Labors of Love

Noah's Two Sons. Detail from “A Scene of Sacrifice” by Jean Poitleve.
Labors of Love... a few out-of-the-ordinary activities.

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InULA Quarterly is a publication of the Indiana University Librarians Association. News of interest to members should be submitted to Amy E. Novick, Archives of Traditional Music, Maxwell 057, IU-Bloomington. Publications committee: Jo Brooks, John Curry, Mark Day, Dorothy Niekamp, Amy Novick, editor.
This past summer I attended the University of Oklahoma Oxford Seminar on British Libraries. The Seminar is offered by O.U. and the School of External Studies of Oxford University. It is held in three older row houses which have been remodeled into a single unit and which house the offices of the School of External Studies, its library, lecture rooms, a common room, dining room, and bedrooms for students “in residence.” Through the square and across the street is Somerville College, among whose more prominent graduates are Margaret Thatcher and Dorothy Sayers.

The program included lectures, visits to libraries in and out of Oxford, and time during which each person could schedule visits to libraries and other institutions (Blackwells) of particular interest to himself. Evenings and weekends were mostly free for plays, concerts, touring, pub crawling or other activities as one’s individual interests directed.

Of the twenty or so lectures, I have chosen one to summarize. This was given by Keith Lawrey, Secretary-General of the Library Association, and dealt with the place of professional associations. Mr. Lawrey is not a librarian; he is a barrister and a Chartered Companies Secretary.

He began by outlining some of the Association’s problems, the most immediate one being money. However, he believes a more fundamental problem is a failure on the part of most librarians to recognize what a professional association should be.

Professional associations developed out of the medieval livery and the Inns of Court. These societies established minimum professional standards and enforced their maintenance. They had (and have) the responsibility to: 1. guard entry into the profession, by testing or otherwise establishing the competence of those who propose to practice; 2. ensure the maintenance of competence; 3. protect the users of the services of the profession; 4. represent the profession to all interested in it; and 5. provide members with opportunities to maintain and enlarge their skills as professionals. Professional associations, therefore, have responsibilities to their members, to the users of the members’ services, and to the profession itself—to make sure that research is done and the results disseminated, for instance. Unions have responsibility only to their members; such organizations as the Royal Society have responsibility only to their subject concern, not to or for their members or to their members’ clients.

Some professional associations have statutory powers, so that one cannot practice the profession unless one is a member, and to be struck off the association’s register for failure to maintain standards means that one cannot practice. Some associations, such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants, have a series of short courses which its members must take each year in order to continue to be registered. The Library Association does not now have statutory powers, but Mr. Lawrey believes it should seek them. He believes that in the future, information will be of increasing importance and that it is essential that an association of those concerned with informa-
tion and with its dissemination should be governed by a Code of Ethics which states clearly that information will be supplied to all in a disinterested manner, not manipulated or controlled by the political or other beliefs of the persons supplying the information.

With growth in degree programs for librarianship at universities the Library Association will no longer be giving its own exams at the beginning of a person's professional career. Mr. Lawrey believes this is a mistake, that there should continue to be an enforced examination standard required for admission to the profession. The exams given later, for admission to Fellowship of the L.A., he feels must be maintained as real, not token examinations—which means some people will not pass them.

As the role of examining by professional societies has decreased, the representative role—of the profession to other bodies—has grown significantly. The Library Association represents librarianship to educational groups, to unions, and to Parliament, among other bodies. They have a Parliamentary Agent who meets with the Minister of Arts at least once every 6 months. The Association's lobby can persuade or seek to persuade, can advise, and by constant pressure and presence it has come to be depended upon and even sought out for advice on questions of concern to librarians, such as copyright, information policy, etc. Mr. Lawrey is eager to present the profession as a coordinated, coherent body. He says this is very difficult and he is not sure it is possible, given the variety of wants and needs among the members.

This lecture, and almost all the others, sounded very familiar—although the details are different the problems and the attempts at solutions seem very similar to our own.

Library of Congress Geography and Map Division

Seven of the eight summers since I became Head of the Geography and Map Library, I have been privileged to be sponsored by Indiana University as a cooperative participant in the Special Summer Project of the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division (LCG&M). For four weeks in July and August, 1974 through 1977 and six weeks in 1978, 1979 and 1981, I have worked at the LCG&M in exchange for selecting maps and atlases from their surplus duplicates for Indiana University.

This project began in 1951 when the small staff of LC's Map Division, as it was then

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known, was unable to process a backlog of one million maps which had been transferred from other Federal agencies. Eight geography graduate students were hired as temporary library technicians along with four cooperative participants to begin processing this backlog. Until 1972, the project was staffed by both paid temporary employees and cooperative participants. Since then, budget restrictions have limited the project to cooperative participants. Only cooperative participants have been able to select duplicate materials.

Through the seven projects I have performed both professional and non-professional work at the Library of Congress, all of which have helped me develop as a ge-
ography and map librarian. Three of the seven years I worked for the Reference and Bibliography Section of the Geography and Map Division. The first two summers I untangled some of the problems of the Division’s serial records, learning much about geographic and cartographic serials. In 1979, I again worked for the Reference and Bibliography Section. Along with two other participants, I classified rare maps of the United States in the vault which were not in the MARC-MAP data base. I also briefly listed those maps for which there were no bibliographic records. During this project I learned some methods of identifying early maps and had a chance to see some of the treasures of early U.S. cartography.

In 1976, I spent most of the summer accessioning new maps for the Acquisitions Unit. I learned a great deal about cartographic acquisitions by the Library of Congress, and map solicitation projects at LC in particular.

During the remaining three projects I worked for the Collections Maintenance Unit. In 1977 and 1978, I participated in an inventory of the MARC-MAP collection. Through this inventory, I learned LC map classification, how to use the LC map shelf list, and had a chance to see many interesting maps. In 1981, I checked maps which had been transferred to LC, adding those which were not in the collection. The first four weeks I processed maps of China at a scale of 1:100,000 in Chinese which had been produced between 1910 and 1940. The last two weeks I worked on USGS topographic quadrangles. I was able to send most of the duplicates back to I.U.

The LCG&M Division helps the participants learn about cartography and map librarianship by scheduling weekly seminars and visits to mapping agencies and other map collections in Washington. The visits have included the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Ocean Survey, the Defense Mapping Agency and the Cartographic Archives at the National Archives.

While the professional experience has been useful to me, the justification for my participation has been the maps and atlases I have obtained. The majority of these have been sheets in series. They have included thousands of USGS topographic quadrangles which now cost $2.00 per sheet and thousands of Canadian topographic maps which cost $2.50 per sheet. Included in the series maps from the rest of the world are Japanese land use and topographic maps, Russian and German map series of Russia and Eastern Europe from World War II and earlier years, and African, Asian and European Topographic series. The single maps include general maps of entire countries from around the world, U.S. States, sections of these countries and states, and city plans from many countries. I have also obtained thematic maps which provide information on different topics for many areas of the world. The atlases have included national atlases from around the world, hundreds of U.S. Soil Surveys and the second volume of the Great Soviet World Atlas of 1939 which was recalled by the U.S.S.R. shortly after it was produced, leaving few copies in the U.S.

Throughout the seven projects in which I have participated, the Geography and Map Library has obtained more than 50,000 maps and 500 atlases, worth over $100,000, many of which would not have been available from any other source. The two drawbacks to the maps I have obtained from the project are that many of the map series are not complete and most of the maps are not the current editions. However, even with these drawbacks, this project provides an inexpensive means of enlarging the collections of the Geography and Map Library.
In addition to telling patrons where *Time* and *Newsweek* are, reference librarians are faced daily with bibliographic problems of seemingly endless variety. Writers, from internationally known scholars to graduate students, create citations which need more or less correcting so that they can be found in libraries. The reasons are two: they contain errors and/or do not conform to AACR I or II. Putting the outside world in touch with the library world means verification. How that is done would fill a book. Over the years I have made a hobby of collecting interesting examples of verification problems. The illustrations below are just a sample of the endless variety, in the form of before and after, with an occasional comment.

Misinterpretation of abbreviations is a regular occurrence. Some are almost entertaining:

Indiana Univ. Co-op Symposium.  
Birch, Gordon G. ed. 1971

Sweetness and sweeteners: an industry-university co-operation symposium...University of Reading...Barking (Essex), 1971.

Errors in spelling, whether typos or the blind leading the blind, are also common. The reader will have to believe that the following German entry, with six errors, did indeed appear in print:

Weise, A von.  
Die Diskussin über den historishen  
Materialismus in der Deutschen  
Sozialdenskvalie 1891-1918.  
Weisbaden, 1956

Weiss, Andreas von.  
Die Diskussion über den historischen  
Materialismus in der Deutschen Sozial-  
demokratie, 1891-1918.  
Wiesbaden,...1965.

Another type of problem is solved by reading the whole card or record:

Maty, Paul Henry.  
A general index to the  
philosophical transactions of  
the Royal Society of London...  
1st to 70th volumes.  
London, 1787.

Royal Society of London.  
Philosophical transactions...  
Indexes: vols. 1-70...  
(on card 5)

Parts of books or articles from journals are sometimes cited as books.

Neri, Ferdinand.  
Sulle prime commedie fiorentine.  
Prato, Italy, 1915.

Rivista teatrale italiana.  

Corporate entries often provide the best challenges:

*Tom Glastras is Associate Librarian, Reference Department*
Regamey, K.
Three chapters from the
Samadhirajasutra.
Warsaw, 1938.

Towarzystwo naukowe warszawskie,
Warsaw. Komisje orientalistyczna.
Rozprawy. vol. 1, 1938.
"Samadhirajasutra."

The miscellaneous nature of Festschriften provides a lot of fun:

Miscellanea a Vittorio Cian.
Pisa, 1909.

A Vittorio Cian.
Pisa, F. Mariotti, 1909.

The above Italian entry may be the shortest Festschrift entry on record. The citer probably wanted to make the Festschrift obvious by adding "miscellanea." The librarian needs to know that in Italian, a is not an insignificant to-be-ignored first article.

The following is for supporters of the ERA:

Low, David.
New Rake’s Progress.
Paintings by David Low and text
(Source: Low, David. Low’s

West, Rebecca, pseud.
...The modern "Rake’s Progress."
London, Hutchinson, 1934.
at head of title: Words by
Rebecca West; paintings by
David Low.

In the National Union Catalog, 1956-67, 23:28 (NUC 66-35832), is an incorrect citation submitted by Andover-Harvard Theological, Columbia, or Princeton Theological. It is for a publication on 20th century Russian church history by Chrysostomus, Johannes, Saint, Patriarch of Constantinople, d.407. The correct author in Johannes Chrysostomus, Father, 1915-. Our copy is cataloged correctly, and Marty Joachim & Co. have provided appropriate see references. In spite of all this help, citation errors still occur. One future scholar recently asked to borrow the work, misspelling the author’s name.

As the crossword puzzle says, to err is human. Even we make mistakes, but they derive from a humanistic attitude. We do not limit ourselves to a maximum of one half hour per problem or believe in such answers as "not owned as cited." These attitudes are for robots and bureaucrats. Isn’t OCLC making verification easier? The routine is quicker but the problems remain. What about AACR II? For non-robot librarians AACR II adds another rather large dimension of possible answers. The old world is still on the shelves and very much alive.

Exchanging Places

It was the usual type of day in the Inter-
Library Loans Department of Edinburgh Uni-
versity, with yet another batch of post arriving
from the far flung corners of Britain, Europe,
and the rest of the world. Another letter

Margaret Dowling is Exchange Librarian,
Undergraduate Library

arrived from Indiana University Library, con-
cerning a thesis which we had recently bor-
rowed. However, this one contained a post-
script of some interest. Would I be interested
in an exchange? Bloomington, Indiana?
Where is it? How big is it? Quick dash to The
World of Learning. The idea began to dawn
as a distinct possibility. I asked the University
Librarian who agreed in principle, but insisted that I find out more about Larry Griffin and his position at Indiana University Library.

In the following months Larry and I exchanged letters and telephone calls comparing information and assessing how an exchange might take effect. We felt that an exchange could work, but the two universities had to agree on the proposal. After all the various administrative committees on both sides of the Atlantic had agreed, it seemed that we could go ahead and make definite arrangements for an exchange of jobs and houses. We decided to exchange for one year from August 1, 1981 to July 31, 1982, and arranged to meet each other in Indianapolis on July 31, 1981, when I arrived from Britain. Larry and his family left for Britain, narrowly missing the full effects of the American air traffic controllers strike, on August 3, 1981.

Now that I have been working at Indiana University Library for nearly three months I can comment on some of the differences between an American and British university library. The first change which strikes any visitor from Britain is the size of everything in the U.S.A. The same can be said for university libraries. The organization in Edinburgh is similar to Indiana in that there is one large library serving primarily the Arts and Social Sciences and administering a number of branch and departmental libraries running independently within the library system. Edinburgh's student population is approximately 11,000 compared to the 32,229 on the Bloomington campus, but the library is recognized as one of the largest in Europe. It is a modern design of concrete, rather than limestone, but it is an air-conditioned, centrally heated cube with sealed windows, so we sometimes suffer the same problems with temperature control. Edinburgh is not a campus university and therefore the university buildings, staff and students are scattered throughout the city, which is the capital of Scotland. Although the university brings a lot of revenue to Edinburgh it does not dominate the city in the same way that Bloomington is affected.

The library's hours in Bloomington are much longer than those of Edinburgh, and the main reason is employment of student labor. No students are employed in Edinburgh, and this is a major difference between the two libraries. Longer hours mean more use of the library and more labor to maintain the system. The use of student labor for routine duties releases the permanent library staff for more professional work. In Edinburgh there is not such a clear-cut division between work routines and staff often have to cope with much routine work.

The staff at Edinburgh are not so flexible as at Indiana University Library. Many staff would like the opportunity for change, but there are not enough positions at various grades for staff to be moved around frequently. The two main groups of staff are academically related (faculty) and clerically related (staff). In addition there are typists, messengers (operating exit/entry control, moving furniture, postal duties) and bindery personnel. A Library Committee composed of academic teaching staff, with library and student representatives is the main policy making body in Edinburgh. The library does not have such an autonomous role as the Indiana University Library appears to enjoy in Bloomington. However, as Edinburgh's system is smaller there are fewer committees under the Library Committee. Subject specialization does not operate in the same way as at Indiana. The Cataloging Department at Edinburgh has some people who act as subject specialists, but there is no organized policy regarding subject specialization at the moment.
Automation is being discussed at Edinburgh but at present all classification and cataloguing is done manually using a modified Dewey Decimal Classification Scheme. The circulation desks are not automated and we are still filing issue slips by hand. Computer aided information retrieval has been operating now for about a year and a half and will remain as an information service for the future, although users may have to pay.

It is apparent that more finances have been available at Indiana than in Edinburgh. The multiplicity of copies of bibliographies in reference and work areas and copies of dictionaries on each floor seems luxurious to a British librarian. Facilities which seem commonplace and Indiana University users take for granted are the availability of pencil sharpeners, water fountains and photocopiers. In Edinburgh most readers use ballpoint pens, but would carry their own pencil sharpeners, water is available in the rest rooms, and photocopiers are only available in one location in the library. Smoking is not allowed at all in Edinburgh University Library, so I was surprised that some rooms at Indiana University Library are specifically allocated for this purpose.

In the space available I have only been able to mention some of the most noticeable differences between Edinburgh University Library and Indiana University Library. It seems obvious that both institutions are trying to provide as good a service as possible to their users. However, the political structure in each country is bound to affect the future of its libraries. With the present cutbacks in education on both sides of the Atlantic it will be increasingly difficult to maintain the services currently offered. On a brighter note for anyone interested in reading about British/American exchanges may I recommend two novels:

Bradbury Malcolm. _Stepping Westward_,
London, Secker, & Warburg. 1965
Lodge, David. _Changing Places_,
New York, Penguin Books. 1979

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Five long whistles; pause: three short whistles; quiet: BOOM!!—At ease. And more limestone bedrock was dynamited loose, ready for the excavation of a building site. This was the daily external interest across the street from our Indiana University Library for many weeks in 1979 and '80. Not one of us librarians looking out had tried to fit dance steps to the rhythm. Really, not one of us would have thought of it. But in retrospect, it was a nice, interesting noise, meaning prosperous growth in peacetime construction. Our Hoosier uplands are lifted by a great limestone fold, putting building materials in easy reach, if not right where the foundation must be excavated.

This ruminative bookhandler’s govette dialled up to a foxy trot when approval of a sabbatical leave and university travel grant were spread upon the slide-out desk shelf that serves as available work space. The leave came after an invitation (no, not from my employer) to travel to Beirut, and there to study how to improve bibliographic access and to better

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conserve the fine older portion of the library collection in the Near East School of Theology. The N.E.S.T. is a sister school to the American University of Beirut, both founded and fostered by the same enthusiastic Nineteenth Century Protestant Community in Beirut. It is the school for training leaders in religion, while AUB looks after a range of secular emphases.

Arriving June 6 after a good week in England, my wife Rachel and I spent five and a half months in Beirut enjoying the friends we made and working together in a modern library with a fascinating array of books and manuscripts.

In the loaned office/workroom, conditions were cool and ideal. Handling the fine relics, we envied the bookworms that had access to this collection until recent years. Antiquarian research and manuscript penetration do engross and hold one's mind fast. The rhetoric of humility that opens and closes a work may be socially revealing, but it can be overdone, as when X author says in so many words that he is unworthy of mention, and in pure fatigue at last forgets to name himself anywhere.

Beside single texts, there are the well-known layer books with commentaries, super-commentaries (or glosses) and superglosses. In this division the original author of a title, who has presumably gone on to his reward, can be seen in history's shaky review mirror kneeling and bowing before his readers and analysts. All hands are laid upon his person, many in hearty and admiring approval, but some working to de-hair his head or de-thread his coat.

For the business of reading other people's handwriting, practice first in your own language. Doctors' prescriptions, junior high-school compositions, long car repair invoices, letters from relatives or administrative memos are samples to start on. Then press the Arabic button. When your mind is clearly refocused find the Basmala and read it all, then the Hamdala. Soon you are in the groove of the scribe's pen, and words tumbling forward to the left lead you on to comprehend the author's thought. Some handwriting is so slanted and narrow (one of the styles, surely) that eye pupils elliptical in shape, like those of cats and foxes, might be more useful to a reader.

These non-scientific marginalia aside, cataloging of 380 + Arabic manuscripts (bound in 250+ volumes) was completed on 70 draft pages, with title index and shelflist on 3 x 5 inch cards. A review of names in on, and we have hopes to match some photocopies' anonymous first lines with a chance catalog entry back home here. A final attempt will be made at perfect typing of the printer's copy of the catalog with title and author indexes (then dispatch of the whole to Lebanon with some courier)—this is a sharp-elbowed priority in my scramble for time. Conservation efforts in rare book collections rely mostly on protective acid-free boxes or envelopes. We have been attempting to get an order of supplies sent out to protect each of the manuscripts and rare books.

There was plenty to do on the research project, beginning with a close reading and correction of the Rare Book Room shelf list, but our team did not miss a coffee or tea break while we were there. Sight-seeing was not at all emphasized, nor did we locate many of the bookstores. As to other libraries, I can briefly mention the American University: its Near East collection is understandably excellent, with depth and a long history of development. European books are a problem more in cost than in availability, I believe. They need more acquisitions even in Arabic to deepen their research capacity. Research in Christian Arabic bibliography will be a permanent project now for us. The Beirut
an introduction was a look into just one of the 19th century cyclotrons spinning off intellectual stimuli that spread through Arabic thought.

A beautiful city has been cleaved through the head in much cold blood, and now is growled over by proxy armies with weapons from Near East and Middle East, South, West and Far West. To prominent outsiders Lebanon is expendable, it has seemed. Now the flavored sound from an oriental scene has added to it incessant bruiting car horns, sometimes bedeviled and silenced at night by guns. These are sounds of someone’s impatience, symptoms of a deeper anger we share, in which no rhythm can be read. But each day did start well, and until now the people’s life still calls for many services, and to its own it does provide.

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**Book Review**

*Ellsworth on Ellsworth: an unchronological, mostly true account of some moments of contact between “library science” and me, since our confluence in 1931, with appropriate sidelights,* by Ralph E. Ellsworth. Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1981. (School of Library and Information Science Library Z720. E65A34)

50¢ bought a hundred pounds of potatoes, 17¢ bought a pound of coffee, and $2.250 bought a librarian fresh out of school. These were the circumstances when, in 1931, Ralph E. Ellsworth accepted his first professional library position at Adams State College. He was one of the three males in his graduating class of 123 at Western Reserve University School of Library Science, and his was the highest salary received by anyone in that class. This was merely the beginning of his privileged career in library science.

After this little introduction, Ellsworth digresses to his life and insightful observations as a farm boy in Iowa. He includes in this chapter a lovely photograph of The Yankee, a prize pig, and tells of the suffering kid who milked cows while being slapped in the face with mud balls at the ends of their tails. It was on that farm that he learned, among other things, a fine array of curses from the hired hands with whom he worked. In retrospect he discovered that watching the behavior of farm animals enabled him later in life to understand “the rational and irrational behavior of academic people, including librarians.”

Accounts of his college years and professional training follow, and then on to the earnest start of his career at the University of Colorado in 1937. He became active in numerous regional and national library associations, and was a vociferous proponent of such causes as centralized cataloging, microfilming, and modular design of library buildings. Ellsworth depicts himself as an energetic, innovative librarian, an able administrator, and a prolific writer. It is probably a combination of these attributes and the fact that he was a man, the significance of which he either doesn’t comprehend or doesn’t acknowledge, which created a demand for his services.

In the later stages of his career he became a consultant on library building planning in both the United States and in other countries. In recounting his experiences abroad,
Ellsworth treats his readers to some rare glimpses of foreign culture. In Saudi Arabia he was a consultant for the Riyadh University Library, where men and women were not permitted to occupy the same rooms. Egyptian architects worked on the problem of providing a card catalog for each of the two reading rooms without having to duplicate it. They proposed that the catalog rotate between the two rooms, but Ellsworth objected, speculating on someone using the catalog in one room when it was spun around to the other.

Although there are a few sections of *Ellsworth on Ellsworth* which provide little more entertaining reading than the phone book, most of it displays the author's fine humor, wit, and writing skill. He does, however, possess the annoying habit of name dropping, including that of Carl Jackson (to indulge in his weakness). This undoubtedly brings smiles to the faces of the friends and contemporaries whose names he drops, but serves little purpose to other readers.

Ellsworth paints a vivid picture of himself in this autobiography. He is intelligent, vivacious, and possesses an ample, if not oversized ego. He is affable to those he likes, scathing to those he dislikes or whose views oppose his own liberal ones. He has no qualms about criticizing "red-neck Republicans" or "their stupid, uninformed conservatism," the "western ignoramuses" to whom fringe church denominations appeal, and the "fat slobs" who feed marshmallow balls to the trout he loves so well to fish for. He is meticulous, sure of his righteousness, and enjoys telling others what to do. He has even admitted, however amusedly, that his bossiness drove his wife and sons to refuse to fish with him. By the closing pages of *Ellsworth on Ellsworth*, the reader can visualize a 72 year old codger, tough yet somehow human and even possibly amiable, thigh deep in a Colorado stream and draped with fishing gear, peacefully reflecting on a full and successful life.

**News**

An organizational meeting for an online users group will be held from 1 to 4:30 p.m. (EST) Wednesday, December 9, at the offices of the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority (INCOLSA) in Indianapolis.

Topics for discussion will include objectives of the organization, constitution and by-laws, programs and other activities, membership, and nomination of officers.

If interested, contact Becki Whitaker, Information Retrieval Specialist, Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority (INCOLSA), 1100 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46208, (317) 926-3361, SUVON 8951.