

ABSTRACTS

KELLNER Bernát: Thoughts on librarianship. – On the occasion of the anniversary of the library association, the honoured author, now retired, after several decades of being a librarian, deals first of all with the human factors of librarianship and the shaping of the sense of vocation. In the past a librarian was first of all a clerk, a "keeper of the library" with few exceptions; while after 1945 (the Liberation) librarians, who had come to themselves again, undertook a significant role in saving library collections and in the organization of cultural activities coming to life again. Later, with a fast increase in the number of libraries, lots of people – with no qualification but with a devotion to duty and with organizing ability, which was still more needed at that time – entered into the service of libraries. They did much for the development of Hungarian librarianship. The political and economic stabilization brought forth a development for librarianship too, hundreds of young people graduated from colleges and universities a year. Now, however, we can witness a slow decline again. The most urgent problems are: the development of technical equipment and the provision of an adequate replacement, which is hindered by the insufficient pecuniary and moral appreciation of librarians. (pp. 243–248.)

VÁLYI Gábor: The Association of Hungarian Librarians 50 years old. – The high and round number of years is no glory. The long time elapsed is unimportant; it is however interesting that the National Association of Museums and Librarians (which was not a direct legal predecessor of the association of today) held a meeting as early as 1905 (i.e. 80 years ago) and every year after that. It is more interesting that their themes and papers, recorded in the minutes, sound mostly current even today: a sound decentralization of cultural affairs, increasing the weight of education, the subject composition of public library collections, or the probable diminishing of the results of teaching without a library. Words occurring in titles are analysed and commented by the author, who finally emphasizes the importance of professional relations, largely fostered by the activities within the Association. (pp. 249–253.)

FUTALA Tibor: Turning over the pages of the Association of Hungarian Librarians year books. – The Association's predecessor functioned between 1935 and 1950, five year books were published during this time, and also *Magyar Könyvszemle* (Hungarian Book Review) was an organ of the Association. From 1956 the association continued its activity in the framework of the Society for Popularization of Scientific Knowledge. It has had its present organizational form from 1965 on. In 1981 also the archivists

joined. A change of name (e.g. into the Association of Hungarian Librarians, Archivists and Information Officers) would be timely. The popularity of the Association is shown by the large number of membership (fluctuating between 3500 and 3700) and the large number of participants in annual conferences. Year books have been published since 1973, these contain the papers presented at the annual conferences. It is questionable whether it is good that the year books concentrate so much on the materials of annual conferences. The delay (one year to one and a half) in publication should be decreased. (pp. 254–258.)

PRÖHLE Éva: National library associations in the world. – The first library associations (ALA and LA) were formed in the 1870s. A few decades later, but before the first world war, such organizations were established also in the majority of European countries. The associations were shaped in the countries of the third world only in recent decades. Several kinds of associations have been formed in highly developed capitalist countries. There exist associations general in scope and membership (such as LA or ALA), those with limited responsibility and membership (such as the Catholic Library Association), as well as associations covering either institutions or librarians (such as those in the FRG). The number of associations within a country also varies: 78 associations work in the US, 25 in the FRG, etc. Socialist countries have one association each. General objectives of the associations are to take part in the development of libraries, in library legislation and in library education. In addition, they play a determining role in organizing professional meetings. (pp. 259–268.)

PÁLVÖLGYI Mihály: Educational technology of library education. – Finding the teaching methods, instructional media and technical conditions following best the content taught is of increasing importance also in Hungarian library education. The characteristics of subjects taught determines the methods and media to be used. The comprehensive teaching objectives have to be further specified so that they could be realized. It is the responsibility of the teacher to create an adequate learning environment (methods, media, the combination of material and personal conditions). The proportion of teaching methods has changed, the time spent on individual learning and small group meetings, as against lectures, has increased. The parallel use of instructional media has gained ground. It is reasonable to evaluate, as a concluding step, the implementation of the teaching programme. (pp. 269–278.)

PAPP István: A new home for the Somogyi Library of Szeged completed. – The so far largest, newly built, public library building in Hungary is that of the Somogyi Library of Szeged. Accommodating of the over 100 years old stock caused difficulties, since the architect had his hands tied by several factors: the county archives and a refreshment room (serving the public of the open-air performances in summer) had also to be assigned a place within the same building; the environment determined the height of the building, etc. The building programme has undergone several changes. It is not favourable in the point of view of library technology that the building has six levels and a prolate rectangle

plan. Vertical traffic is easy, physically handicapped, however, cannot enter the library through the main entrance, because of a lot of stairs. The air conditioner has not been working undisturbedly yet. The functional drawbacks of the building are somewhat counterbalanced by its aesthetical values: users come with pleasure. (pp. 279–286.)

MÁRTYÁN Gyula: On the state of information user education. – The article provides additional material to NÉMETH Zsófia's writing (Könyvtári Figyelő, vol.30, no.6, 1984, pp.607–617) about the educational activity of the National Technical Information Centre and Library (OMIKK). The OMIKK runs an educational programme for potential users in one of the technical colleges in Budapest, as well as courses in the manager schools of the Ministry of Industries and of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, in the Chamber of Commerce, in several foreign trade companies and research institutes for middle and higher managers on the use of information. (pp. 287–290.)

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The activities of the Hungarian Council for Librarianship in 1984. (VÁLYI Gábor and PAPP István). – The Hungarian Council for Librarianship (OKT) closed a five-year cycle of operation in 1984. The Ministry of Culture set great value on the work done during the past years. The OKT worked continuously and regularly, its debates took place in a sincere atmosphere of both criticism and self-criticism, good proposals were elaborated, the most important ones of which were also published, so mobilizing the libraries for the performance of their tasks. However, a good many things have not realized, the remarks and proposals have not generated a constructive enough response either at the state administration or in the society. The OKT was unable to achieve a breakthrough in education and further education, introducing advanced information technology or realizing co-operation. Last year a development plan was worked out for the system of the professional further education of librarians, a national programme for stock protection was elaborated, investigations of the presence of foreign periodicals were started. Three permanent technical committees were set up. (pp.291–297.)

The working plan of the Hungarian Council for Librarianship for 1985. (pp. 297–299.)

Report of the National Széchényi Library Centre for Library Science and Methodology for 1984 (SZENTE Ferenc). – Efforts in network development and co-ordination were considerable. The outside working relations are good, but the collaboration with the network centres of school libraries should be bettered. The Institute has performed its duties in professional supervision, compiled a collection of models for information services to companies, made a comprehensive study of the role of county libraries in pedagogical information services and another study on the provision of musical literature. The state of classified catalogues in public libraries has been examined. Courses (of varied time) have been organized for reader services staff, publication editors, public relations officers, social sciences specialists. In addition to the above, work was continued in collection management and bibliographic counseling, the journal Új Könyvek (New Books) was published bi-weekly, the Library Science Library provided professional information and published documentation publications, such as Magyar Könyvtári Szakirodalom Bibliográfiája (the bibliography of Hungarian literature on librarianship), Hungarian Library and Information Science Abstracts and its Russian version, as well as the abstract journal Könyvtári és Dokumentációs Szakirodalom (Library and Documentation Literature). (pp. 300–307.)