ubc library bulletin

No. 114 November 19, 1974

N.M. YAKOVLEFF COLLECTION

A notable collection of Russian pre-Revolutionary historical material has been donated to the Library and will become part of Special Collections. Preliminary notes on some of the seventy-odd items in the Yakovleff Collection will give some idea of the quality of these books, which are expected to be of considerable interest to historians, literary scholars, and bibliophiles generally:

- The first Russian textbook of mathematics, astronomy, and navigation, published in Church Slavonic script, with numerous tables (1703);
- A work on canal and dock construction, commissioned by Tsar Peter I (published in 1708, the first year of book printing in Russian vernacular, using a new script especially suited to printing);
- Several 18th and 19th century genealogical works on Russian and Ukranian nobility, along with biographical dictionaries, and some lavishly produced compilations of hand-painted coats of arms and accounts of Russian and Polish noble families;
- The book published to mark the 1896 coronation of Nicholas II and Alexandra--a bibliographic "spectacular" which gives a historical survey of all Russian coronations, and accounts and reproductions of menus, programmes, posters, etc. from the last coronation, with many photographs of people connected with it.

If your curiosity has been aroused, you can watch for special displays in the new year.

CATALOGUE DIVISION HEADS MEETING (November 5th), MINUTES, EXTRACTS

I. Divisional Reports

1. Searching/LC Cataloguing reported that materials received two weeks ago are being catalogued...Ordering will be heavy for the next few months as departments attempt to spend their funds before the end of the fiscal year. Filing is fairly current... The Shastri blanket is resuming.

2. Original Cataloguing...Work has been heavy...Continuations received September 12 are being added...LC has answered our enquiry concerning the nonreceipt of Indic cards to say that the printing procedure was in process of change, and that cards will be en route shortly.

3. Preparations reported that due to heavy staff turnover in Marking and holiday time, books catalogued at the end of September and beginning of October are now being matched ...There are now 30 trucks in process. Input from floor 7 is up. 10,438 volumes were processed last month...Card Preparations finished the card set backlog created by the absence of anyone to cut cards...There is now a filing backlog.

II. Liaison Reports

Acquisitions reported that Richard Abel Company has been purchased by Follett... Receipt of blanket order books are down somewhat...There is now a six week turnaround for binding.

III. Other Business

Sample sets of cards have been received from Abel. They will be checked to see that their record of our requirements is correct...Abel is now estimating the cost of retrospective conversion of the shelf list in the event that outside funds are forthcoming for this project as a basis for a provincial union catalogue...Two Location File information cards are being inserted, one concerning unbound issues of journals, the other concerning missing Location File cards...A sign will be placed near the Subject Catalogue inviting patrons to drop terms they do not find listed in a Catalogue Crisis Centre box on the pillar just outside the turnstile...The three Catalogue Divisions each have staff working on a five day week, a four day week, and a nine day fortnight. This means that public service may contact the three divisions from 6 a.m. to 6 or 6:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. In addition, LC Cataloguing is staffed Monday and Wednesday to 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

COLLECTION SHARING DEVELOPMENTS

Finding better ways to share library resources is on the agenda of nearly every library meeting these days. Two developments just beginning at U.B.C. may help some of our off-campus borrowers to use U.B.C.'s collections more conveniently:

1. Interlibrary Loans to Capilano College:

In order to provide its students and faculty with priority service from U.B.C., Capilano College now employs a student from the School of Librarianship part-time to search out needed materials and deliver them personally to the College. Her name is Sharon Robertson, and at present she will be picking up books for Cap College every Thursday. It seems likely that the new service will encourage more borrowing from U.B.C. The fact that Sharon will be completing the ILL forms, gathering the books and doing any photocopying required should prevent the increase from adding greatly to workloads of our own staff.

2. G.V.L.C. Federated Information Network:

~~Beginning~~ Since Dec. 2, 1974, the U.B.C. ~~will participate~~ library has participated in an Information Network sponsored by the Greater Vancouver Library Council. The Network was set up to speed request and delivery of materials among the seven public libraries in the Greater Vancouver area. U.B.C. will be the first academic library to take part in the system. Requests are transmitted by telephone (G.V.L.C. ~~will~~ pays for a separate line in our Interlibrary Loans Division), and after the items are gathered together by a part-time staff member (also paid for by the G.V.L.C.), they are picked up daily by delivery van. ~~Among the~~ Other libraries participating are the Vancouver Public, Burnaby Public, North Vancouver Public ~~and~~ New Westminster Public ~~libraries~~, North Vancouver District, Port Moody Public and West Vancouver Memorial libraries.

U.B.C. students and faculty will, of course, be able to use the system to request materials from any of the public libraries in Greater Vancouver. ~~(As soon as possible an explanation of procedures, along with the special telephone number for each library, will be distributed to divisions and branches.)~~ Requests should be sent placed with the Main Library Interlibrary Loan Division. ~~Our~~ UBC's participation in the network will be reviewed at the end of March, 1975.

Also on the subject of shared resources, the second survey of Sunday library users took place on November 3rd. Initial results show that more library users were encountered than in last spring's survey (March 24), and that "visitors" to the eight libraries surveyed accounted for about 19°/o of the total use, compared with 17.4°/o last spring. A more detailed report will follow, but it appears that our efforts to provide formal avenues for collection sharing are overshadowed by an increasing tendency to exchange library users as well. Both trends provide ample evidence that many of the artificial barriers that once existed between libraries in this area are now beginning to disappear.

FORWARD

A letter concerning the Canadian Serials Directory was received by the Library recently. It came in a rather roundabout way, from Central Missouri State College, the sender, via Toronto. The address on the envelope read:

University of British Columbia Library
The National Library of Quebec
University of Toronto
Toronto, 181 Canada

FILING BLITZ

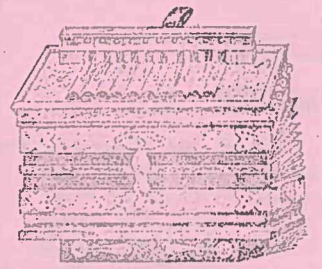
November 12th to 14th there was a filing blitz in the author/title catalogue from M to Z. "Blitz" is a dirty word meaning a group of people (in this case 22 Revisers, Typists, and Catalogue Maintainers) doing extra work (filing two inches of cards each). A blitz results when something goes wrong and a backlog develops. In this instance 1) attrition in the number of technical service staff members has reduced the number of people among whom filing is divided, so that there were no spares to cope with an unusual situation such as 2) a total staff turnover this summer among those who file M to Z. The fact that no one may use the bindery equipment during Percy Fryer's absence also resulted in a few days of no filing - we are dependent upon him to cut reproduced sheets of cards into card sets. The moral of all this is that every bone is connected to every other bone, and something happening one place has reverberations everywhere else. If you see grumpy technical services staff in the next few days, be sympathetic; they may be coping with a huge amount of filing revision.

NEW WORK PATTERNS IV: THE FLEXIBLE WORK WEEK

"The Board of Governors at its meeting on November 5, 1974, resolved, That the final report dated October 4, 1974, from Mr. B. Stuart-Stubbs, University Librarian with respect to the experimental work week in the University Library be received for information; and that Mr. Stuart-Stubbs is hereby authorized to implement a modified work week in divisions of the Library where an examination of modified and existing schedules shows there would be no drop in service or productivity."

Leah Gordon, L.A.V in LC Cataloguing, writes:

The flexible work week has been a fact of life in LC Cataloguing for well over a year now. I'm afraid that I have by now been virtually conditioned in my response to the question - "And how do you like the flexible work week?" The question is asked, a bell rings in my tiny mind, and I immediately begin spouting commercials for it: how great it is, etc., all designed to convince everyone that it's the only way to work. Well, now that the battle is won and I don't have to convince anybody: yes, I genuinely think it is great. Like most people, I found the initial changeover difficult; I was exhausted for about three weeks, and I slept my weekends away. I kept myself going with my grandfather's tales of 80 hour weeks; if he could do it, I could. Well - it is worth it. Once you adapt, you don't notice the longer hours at all. For me, the major change is in attitude: I get much more work done in the longer day, and my personal life seems much fuller. I feel that I can really do things on weekends, whereas before I felt that I was making it from vacation to vacation. As far as the rest of the department goes: people generally seem very happy with it. Most of those who work a flexible week can't imagine ever going back to the other. As far as the department's work is concerned: we have had no problem in staffing; the work is getting done; morale seems high. There is a hidden sick-leave factor too that nobody seems to mention: most people find it more convenient to make doctor's appointments for their day off, when they don't have to worry about getting back to work. This time was previously not counted as sick leave, and never really showed up anywhere. In sum: I couldn't be more for the flexible work week, from every point of view. I hope everyone else has the positive experience I have had with it.



ACCORDION

Doug McInnes, Assistant Librarian for Public Service, writes:

Several public service divisions have recently submitted proposals for a flexible work week. In most cases, with a few minor changes, an acceptable schedule has been arranged. Other divisions considering such a step may be interested in hearing about the problems presented by the modified work week in public service units.

Staffing requirements in service divisions are dictated chiefly by factors outside our control, such as the scheduling of classes and the habits and preferences of library users. A modified schedule must therefore provide adequate staffing at service points during busy periods and, if it presently exists, there should continue to be enough additional support at these hours to allow us to cope with emergencies. It's very difficult then to allow as many staff as might like to be away on Monday or Friday, the most popular days off. The four day week accentuates this particular problem, while with the nine day fortnight it is somewhat easier to handle. In some cases, willingness to take some of the extra days off on a day other than Monday or Friday makes a schedule workable.

Less serious, but still a problem in some divisions, is the tendency to prefer working the extra time each day in the early morning hours rather than at the end of the day. Since most public service desks aren't open until 8:00 or 8:30 a.m., the extra time may be less useful before 8:30 than it would be in the late afternoon. At best, this may eliminate one of the features of the modified work week that could help to compensate for staff shortages at other times. In some cases, it means that key people might not be available when public demand for their services is high.

With a degree of flexibility on the part of management and staff, it does seem possible to work out compromises in most cases. Since everyone is concerned with the need to maintain a good level of service and, at the same time provide more flexible working arrangements for staff, the problems can usually be overcome through discussion and experimentation.

Ray Galbraith, L.A.IV in Original Cataloguing, writes:

Many support staff have been active over the past two or three years in making the flexible work week a reality. The process has been both frustrating and worthwhile...and now it is good to see that the reception granted the flexible week has been generally favourable.

Flexibility offers us the potential for more leisure, for increased opportunity to unwind from work, to accomplish more for ourselves. It has also been advantageous to the Administration, as the six-month report on the modified work week, issued in December 1973, indicated. Measurable production was up, while sick leave had fallen, and public service had not been adversely affected.

The opportunity to work flexible hours, to allow employees some choice, is somewhat progressive, but there is still room for improvement. The most evident area is to have the work week reduced to 32 hours. This would ease the strain of the long daily hours involved in working the four day week, and it would counter the objections of those who see the eight hour day - with its history as a long-sought goal for Canadian working people-as symbolic, and who feel that workers should work no more than eight hours a day.

Significant gains have been accomplished recently, and there is no reason not to work for and expect future changes. Just as the success of the flexible week in the Library last year led to its being formalized in AUCE's contract, so other forms of flexibility can be experimented with and then formally instituted. In the long run, we will need the security that formal contracts provide; in this case, the case of flexible hours, without the contract for support staff the rising star of flexibility and its attractiveness would have been dimmed, tarnished.

LETTERS TO THE Bulletin

Dear Bulletin,

Thanks for the article on the part-time work in the November 1st issue. I hope to hear more on this subject in future issues.

As an L.A. with three years experience at the U.B.C. Library, I am interested in the possibility of combining continuing education with my work here, on a half and half basis.

In the past, I have given up my job to go back to school. The disadvantages in this are many, but for me the loss of contact with what is happening at the Library is the most noticeable.

Elizabeth Brock
L.A. III, L.C. Cataloguing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAZINESS

Just the other morning, someone phoned the Main Information Desk to get call numbers for three books. Nothing unusual. The staff member was busy with patrons and arranged to phone back, as soon as she could. When she'd gotten the information and phoned back, she found herself talking to someone in one of the Main Library divisions. Someone who could quite easily have come to check the card catalogue herself. Please try to remember that things can get pretty rushed at the Info. Desk. Library staff are there to serve users and there are plenty of them who need help. If you can make it to the catalogue yourself, do it.

MANAGEMENT INTERN PROGRAM

The Council on Library Resources in Washington, D.C. is sponsoring an Academic Library Management Intern Program to assist in the development of managers for large research and academic libraries. Five mid-career librarians of outstanding leadership potential will be provided with an opportunity to participate. For more information, the flyer is available for your perusal, in the Information & Orientation Division, anytime.

WANTED

The following out-of-print items are needed to complete the Library's holdings:

B.C. Motorist vol.9 no.2 (1970) and vol.10 no.2 (1971)
B.C. Sports and Recreation vol.2 no.1 and 3 (1971)
Campus (Toronto) vol.3 no.9 (May 1971) and vol.4 no.6-7 (Feb-Mar 1972)
I.F. Stone's Weekly vol.15 no.24-25 (1967)
Journal of Business Administration vol.4 no.1 (1973)
Soleil de Colombie (Vancouver) vol.3 no.10, 28 (July 1970 and May 1971)
Western Fish and Wildlife vol.1 no.1 and 3 (1966); vol.2 no.6 (Nov. 1967); vol.3 no.2 (Mar 1968); vol.4 no.6 (Nov. 1969)

If you can supply any of these, please contact G. Elliston at 2304.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

LC Classification Bookmark (reprint). A handy reference tool. Carry a schematic diagram of all human knowledge in your hip pocket! I & O Division.
Start Here series. - No. 43 (Int'l Marketing Theory). Social Sciences Division.
- No. 44 (Women). Social Sciences Division.

NEW APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS & RESIGNATIONS

NEW APPOINTMENTS

E. Ellington	Tech.II	Crane Library
N. Howard	L.A.II	Catalog Prep.
S. Kelemen	L.A.I	Woodward Library
R. Penzari	L.A.I	Fine Arts Div.
P. Terakita	KPO I	Catalog Prep.
C. Trites	L.A.I	Woodward Library

RESIGNATIONS

Belvon Jung	L.A.IV	Sedgewick Library
Pat Hutchinson	Clerk III	Administration
Beverley Kinsey	L.A.I	Law Library
Fiona Lanzarotta	L.A.III	Woodward Library

PROMOTIONS

Susanne Lester, L.A.III, Sedg. to L.A.IV, Sedg.
Fannie Woodsworth, L.A.IV, L.C. Cat. to Librarian, L.C. Cat.

TRANSFERS

Valerie Siegel, L.A.I, Woodward #214 to L.A.I, Woodward #216