition for the new Chapter was presented, the membership as of November 16 was 52. The plans for the first meeting had been given long and careful thought and all meetings were well-conducted, with no hesitation, no pauses. Publicity had been planned with the result that there were three write-ups in the papers. Two press interviews had been arranged for

your President, one on Saturday morning at the hotel and one before the luncheon at International House.

There is every reason to believe that the Louisiana Chapter will become a strong Chapter. It is the first in the deep South; it has contacts with Latin America; and it has an earnest desire to be an active part of S. L. A. We can well be proud of our new Chapter.

BETTY JOY COLE, *President*
Special Libraries Association.

NEW INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

June 15 — December 10, 1946

Bristol Laboratories, Inc.
Miss Mira E. Spinning, Librarian
Penicillin Division
Building No. 6—Thompson Road
Syracuse, New York

Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation
Mrs. Alma Clement, Librarian
Plant Records Department
P.O. Box P
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Cargill, Incorporated
Miss Elizabeth J. Vorhes, Librarian
Main Library
761 Chamber of Commerce
Minneapolis 15, Minnesota

Chance Vought Aircraft Corporation
Miss Myrtle M. Crane, Librarian
Engineering Library—Aerodynamics Dept.
550 S. Main Street
Stratford, Connecticut

Charles A. Rheinstrom
Miss Mary Katharine Blair, Librarian
681 Fifth Avenue
New York 22, New York

The Dow Chemical Company
Mr. John P. Eben, Librarian
Texas Division
Freeport, Texas

Eastern States Farmers' Exchange
Miss Erma Richmond, Librarian
95 Elm Street
West Springfield, Massachusetts

Foreign Trade Handbooks
Mr. David Mayer, Publisher
153 East 54th Street
New York 22, New York

General Electric X-Ray Corporation
Mrs. Lee Allan, Librarian
175 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago 4, Illinois

Hooker Electrochemical Company
Miss Margaret J. Cortellini, Librarian
Buffalo Avenue
Niagara Falls, New York

Johns-Manville Research Laboratory
Miss Katharine Louise Kinder, Librarian
Manville, New Jersey

Mayo Clinic
Mr. Thomas E. Keys, Librarian
Rochester, Minnesota

Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co.
Miss Lois M. Yike, Librarian
General-Engineering Dept.
2753 Fourth Avenue S.
Minneapolis 8, Minnesota

New England Power Service Company
Miss Dorothy H. Wires, Librarian
441 Stuart Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

New York Public Library
Mr. Ralph A. Beals, Director
Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street
New York 18, New York

New York State Maritime Academy
Mr. Terence J. Hoverter, Librarian
Fort Schuyler
New York 61, New York

New York State School of Industrial
and Labor Relations
Mr. J. Gormly Miller, Librarian
Myron Taylor Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Mr. Edward Arnold Chapman, Librarian
Troy, New York

South African Council for Scientific
and Industrial Research
Library and Information Division
South African Mint
Visagie Street
Pretoria, South Africa

Spencer Chemical Company
Mr. H. F. Woodward, Jr., Director

Technical Survey Section, Development Dept.
P.O. Box 604
Pittsburg, Kansas

Superior Laboratories of Midwest
Frozen Foods Council, Inc.
Mr. Claude S. Abshier, Technical Director
360 Twelfth Street
Benton Harbor, Michigan

U. S. Merchant Marine Academy
Lt. Luis E. Bejarano, U.S.M.S., Librarian
Academy Library—Bowditch Hall
Kings Point, Long Island, New York

U. S. Navy Electronics Laboratory
Officer in Charge
Point Loma
San Diego, California

Union Francaise des Organismes de
Documentation
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EVENTS and PUBLICATIONS

BUSINESS LAW: PRINCIPLES AND CASES, by Harold F. Lusk, Professor of Business Law, Indiana University (Chicago, Richard O. Irwin, Inc., 1946. 976p. \$5.00) is a 3rd edition of the text. The subject of crimes and torts has been expanded; the part on property has been completely rewritten; chapters on Bankruptcy and Labor Relations have been added.

* * *

RUSSIAN-AMERICAN TRADE, by Mikhail V. Condoide (Columbus, Ohio, Bureau of Business Research, Ohio State University, 1946. 154p. \$2.50), presents a penetrating account of Russian-American trade over a long period of time, with particular emphasis on the period between World Wars I and II. Statistics on the volume and value of trade, by kind and class of product, taken from official U.S. and Soviet and Czarist Russian documents, are presented in summary tables and charts. A

final section appraises the present status of U.S.-Soviet trade relations and the prospect for future development.

* * *

The December 1946 issue of *School and College Placement*, the *Journal* of the Association of School and College Placement, contains an article on "The Challenge of Special Librarianship", by Kathleen Brown Stebbins, Executive Secretary of Special Libraries Association. In a most readable style Mrs. Stebbins covers the various ramifications of the special library movement from its beginning, touching on its history, its placement activities, the requirements for those desiring to enter this field, as well as the wide variety of opportunities offered at present and for the future. Reprints of this pertinent article are available from S.L.A. Headquarters.

Announcements

Gifts to Student Loan Fund

The Student Loan Fund of S.L.A. has been increased in the past months by two generous contributions: \$15.00 from Mrs. Dorothy Nistle Orde, Librarian, Bulova School of Watchmaking, Woodside, L. I., New York; \$10.00 from Mrs. Kathleen Brown Stebbins, Executive Secretary of S.L.A., which had been presented to her by Sister Marie Cecilia, Director, College of St. Catherine Library School, St. Paul, Minnesota, in appreciation of Mrs. Stebbins' talk before the students of that institution during her trip to the west coast.

Film Strip Available on Loan

The Liaison Committee of the Science-Technology Group of the Philadelphia Council has prepared a film strip showing a variety of special library services. This project was initiated by Miss Rebecca Lingenfelter, formerly Librarian of RCA Victor Division, Camden, New Jersey, with the cooperation of local Group members. The film shows services rendered by the following six technical libraries in the Philadelphia area: E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company Technical Library; Hercules Powder Company, Experiment Station Library; Philadelphia Electric Company; Radio Corporation of America, RCA Victor Division; U. S. Department of Agriculture, Eastern Regional Laboratory Library; U. S. Department of Agriculture Library, Philadelphia Branch. Those participating prepared their own pictures and script.

The film strip was shown in Sweden by Miss Lingenfelter while she was visiting there during the past summer. It was also shown at the National Chemical Exposition held in Chicago in September 1946, and in the Science Library at the International Science Exhibition in Boston the last week in December. A copy of the film is now available on loan to Groups or Chapters wishing to use it for public relations and educational purposes. Please send requests to Mrs. Kathleen B. Stebbins, Executive Secretary, Special Libraries Association, 31 East 10th Street, New York 3, N. Y.

6500 Miles By Plane and Train

November 11, 1946 was the red letter day. My one large suitcase was ready, filled to the brim, with a light-weight coat, umbrella and brief case to be carried. This was the beginning of a whirlwind two and one-half weeks' trip to the west coast by air with visits to 19 libraries, six S.L.A. Chapters and five library schools.

I took off in a 48-passenger, 4-motor plane for Chicago just as dusk was falling in New York. The lights of the city twinkled far below. In the darkness, rushing through space at better than 200 miles an hour, one had the impression of being in a rocket ship bound for a distant planet. The four-course dinner served was excellent as were all the meals on all the planes during the entire trip. Everywhere the service was prompt and courteous. With reservations made two months in advance, there was no difficulty with hotels or planes except that, in some instances, the hour of departure for a scheduled flight had been changed.

Miss Marion Wells, 1947 Convention Chairman, was on hand at the airport and drove me to the Drake Hotel. The next morning was given over to discussing 1947 Convention plans and looking at the meeting-rooms for the Chicago Convention. In the afternoon, Miss Josephine Greenwood of New York, representing the Public Relations Committee, Miss Wells and I attended a meeting at the John Crerar Library on Library Service to Business. The Illinois Chapter meeting that evening was excellent. Everywhere I saw persons whom I already knew and met many others with whom I had corresponded.

The cordiality of the midwest was evidenced nowhere better than in Minneapolis. Mr. Grieg Aspnes, Chapter President, was at the airport to meet me, and Miss Ruth Jedermann placed her car at my disposal for the two days I was there. I had the opportunity to visit the libraries of Brown and Bigelow Corporation (where I was presented with a beautiful ball-point fountain pen inscribed with my name), General Mills, Federal Reserve Bank, Business Branch of the Minneapolis Public Library, James J. Hill Reference Library and Ramsey County Medical Society. I spoke to the library school students of the College of St. Catherine and found them most alert and enthusiastic, with at least 11 planning to enter the special library field in June. Sister Marie Cecilia, the Director, very kindly presented me with a check for \$10 which has been added to the S. L. A. Student Loan Fund.

The University of Minnesota was next on the agenda with a luncheon given by Dr. Donald E. Strout in the Faculty dining-room, a talk to the students in the Library School and a tea afterwards. Opportunity for individual and group consultation was given and here again I found a lively interest in special libraries. The banquet held that evening at the Beach Club on the shores of a lovely lake was most delightful and the warmth of the members' greeting will be long-remembered. Members came from as far away as Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Austin, Minnesota, while a business executive who was interested in or-

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ganizing a company library took this opportunity to discuss the matter. An informal luncheon and dinner for members also took place and I had time as well for some sight-seeing.

The 12-hour flight from Minneapolis to Seattle, with four stops en route, was one never to be forgotten. The imposing majesty of the mountain ranges with their snowy peaks, the wide open plains devoid of habitation, the great rivers like the Mississippi, Missouri and Columbia that were crossed, will always stay in my mind. Mr. Harry Bauer, President of the Puget Sound Chapter, was at the airport and drove me (half-deafened from the long flight) to my hotel. Seattle, the city built on a series of hills, put on a real show for me by producing later the worst storm in years.

The blizzard held off, however, for a sight-seeing trip around the city, to the farmer's market (where I saw huge heads of iceberg lettuce for five cents), along Puget Sound where great carriers like the Ticonderoga are permanently berthed, and finally to luncheon at the charming home of Miss Marguerite Putnam, on the shores of Puget Sound, with Miss Gertrude Wulfekoetter, Chapter Employment Chairman. Christmas holly was blooming outside the door on this not-too chilly day in the Far North.

That afternoon Mr. Bauer escorted me to the Washington-Oregon football game and the next day, despite the pouring rain, we carried out plans to drive to Mt. Rainier National Park. We saw the beautiful State Capitol in Olympia, and then drove 4000 feet up Mt. Rainier. The enormous pine trees, some of which were at least three stories tall, the waterfalls and foliage were beautiful beyond description. Deer grazed in all friendliness by the roadside while farther up the mountain bears begged for food with impunity.

During the night the rain changed to snow and a paralyzing blizzard gripped Seattle. The University did not close until the following day, however, so Miss Wulfekoetter gathered a group of faculty together for an informal luncheon. In the afternoon, I found again a real interest in special librarianship among the students, five of whom have already applied for Student membership. The tea that followed provided the opportunity for individual consultation. Later I addressed the library staff before the Chapter dinner. Unfortunately, the blizzard prevented members from Tacoma and Olympia from reaching Seattle for the meeting since most roads were blocked and the planes grounded, but one hardy soul braved the elements all the way from Forest Grove, Oregon.

In each Chapter many of the general public and college librarians attended the meetings

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and said how stimulating they found them despite their own lack of specialization. The Chapters in the Far West repeated over and over again how cut off they felt from national activities and how they hoped that some visitor from the national Association would come every year. The train from Seattle to Portland, a distance of 183 miles, took six hours as it jogged along leisurely between logging camps. At last the sun shone and Mt. Hood stretched its snowy peak to the sky in all its regal majesty. I caught the 4 P.M. flight from Portland for San Francisco (one of the few to leave as a new storm was heading towards the coast) and reached my destination late that evening due to a forced landing and bad weather.

San Francisco, which I had visited once before, will always be for me one of the loveliest cities in the United States. Its setting on many hills, against a background of water, the cable cars gripping their way up the hilly streets, gives it a most unusual setting. Miss Mary Kathleen Moore, San Francisco Chapter President, had graciously arranged for an interview over NBC at 10 A.M. on November 20th on Jane Lee's "Magazine of the Air". It was my first experience at radio, and I approached it with fear and trembling, but the nine minutes spent chatting informally about the opportunities for girls in special library work, passed quickly.

Visits to the libraries of Standard Oil Company, N.B.C., Institute of Pacific Relations and consultation with members followed. Miss Isabella Frost, Librarian of Lansing Library Service, Division of Safeway Stores, entertained me at luncheon at her company and took me through her library and that of the Home Economics Department, including the private library of over 2000 cook-books of all eras and all lands, owned by the Head of this Department. Miss Frost's own library impressed me greatly as a model working library which almost all librarians would envy, with her plans for a daily abstract service to some 800 executives throughout the U.S.A.

A talk to the students of the School of Librarianship at the University of California followed, with particular interest shown, since the school is inaugurating a course in special libraries for the second semester. The Chapter dinner held at the beautiful Claremont Hotel in Berkeley provided a dazzling view of the Oakland-San Francisco bridge and San Francisco itself, at night. Another long to-be-remembered sight was the view of San Francisco as seen from the glass-enclosed roof of the Sir Francis Drake Hotel where a number of us lunched.

The plane flight to Los Angeles was short but beautiful as we passed over some of the highest mountains. Mr. L. Herman Smith,

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President of the Southern California Chapter, met me at the Burbank airport, which is literally carved right out of the mountains with barely enough room to land. It was just a step to the Lockheed Engineering Library which we visited before driving into Los Angeles. Mr. Smith had prepared a minute schedule of the itinerary for the next two days as it was a most strenuous one! Miss Josephine Hollingsworth, a former member of the national Executive Board, was on hand to take me through the Municipal Reference Library and all the specialized departments of the huge Los Angeles Public Library. Mrs. Ella Moyers, a former Chapter President, entertained us at luncheon at the White Memorial Hospital where we also had a brief glimpse of the medical library.

The students at the University of Southern California Graduate School of Library Science had many questions to ask about special librarianship and Dr. Hazel Pulling, Chapter Employment Chairman, also arranged for interviews and later escorted me on a tour of the departmental libraries. The Chapter meeting, held on the campus that evening, was a large and enthusiastic one. It was especially gratifying to see two members from Honolulu in attendance who were visiting briefly in Los Angeles, Mrs. Jean Lynch Dabagh and Miss Elaine Adams. Members attended also from such distant places as Sacramento and Inyokern.

The next morning was given over to sight-seeing despite the pouring rain which again dogged my footsteps. Miss Katherine Laich, Vice-President of the Chapter, drove me through Los Angeles, Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, pointing out the famous homes and places to see. Miss Gladys Percy, former Chapter President, entertained us at luncheon at Paramount Pictures—a high point in the trip. Being a Saturday and a rainy one, with only two pictures in production, the leading actors and actresses did not appear but we saw several lesser lights as well as famous Directors and Mr. Cecil B. DeMille himself, who kept his secretary so busy that she barely had time to eat.

Later we visited two very unusual libraries, Mt. Wilson Observatory and the beautiful Huntington Library in Pasadena. We had the privilege, in the latter, of going through the locked vaults and seeing some of the rarest and most precious material in the collection. The gorgeous Huntington mansion nearby houses the famous *Blue Boy* portrait and others equally as famous. Beautiful gardens surround the house and library suggesting what a delightful spot this would be for a garden party during the 1949 Convention! The Huntington Hotel in Pasadena showed a de-

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cided interest in housing the Convention if enough space could be found. This is a most attractive and unusual hotel with an outdoor swimming pool set in a patio of flowers.

That evening a delightful buffet supper for Chapter Officers was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and plans for the 1949 Convention were formulated. The Chapter is genuinely enthusiastic about entertaining the national Convention on the coast in 1949 and plans to schedule it for July so members coming from some distance can plan to take their vacations. The Chapter presented me with an early Christmas gift of a huge red scented candle and appropriate verse. The lovely foliage, poinsettias and palm trees in Los Angeles will always be in my mind.

It was with real reluctance that I once more said "Au revoir" and took the Golden State Ltd. for St. Louis. For hours we rode through the desert (including the famous Palm Springs) and passed hundreds of orange groves. All night we climbed through the High Sierras and in the morning Texas longhorns greeted our eyes. At Corona, New Mexico, we reached the highest altitude of the train trip, 6,616 feet and saw snow everywhere. Mrs. Elizabeth Owens, President of the Greater St. Louis Chapter, was on hand to meet me after the 48 hour train trip. We visited the library of the Mercantile-Commerce Bank and Trust Company, briefly, before being driven around the city by Miss Bonnie Dewes. Here we saw the Mississippi flowing rapidly along on its way south after being joined by the Missouri River just above.

Employment interviews were held before and after the very nice dinner which was well-attended by special, public and university librarians. In the Greater St. Louis Chapter, as in many others, the problem of members living at great distances must be overcome. Here members living in Columbia, Wichita and Kansas City are unable to attend Chapter meetings held in St. Louis. The solution undoubtedly lies in holding at least one meeting annually in other parts of the State and in planning a special library meeting at the time of State Library Association meetings.

In order to do effective membership work it is vitally important to get out into the field, meet the members, and know what they are thinking. In each Chapter national activities were discussed, particularly the important Committee reports presented at the Fall meeting of the Executive Board and Advisory Council in New York. In many Chapters personal interviews were held with members who wished to change their positions and who could not visit the Headquarters Office and in every Chapter familiar faces of members, who had used the Placement Service successfully in

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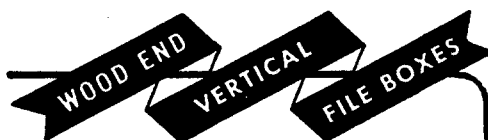
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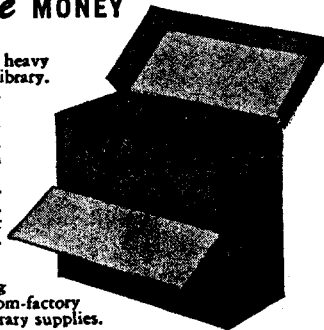
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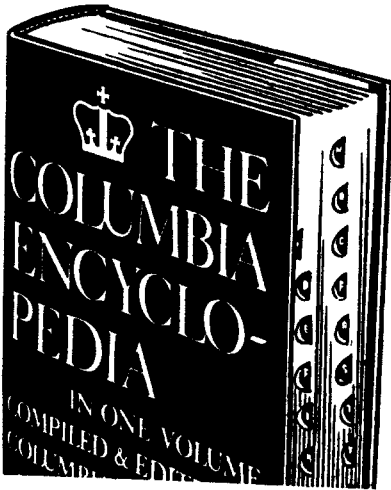


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The alertness, vitality and enthusiasm which is present at every S. L. A. Chapter is exceedingly gratifying. I returned to New York exhausted in body but convinced that the trip was very worthwhile and that the national officers should arrange to visit as many Chapters as possible each year. Before the Association year of 1946-47 ends, Miss Betty Joy Cole, national President, and I will have visited almost every one of the 23 S. L. A. Chapters in the U.S. and Canada.

In almost every library visited I was delighted to see S. L. A. publications displayed, particularly Volumes 1 and 2 of *Special Library Resources* and to learn how much Chapter members are able to help each other in carrying on their library activities. This trip, which ended in New York on Thanksgiving morning, has convinced me more than ever that the problems and needs of special librarians are universal, whether a member lives in Los Angeles or Montreal, St. Louis or New Orleans. The trip was of inestimable benefit to me in carrying on my duties and will be remembered with pleasure for many years to come.

KATHLEEN B. STEBBINS
Executive Secretary

Obituary

Edith K. McMahon

Miss Edith K. McMahon, for many years Librarian of the American Federation of Labor in Washington, D. C., died on December 7, 1946, at her home in Washington after a brief illness. She had been a member of S.L.A. since 1934, and for the past two years had been national Chairman of the Social Science Group. The services held in Washington on December 10 were attended by many members of the Washington, D. C. Chapter. Final interment was at Indianapolis, Indiana.

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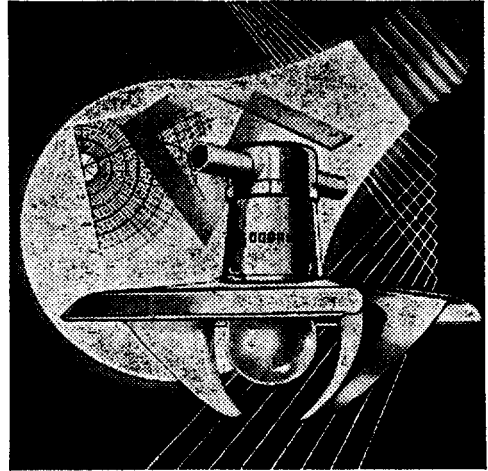
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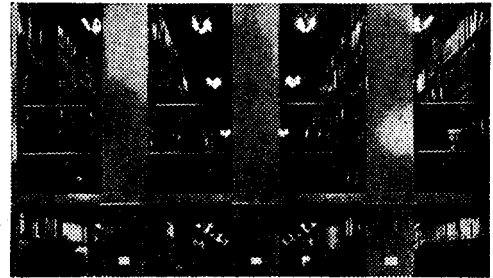


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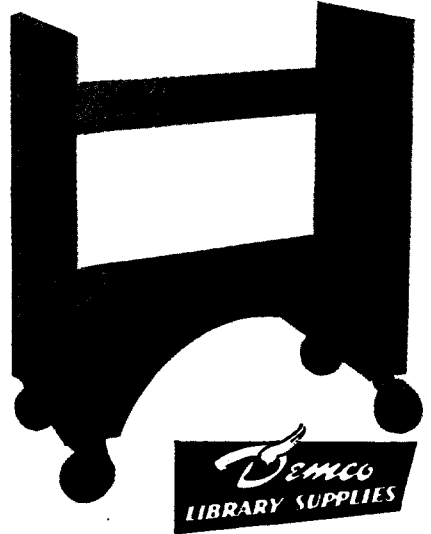
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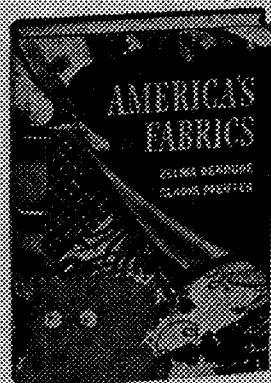
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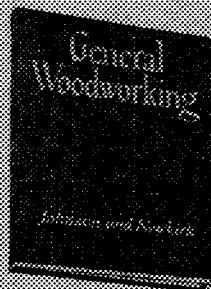
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