

THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

FROM ITS CREATION TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

1927 - 1940

by

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Master's Thesis.

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the award of the Master of Library Studies of the
Loughborough University of Technology.

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Leiden, The Netherlands, October 1976.

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Preface.

In this thesis I will trace the history of the International Federation of Library Associations from the conceivment of the idea, in Prague in 1926 to its creation in Edinburgh in 1927 and through its early years up to World War II. As sources I have mainly used the proceedings of the annual meetings, published in the first eleven volumes of the "Actes du Comité International des Bibliothèques". No doubt a careful study of the archives of the Federation would yield further interesting information on the development in these early years, but this would have led me too far for the present purpose.

The "Actes" give the proceedings of the IFLA meetings in the four languages of the federation: English, French, German and Italian, although this last language was used very little. Wherever I have cited the text of the Actes I have translated it into English, if the text was published in any of the other three languages. I apologize if these translations are not always perfect.

I hope to have given a good picture of the activities of the Federation in these early years and of the development of this organization from an idea backed by 15 countries to an active federation with ca. forty members.

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Chapter I. Prehistory and Foundation.

A. Introduction.

Like many other organizations, the International Federation of Library Associations was not formed suddenly, but had a certain pre-history. In the case of IFLA we really ought to go back to 1876, the year in which the American Library Association was established. This first official organization of librarians was to play an important part in national and in international librarianship. The English librarians were the first to follow the example of their American colleagues. They met in 1877 in London, holding, together with representatives from a number of other countries, a meeting which was called "the First International Conference of Librarians". That year the Library Association of the United Kingdom was formed.

United by a common language, the British and the American Library Association kept in fairly close contact, and in 1897 they organized the Second International Library Conference, which was attended by delegates from many countries. Three years later, in 1900, a Congrès International des Bibliothécaires was held in Paris. Coordination was obviously lacking, resulting in these rather too frequent independently organized meetings. At the end of the 1900 Congress it was decided that this situation needed improving, and that an International Conference should be organized every five years. However no further steps were taken to this purpose.

The idea of more organized international cooperation and some kind of permanent body responsible particularly for the organization of regular international conferences, was again discussed at an ALA-meeting in Saint Louis in 1904 and also at the Congrès International des Archivistes et des Bibliothécaires in Brussels in 1910. However, the plans never seem to have taken any more definite shape. The first World War prevented any further international congresses and therewith any developments in this field for the next fifteen years. However, the idea did not die; it only lay dormant, till it was revived by Mr. Henriot¹⁾ in 1926. Mr. Henriot could be

1) further information on people mentioned can be found in Annex III.

called the spiritual father of IFLA, since it was he who pushed the idea and gave it shape resulting in 1927 in the creation of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee.

B. Prague, 28th June - 3rd July 1926.

The first international meeting of librarians after the war was the "Congrès International des Bibliothécaires et des amis du Livre", held in Prague, 28th June till 3rd July 1926. At this meeting Mr. Henriot revived the idea of an international organization for librarians. In the years after the First World War people had great hopes for the future and they expected much from international cooperation and international organizations. An example was their early faith in the League of Nations. Certain professions, too, began to organize themselves internationally. So it should not surprise us to see the librarians of the Western world go along with the mood of the time in their eagerness to form an international body. An eagerness strong enough to give a definite shape to the vague pre-war ideas.

Many interesting topics were discussed at the Prague meeting. International matters concerning libraries were discussed by Section I. In the session of this Section on 29th June, Mr. M.G. Henriot, speaking for the French Library Association, proposed:

"the constitution of an international permanent Comité directeur representing the various national associations of librarians".¹⁾ As had been discussed before the war, he saw the need for a permanent contact, particularly for the organization of conferences:

"It is necessary ... to coordinate our action, to maintain a permanent contact between our associations, and to cooperate for international manifestations, such as Congresses, for which as timetable ought to be prepared in advance".²⁾

He also wanted this Committee to work in the field of bibliographies:

"...that the Comité directeur-....-should be charged with distributing to the various national associations a list each year of the principal reference works, published in the course of that year, for all the branches of human knowledge".³⁾

1) Actes du Comité International des Bibliothèques, Vol. I. pp. 3.

Uppsala, 1931.

2) idem, p. 4.

3) idem, p. 4.

Professional status was another consideration for creating such an international body of librarians:

"The Comité directeur should have a greater authority than our national associations, to plead the so badly known cause of modern librarians".¹⁾

A sub-committee was formed, consisting of I. Collijn, Sweden, G. Henriot, France, A. Hilsenbeck, Germany, V. Tilke, Czechoslovakia, and L. Wharton, England. This committee composed a resolution, elaborating Mr. Henriot's suggestion, which was included in the final resolution of the Section as well as in the final resolution of the Congress as a whole.

It was decided that:

- while there was no definite organization, each Association would appoint a delegate.
- the Committee must assume responsibility for the execution of the resolutions taken.
- the Committee must fix the place and date of the next official international congress.
- it must establish relations with the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, and find out if the Committee could have a permanent Bureau at the Institute.
- any Association should be able to ask the Committee's intervention in library matters, particularly to defend professional interests.
- the Committee should suggest, centralise and start any tasks which need international cooperation, such as yearly lists of the principal bibliographies.
- it should study the possibilities of extending the relations with archivists.
- it should examine any problems submitted that dealt with international or cooperative matters.

Some contribution would be expected from each association.²⁾

Mr. Henriot was appointed as delegate to discuss the matter with the Institute of Intellectual Cooperation in Paris.

It is obvious that Mr. Henriot wanted a committee which would not

1) Actes du Comité International des Bibliothèques, Vol. I. pp. 4. Uppsala, 1931.

2) For comprehensive records of the Proceedings see: "Congrès International des bibliothécaires et des amis du livre" 1928-29, 2 vols. State Printing House. Prague. Tenu à Prague, du 28 juin au 3 juillet 1926. Actes vol. I. pp. 5-6.

only prepare conferences and execute resolutions taken, but also a permanent body which could deal with any international or cooperation problems on an international level. He also - rightly - saw the need for a bureau or permanent secretariat and for financial support. The representative of the United Kingdom Library Association and the British Museum, L.C. Wharton reported on the Congress in the Library Association Record, calling the scheme "worthy of our support", and promised his personal support for its execution.

Although the organization finally to be called IFLA in 1929 differed from Mr. Henriot's proposals in various respects, this Prague scheme really was the beginning of IFLA. As Rudolf Malek said:

"In the nine points of this resolution almost all the basic ideas can be found which characterize, one year later, the officially established international organization of librarians, IFLA, and which influenced the entire future activity".¹⁾

I thought it would be useful at this stage to add a note on the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, as this will play an important part in the development of IFLA up to the second World War. The Institute for Intellectual Cooperation was established in 1925. In that year the French Government agreed to establish and maintain in Paris an Institute, run by the International Committee of Intellectual Cooperation. The French government would give a yearly allowance, but other countries could also contribute financially. The Institute was housed in a wing of the Palais Royal, and opened in January 1926.

The Institute was meant to be a preparing and executing body for the Committee of Intellectual Cooperation, as the Committee itself lacked the means and personnel to achieve anything substantial. The Committee was subdivided into three Sub-Committees, of which the Sub-Committee for Bibliography and Science was the most important one from our point of view. The Institute was divided into seven Sections, one of which was the Section of Scientific Relations and Bibliography. Mr. De Vos van Steenwijk became the head of this Section.

1) On the origin of the International Organization of Librarians (IFLA)
Rudolf Malek, Libri, 20, 1970, p. 223/24.

Many plans reached the Section, particularly in the field of bibliography. This was (and is) indeed a very important field of librarianship. The Institute's function in this and other library fields was meant to be mainly coordinating: acting as a go-between to stimulate cooperation. At the time selective, analytical bibliographies were considered particularly important. Also accurate information about libraries in each country, information on lending etc. was much needed. To this end, for example, the Institute sent a circular to many libraries.¹⁾

In its function of stimulator of cooperation between experts, the Institute has played a very important role in the development of librarianship in the years before the war.²⁾

C. Atlantic City, 1926.

In October 1926 the American Library Association held its fiftieth Anniversary Conference at Atlantic City and Philadelphia. The meeting was attended by many European guests. It seemed a good occasion to discuss international matters, so on October 7th, the ALA committee on International Relations called an informal meeting for the discussion of international cooperation. Mr. Henriot had distributed proposals concerning headquarters for the Provisional International Library Committee created at Prague. He had discussed the matter with the I.I.I.C. in Paris and now reported on the results, coming to the following conclusions. It seemed best that the Committee should maintain a connection with the Institute, but retain its complete independence, having a permanent headquarters elsewhere. However, as proximity to the Institute might be useful, Mr. Henriot proposed to place the Bureau in Paris, in the building occupied by the American Library and Library School. The new Bureau and the Library and the School would all profit from the arrangement, making the building into a true international library centre. The headquarters should function under the control and patronage of the American Library and the Comité Français de la Bibliothèque moderne, with the advice of the faculty of the Paris Library School, of which Mr. Henriot was a

1) Bibliothekleven, Special issue 1926. Dr. J.E. Baron De Vos van Steenwijk on the I.I.I.C. p. 84-90.

2) In the rest of this work the Institute will be called I.I.I.C. and the Committee I.C.I.C.

professor. The \$ 2,000 needed would have to come from subscriptions. As to activities, Mr. Henriot proposed an organization:

- "1. where librarians of all nations as a body can seek general information and offers and requests for employment, employment exchange, travel in foreign countries, travelling expenses etc.,
2. where the faculty of library schools will obtain information and make comparisons on international instructions in library management, school programs, functions and administration, statistics, exchange between nations of faculty and students, equivalence of diploma's, etc.,
3. where one can study improved methods of documentation; the publication through international cooperation of manuals and bibliographical works; information on indexes under way or projected, regulations concerning bibliographical and statistical registration of publications; uniform dictionary of library terms; international exchanges; lending of manuscripts, propaganda directed to the governments of various countries pushing international agreements, etc." ¹⁾

Many librarians reacted positively, but they were not authorized to give a definite answer to the proposals. It was therefore decided to discuss the matter in more detail informally during the post-conference trip. As a result a resolution was submitted and accepted at the end of the trip. It was decided that the ALA should take the initiative and

"submit to the different national organizations the proposal to discuss the forming of an International Library Committee with the prospect that such discussion may be so far advanced at the time of the Edinburgh meeting of next year that definite action then may be taken by authorized representatives of the different national organizations" ²⁾

It was hoped that the various associations would come to a decision within their own organizations as to the desirability of Mr. Henriot's plans. The activities envisaged by him were all important, beyond doubt, although all together they formed far too great a task for a newly

1) Actes Vol. I., p. 8-9.

2) Actes, Vol. I., p. 10.

created body. Mr. Henriot was either far too ambitious for his planned creation, or he was thinking in terms of many years to come.

His American proposals certainly formed a more clearly defined program than was considered in Prague. It is curious, however, that the organization of international conferences was not mentioned. Again we can only guess at the reason. Either he assumed this as the Committee's first task, or he did not find it such an important function after all.

We also wonder why the ALA was given the initiative, thereby excluding Mr. Henriot. Whatever the reasons were for this arrangement, it had consequences for the Committee as formed in Edinburgh.

D. Edinburgh, 1927.

The British Library Association held its fiftieth Anniversary Conference at Edinburgh, September 26th - 30th 1927. International affairs were discussed by the Section for International Library Cooperation, which had its first session on September 27th. Dr. De Vos van Steenwijk, chief of the Section of Scientific Relations of the I.I.I.C. was present to present and explain the resolutions and recommendations of the Institute.

At this first session the possibilities of an International Association were discussed in rather general terms. There were two proposals: on the one hand the proposal of the ALA-conference and the ALA report made since the conference, and on the other hand a proposal based on a plan developed by the I.C.I.C.-sub-committee for Bibliography, in which the Institute was seen as the permanent centre.

A committee of seven, each representing a different country, was appointed to consider the proposals. On September the 30th this committee reported and came with a proposal. On the enquiry of the ALA 10 countries had announced their readiness to join the American project. At the Edinburgh Conference five more authorized delegates had announced their approval. The main speaker and defender of the plan was Dr. Hugo Krüss, General Director of the Prussian State Library, who advocated the plan with great skill and pertinacity,

pushing aside the I.C.I.C.-project with kindness but determination.¹⁾

The proposal was worded as follows:

"We, the undersigned representatives of National Library Associations, in conference at Edinburgh, 30th September 1927, adopt the following resolution with the understanding that neither this action nor any action which may be taken by the Committee shall be binding on any national library association until ratified by the association.

1. Resolved that we hereby establish the International Library and Bibliographical Committee.
2. The Committee shall consist of members selected by the national library associations which ratify this action...
3. The duties of the Committee shall be to select the time and place for the international library conferences and, with the co-operation of local committees, to prepare programs for such conferences; and to make investigations and recommendations concerning international relations between libraries, organizations of librarians and bibliographers, and other agencies.
4. International library conferences shall be held at least once in five years. The first conference ... shall be held in 1929 or 1930 ... The first plenary session of the Committee shall be held within one year from this date.
5. The Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees from its own membership or from the membership of any of the cooperating national library associations.
6. The Officers of the ... Committee shall be a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, and a Secretary. These, with four other members, shall constitute the Executive Committee ...
7. We do not think it necessary for the present to ask for any contributions from the national organizations ..."

The Resolution of Edinburgh was signed by delegates from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States. IFLA was born, although not yet

1) Bibliotheekleven jaarg. 13 - 1928, p. 4 E. de Clercq. Internationaal Congres van Bibliothecarissen te Edinburg.

in name.

It is interesting to trace the development of the idea of an international organization from its re-emerging at Prague to its realization in Edinburgh. In the Resolution of Edinburgh the main stress was again on the organization of international conferences. The other tasks have been pushed into the background again. The Committee seems to have been satisfied for the time being with the establishment of closer, better regulated international contacts between librarians. There was no longer any mention of a bureau, nor of any particular relationship with the Institute or Committee of Intellectual Cooperation, or the American Library in Paris. Neither was it thought necessary to have any money available. It is obvious that the Committee thus established would not be able to do any of the tasks allotted to such an organization by Mr. Henriot, except for organizing congresses. In fact the new Committee's organization was close to what Mr. Henriot had originally proposed in Prague, although even then he saw the need for a permanent Bureau and for subscriptions. However, all the work, thought and discussion that had gone into his plans and had transformed them since Prague, were ignored in the forming of the eventual Committee in Edinburgh.

The differences between Mr. Henriot's proposals as discussed at the ALA Conference in 1926, and the actual Resolution signed in Edinburgh in 1929 can be explained only as the result of an opposition that seems to have grown between the advocates of the plan originating from America, and the I.I.I.C. Mr. Henriot's plans which had by now almost become I.I.I.C.-plans, and were probably presented through their representative Dr. De Vos van Steenwijk. For some reason this plan was effectively opposed. Either it was thought too ambitious, or, more likely, it was felt to be too much in the hands and the power of the I.I.I.C. The absence of Mr. Henriot himself in Edinburgh may have had something to do with it. The development of the organization in the following years would no doubt have been different had he been there.

In conclusion it might be interesting to see some of the reactions

to the creation of this new body. In the Library Association Record of 1927 it was mentioned as one of the two points achieved by the Jubilee Conference: "There was formed a permanent organization, under the chairmanship of Dr. Collijn, of Stockholm, to arrange international conferences (or, more strictly, an international character for a selected national conference) every three or four years".¹⁾

This is all that was said. The editor of Library Association Record refrained as yet from any comment on the value of such an organization. The full text of the Resolution was published in 1928, again without any comment.²⁾

Perhaps more interesting is the report from the Dutch representative. He found the Edinburgh Conference too much exclusively English-American orientated, and therefore doubted the usefulness of such conferences for countries like Holland. I think it is good to realize this Anglo-American predominance and the obvious difference in development between these two countries and certain other countries at this stage in the field of librarianship. We must realize that, although 15 countries signed the resolution, not all of these were equally ready or capable to support the project actively.

Mr. De Clerq reported on the developments since Atlantic City and the discussion at Edinburgh. He was particularly impressed with the performance of Mr. Krüss in defending the plan. He noticed that for the time being the establishment of contacts through conferences was considered sufficient, in spite of the original aims concerning international loans and international information services etc. He also mentioned the intention to establish some connection with a larger body, with possibilities for the future and financial capacities, such as the League of Nations.³⁾ However this intention was nowhere mentioned in the official statements. For comments on the possible usefulness of the International Committee, we have to wait till 1929.

With the ratification of the Edinburgh Resolution by a number of national library associations, the International Library and Bibliographical Committee was officially established and was ready to start work.

1) Library Association Record, Vol. 29, 1929, p. 252.

2) Library Association Record, Vol. 30, 1928, p. 60-61.

3) Bibliotheekleven, Jaarg. 13, 1928, p. 4 E. de Clerq Internationaal Congres van Bibliothecarissen te Edinburg.

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Chapter II. Early Years.

A. First Plenary Session, Rome, 1928.

In accordance with the Edinburgh Resolution, the first Plenary Session of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee was held within one year after the Edinburgh Conference. The Chairman, Dr. I. Collijn, (Sweden), invited the delegates to a meeting in Rome, on the 31st March, 1928. In answer to this invitation delegates from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Holland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States came to Rome for the meeting.

There was an Agenda for this meeting with twelve items, of which the most important were:

- the election of a temporary secretary,
- the election of the Executive Committee,
- time and place for the next international library meeting,
- proposition by Mr. Godet concerning the programme of the future Congresses,
- appointments of sub-committees.

It is obvious that this first meeting was mainly devoted to matters of a practical, organizational character, as could be expected.

First the Chairman submitted his report regarding preliminaries executed by him. Fourteen countries had ratified the Edinburgh Resolution, namely: Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United States. Of the 15 countries, whose delegates signed the resolution, only Denmark had not ratified it yet, because its association had not yet met. Poland was expected to join too. From Estonia, Latvia, and Japan there had been no answer. In Hungary and Spain efforts were being made to form a library association. Dr. Collijn had not succeeded yet in obtaining information from Russia. We see that it was the intention to get all the possible countries of Western and Eastern Europe to join, and even some Asian countries. The other three Continents did not come into it. It basically was a

North-American - West-European organization, at this stage.

The Executive Committee was elected: Chairman: Collijn; Vice-Chairmen: Bishop and Fago.

The appointment of Mr. Sevensma as Secretary was discussed. Dr. Collijn explained why it would be desirable to have the Director of the Library of the League of Nations as permanent Secretary to the Committee. It would obviously be a very strategic move to involve this man, whose work placed him in such a geographically and organizationally central position. However, as Mr. Sevensma could only accept under certain conditions, a decision on this matter was deferred until the next Congress.

A letter had been received from the Italian delegate, containing an invitation to hold the next International Congress in Rome. This invitation was accepted, and it was decided to hold the Congress in Rome in the middle of June 1929.

As item 8 of the agenda, Mr. Godet presented some very interesting proposals concerning the principles of the programme of future meetings:

"I. The program of the Library Congress will be restricted chiefly to questions of the following character:

- a) international, that is to say, those concerning the international relations of libraries and of international bibliography.
- b) general - that is to say, questions which are of interest to the librarians of the whole world.

The program will deal with no matters of a special character other than those serving as an introduction to visits to collections in the city where the meetings of the Congress take place, or as general orientation to the libraries of that country.

II. The sole discussions to be permitted at the Congress, are as follows:

- a) Propositions and requests presented by the International Committee or by one of the national Committees.
- b) Individual propositions and requests made by one of the Associations or Institutes mentioned below.

III. All propositions and requests shall be communicated by the Executive Committee to the delegates of the National Associations in sufficient time to permit the latter to examine them before the Congress and, if possible, submit them to the national organizations which they represent.

IV. The program of the forthcoming Congress shall include, amongst other things, a report and propositions of the Executive Committee touching the two following questions:

- a) Relations with the I.C.I.C. (Geneva) and the I.I.I.C. (Paris).
- b) Relations with the Institut International de Bibliographie (Brussels) and the bibliographical Conferences organized by this Institut."¹⁾

At the suggestion of Mr. Bishop the propositions, approved as a whole by the Committee, were handed over for further examination to the Committee on by-laws to be appointed. The proposals stated some interesting points of organization. The restriction of matters to be discussed was an important point; the problem raised in III would be one of the major problems of the organization in the years to come; and the relationship to other organizations and institutes would also be a matter of much concern. Mr. Godet rightly saw that having a permanent secretary connected with the League of Nations was not sufficient. The new Committee would have to find its place in relation to the existing (and future) bodies in the same or connected fields.

At the suggestion of Mr. Milam, six sub-committees were formed, each with a president and one or more members:

- a) Committee on classification schemes for international use.
- b) Committee on international catalogue rules.
- c) Committee on current bibliographies and on an international code for bihliographers.
- d) Committee on international scholarships, fellowships and exchange of librarians and assistants.
- e) Committee on education for librarianship.
- f) Committee on by-laws for eventual regulations supplementary to the resolutions adopted at Edinburgh.

1) Actes, Vol. I, pp 38.

As we can see these six committees dealt with a selection of the issues suggested by Mr. Henriot in America. The first three committees were meant to deal with questions of standardization in fact. This problem of international standards in library matters would rightly be a major issue for IFLA in the following years. International exchange also was of continental interest, and library education would become more and more important. Altogether these first sub-committees seem a fair representation of the problems that occupied librarians, and therefore IFLA, in the years before the second War, even though the choice of issues at the time seems to have been mainly decided by Mr. Milam's suggestion, and probably reflected his personal interests.

There does not seem to have been any discussion on what these committees were supposed to do, and how they were supposed to go about it. A thorough discussion of the place, function, and working-method of sub-committees at this stage might have avoided many problems. However, the Committee obviously had not developed that far yet.

As to reactions to this first plenary session, the Dutch delegate J.S. Theissen reported in Bibliotheekleven¹⁾, voicing some of his doubts and hopes. He stressed the work done by the temporary president Mr. Collijn (now elected president), and the importance of the meeting in preparing the way for the Congress. He thought that some of the measures desired, such as uniformity in classification, cataloguing, the arrangement of bibliographies and abbreviations might certainly have a practical usefulness for librarianship. No doubt something could be achieved, although he obviously doubted whether the result would be impressive. He particularly doubted the ability of older libraries to make any changes in order to achieve such standardization. He only believed in new libraries being built up along the same lines. This lack of faith in the adaptability or willingness to change among the settled librarians I find rather worrying. One wonders whether this attitude was widespread.

However Mr. Theissen did believe in the usefulness of international library meetings in enabling librarians from all over the world to get

1) Bibliotheekleven, Jaarg. 13, 1928 pp. 133.

J.S. Theissen, Vergadering van het International Library and Bibliographical Committee.

to know each other personally. He thought that if the leaders of the main libraries of the Western world knew each other as friends, this would considerably help the traffic of books and information between these centres of learning. People always make more of an effort for friends than for unknown foreigners. It is typical of the times that he could still believe in such friendships actually having some effect on international relationships in the field of librarianship; it reminds us how restricted this field still was. Although the building up of such personal contacts has certainly been an important element of all IFLA meetings, I am glad to be able to say that it has achieved some more palpable results over the years, as well.

B. Second Plenary Session, First Meeting, Rome, 14 June, 1929.

The Chairman I. Collijn, invited the delegates to this second plenary session because, according to the Edinburgh Resolution, the Committee should meet at the time of each International Congress. This meeting was attended by the delegates from Germany, United States, England, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Holland, Italy, Japan, Lettland, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and Czechoslovakia and by a delegate from the League of Nations. The most important items on the agenda were the Statutes, and the change of name, the proposition of Mr. Godet, and the finance.

First the Chairman read his report. Six more countries had joined the organization: Denmark, Poland, Esthonia, Japan, Lettland, and Mexico. Also a letter had just been received, stating that the Library Association of Hungary had very recently been formed and was willing to join. Mr. Collijn recounted the proceedings of the first plenary session for the benefit of the new-comers, and explained some of the details of the World Congress.

Next he proposed to discuss a change of name for the Committee. He thought that the Union was by now too comprehensive to be characterized by the word 'Committee'. Already 21 associations belonged to it, and more were expected to join. The word 'Bibliographical' had been added originally at the proposal of Mr. Guppy, but this was

not considered a necessary part of the name, as the inclusion of bibliographical tasks in the work of the committee was thought to be self-evident. The Chairman therefore proposed the name "The International or the World's Union of Library Associations". After some discussion it was decided to change the name to: "Fédération Internationale des Associations des Bibliothécaires" (FIAB), or International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), or in German "Internationaler Verband der Bibliotheksvereine", in Italian: "Federazione Internazionale delle Associazioni dei Bibliotecari".

The Executive Committee would be called "The International Library Committee". All this was approved by the delegates at the first meeting of the Plenary session preceding the Congress, and would be laid before the coming International Congress.

According to the Edinburgh Resolution par. 6: "The Secretary may be, but need not be, a member of the Committee designated by some national association". The present committee gratefully used this possibility, which allowed them to choose Mr. Sevensma, present at the meeting as delegate of the League of Nations, as their Secretary. This was obviously a wise move: The President remarked that the choice of Mr. Sevensma would attach the new Federation to the League of Nations, of which the I.C.I.C. had created a (special) sub-committee for bibliographical matters, and that by the fact of the choice itself, a close collaboration was ensured between on the one hand the Sub-committee for Bibliography and the I.I.I.C. and on the other hand the new Federation."¹⁾ Mr. Sevensma was happy to accept the post offered.

Although no official policy had been adopted, the relationship with the League of Nations and the Institute in Paris, which had earlier been thought so important, had thus been established informally through the person of Mr. Sevensma. By this move a very important task and a heavy responsibility had been put on his shoulders. It is doubtful whether it really was a wise move to entrust both one of the most important functions in the Federation, and the go-between function between the Federation and the League of Nations

1) translated from the French by the author, Actes, Vol. I, p. 37.

and the I.I.I.C. to one person only. However Mr. Sevensma would prove to be very capable to deal with all this.

The propositions made by Mr. Godet during the session of 1928, had since been examined. The Section concerned now came with the following proposition:

"We favour the approval of the propositions of Mr. Godet in their present form, provided they are interpreted liberally.

As to the first proposition we are of opinion that this proposition may be interpreted so as to permit a discussion in general of the most important developments in library service in the several countries and not only of proposals for international cooperation. Too long papers describing in detail the work of individual libraries are not desirable, unless they have relation to libraries in other countries.

Regarding the proposition 4, Mr. Milam proposes, that the Congress should include a discussion of our relations not only with the I.C.I.C., the Paris Institute, the Brussels Institute, but also with the World Association for Adult Education, the World Federation of Education Associations and with associations, institutes and bureaux, which are concerned with the international exchange of students and professors."¹⁾

To his original proposals Mr. Godet added the observation that in order to arrive at really useful results it would be necessary to limit the discussion to questions of which the solution demanded international collaboration. One single issue could really be studied in detail. He therefore proposed:

"For each congress one special question shall be chosen".

This was accepted by the delegates. This decision ended the discussion on the first three points of the original proposal, so that no further decisions were taken on the other points raised in these propositions: the kind of chairman's mistake we may find in the minutes of meetings anywhere!

Proposition 4 would be studied closer by the Committee, considering the relations with all international organizations in the field.

1) Actes, Vol. I, p. 39.

It was decided that resolutions adopted by the International Congresses organized by IFLA would only become effective or carry force when they had been approved by the International Library Committee. Of course in every country the national library association would have to decide whether the recommendations would be acted on in that country or whether a decision would be ratified. IFLA after all never had, and never would have any real power in itself, and the Congresses even less.

It had by now become clear that nothing substantial could be done without some money. A minimum annual contribution was proposed. It was decided to raise the matter during the Congress.

The Chairman invited the delegates for a meeting in Stockholm in August 1930. The Statutes said that: "Plenary sessions of the Committee must be held in connection with each international library Conference. Other sessions may be held at the call of the Chairman and must be held when requested by one third of the Committee".¹⁾

Although no decision was taken at this stage to meet annually, such a pattern was clearly arising. This pattern would persist, although I do not think that any official decision to this effect was ever taken. For the moment it was only thanks to the active President. His activity has substantially influenced the development of the Federation in the early years.

Second Plenary Session, Second Meeting, Florence, 25th June 1929.

This time the delegates met to discuss the Statutes for IFLA drafted by Mr. Milam. After some discussion they were adopted. They would be presented to the General Assembly of the Congress in Venice. Other matters discussed were the usefulness of continuing the representation of each member-association, the budget of the Secretariat, and the way to calculate the contribution of each country. (for Statutes, see Annex I.)

1) Statutes, see Annex I.

C. First World Congress, Rome, Venice, Florence, 1929.

Although called a world congress, this first international meeting during the existence of the International Library Committee was, as had been reported in the Library Association Record¹⁾, not so much an international conference, as a national conference with an international character. The plenary meeting of the Committee in 1928 had given the push to the organization of this congress by choosing the place and time and appointing Mr. Fago as chairman of the Local Committee. The actual organization was left almost completely to this Committee and the Government of Italy.

It is difficult to find much exact information on this Conference. The complete proceedings were published in Italian²⁾, but they were never fully translated in any more commonly used language, as far as I know. We therefore depend for our information on the resolutions as discussed in further sessions of the International Library Committee (1930 and following) and on the reports of some of the national representatives.

The representative for England gave an account of the Congress in the Library Association Record of 1929, p. 180-182. Apart from the fact that there were 18 sections and 140 papers, this report does not provide us with much factual information on the actual Congress. It does mention the change in the Statutes of the International Committee, which we will discuss later.

The Dutch delegate, J.S. Theissen gave an extensive account of the World Congress in Bibliotheekleven.³⁾ Mr. Theissen's report also begins with the change in Statutes, recording them fully. Next followed a detailed account of the opening session, the sections etc. The subjects to be discussed were divided as follows:

A. Technical matters:

1. section for international classification systems.
2. section for international cataloguing rules.
3. section for national bibliographies.
4. section for international bibliography and an international

1) see p. 11.

2) Primo Congresso Mondiale delle Biblioteche e di Bibliografia Roma-Venezia 15-30 Giugno, 1929. 6 vol. Roma, La Libreria dello Stato, 1931-33.

3) Het Wereldcongres der Bibliotheken in Italië, van 15-30 juni 1929. Bibliotheekleven Jaarg. 14. 1929. n. 222-237.

bibliographical code.

5. section for the Italian book, bibliography and libraries.
6. section for bookproduction and bibliofily.
7. section for library statistics.
8. section for planning and building of libraries.
9. section for legal or voluntary deposit.
10. for international congresses and exchange of librarians and library students.

B. Professional matters.

1. section for by-laws and additional regulations to the Edinburgh resolutions.
2. matters concerning the profession and the associations.

C. International relations.

1. international relations between libraries.
2. section for relations between national information centres and bibliographical institutes.
3. section for the statistics of book production.

Altogether 179 papers were presented. For four days the various sections met. Of course there was always more than one section-meeting going on, and for each meeting there were too many papers to be read, all taking far too long. So the delegates always had to choose, and to miss some meetings. Usually the speakers would have to finish speaking before they had finished their talk. Mr. Theissen rightly concluded that the papers would only come into their right and achieve some effect after publication. Whether anybody ever sat down to read them all is another matter.

We wonder how the final conclusions were really reached. Somehow 15 resolutions were formulated and agreed on during the plenary session on June 29th in Venice.

Resolutions adopted by the 1st World Congress of Libraries and Bibliography in the plenary session of 29th June in Venice.

1. That a new edition of the Bibliotheca Bibliographica should be published.

2. That IFLA should get into touch with the I.C.I.C. and the I.I.I.C. as soon as possible in order to establish an international code for bibliographical abbreviations.
3. That the International Committee should make a list of all the organizations and institutes which deal with international bibliography, and a list of what they do, and keep up to date.
4. That the governments should effectively support the recommendations of the League of Nations of 1928 concerning the conservation of books and manuscripts.
5. That the I.C.I.C. should study the possibilities of publishing every year a list of all libraries possessing apparatus for microphotography and projection.
6. That the Bureau of IFLA should study means of organizing exchanges and individual periods of practical work for librarians, library-students and library teachers; that, in order to realize these exchanges, the Bureau should contact the relevant authorities and should approach the various national organizations and the I.C.I.C. and the I.I.I.C. to try and obtain funds or gifts; that the Bureau should prepare periodic reports on the exchange and traineeships concerned.
7. That professional library schools should be established where they do not exist yet; that training in such establishments should become a prerequisite for all candidates for library jobs, or that at least, if there is no school, a traineeship should be obligatory and sanctioned with a certificate; that the diplomas of the library schools should be officially recognized; that the experiment of the American Library Association to create an international library school for pupils from twenty-five countries, should be continued and if possible, extended.
8. That the Secretary of IFLA should make a list of the member-associations with the name, the name of the president and the secretary, the address and a list of their publications.
9. That, considering the great importance of establishing a

complete collection of the publications of each country, for the present and for the future, it is necessary that in each country at least one library collects all books published there, whether acquired by legal deposit or any other method or agreement.

10. That international loan between libraries should be effected without intermediary and on a basis of reciprocity, whereby the conditions attached should be standardized as much as possible.
11. That the I.C.I.C. should study the possible basis for an agreement acceptable to all countries, also those which do not adhere to the conventions of Brussels, in order to create in each country an office charged with organizing and coordinating the international exchange of literary and scientific publications.
12. That there should be a general arrangement for the exchange of theses, whereby the universities should state a specialisation, so as to limit the number of theses to be sent to each university.
13. That all publications, bought or received by libraries should be free of custom duties.
14. That national bureaux should be created for bibliographical information and orientation, in correlation with the recommendations formulated in 1928 by the I.C.I.C. and in 1929 by the Committee of Library Experts in Paris.
15. That the national organizations concerned should standardize the rules for statistics of printed matter and the Bureau of IFLA should charge a special committee with the task of preparing this normalisation.

In the closing session, on 30th June, one more resolution was added. It was agreed to remind the Governments of the important cultural role of libraries and to stress the desirability of libraries being supported financially, just as much as education, not only as part of education.¹⁾

Mr. Theissen stressed in his report both the good and the bad

1) translation from the French, from Bibliotheekleven Jaarg. 14, p. 228-230 by author.

sides of the Congress. On the negative side he regretted the bad organization and the excessive number of things to discuss, to do and to see. The leadership lacked coordination. The president of IFLA could only exercise an indirect influence on the running of the Congress; the direct management came from the Italian Government, which obviously could not quite cope. As a result nobody knew exactly what was supposed to happen next or where he or she was expected to be.

The enormous number of issues to discuss led to unpleasant haste. There also was an enormous number of exhibitions to see, quite apart from the usual attractions of Rome and the other Italian cities.

However, the Dutch delegate also saw the good sides of the Congress. He realized that the Conference was the result of a great deal of work, study and experience, now put together in the 180 papers, for the benefit of hundreds of librarians. Although nobody had really had a chance to profit from this knowledge at the time, the result, laid down in the eventual Proceedings, would be very instructive, he hoped. The Resolutions formed a working programme for a long time to come. The execution of all these useful intentions would certainly be very beneficial for international cooperation and for libraries at a national level. However, Mr. Theissen clearly said "if they are executed". And this reservation is understandable, considering the management of the Congress and the great number of diverse resolutions.

Mr. Theissen came home with one clear conviction: that the personal contacts between librarians from all over the world made during the 'framework' of the Congress would contribute notably to the international cooperation and the ease of traffic between the libraries in the various countries. This he obviously saw as the main result, or at least as the only definitive result of the World Congress in Italy. This was also the element which was stressed mainly by another delegate in a less official account of the Congress.¹⁾ He also regretted the too great number of issues to be discussed, too many sections, too many things to do and see. He also remarked

1) Stemmen des Tijds Jaarg. 18, 1929, p. 497-506.

that the countries' delegates tended to stick together rather too much, thereby limiting their contacts with colleagues from other countries. Perhaps this can be excused if we accept that good national contacts are necessary before international contacts can really work - but they did not need to go to Italy for that.

Although Mr. Leendertz saw the contacts as an important element, he thought that the relationships remained rather superficial. He did not think that many librarians had really been helped by being able to talk about the problems in their libraries at a deeper and more useful level, as this did not seem to happen. He saw this as one of the main reasons for the obvious disappointment of many attendants. He gave an interesting explanation for this phenomenon. According to him the discussing of purely technical matters would never bring librarians together as people, only as librarians. So that a real contact would never be possible, unless also the philosophy of librarianship would be discussed. This is an interesting thought; this lack of real human contact could be the cause of many problems in international organizations, may be.

The actual importance of the Congress for international librarianship would be in the realization of the Resolutions. Of course, these were in no way binding. It would be up to the national associations to try and get the resolutions accepted and executed in their own country, as far as some of the 15 points were concerned. For other points it would be up to the Bureau of IFLA or the I.C.I.C. and the I.I.I.C. to do something or not. The future would have to tell how committed the organizations concerned were.

Second Plenary Session, Third Meeting, Venice, 29th June 1929.

Three sub-committees were formed at this meeting. Mr. Bishop proposed the creation of a sub-committee to study the question of the exchange of librarians. This was adopted, and Mr. Bishop himself was chosen as the president of the committee.

The president stated that the International Library Committee intended to form a number of sub-committees corresponding to some of the sections of the Congress. The formation of a sub-committee

for the statistics of publications was proposed accordingly. This was accepted. Also a sub-committee for the training of librarians was created. So altogether, the new Federation now had 9 sub-committees, one would have thought. However, there was no further mention of the six committees formed in Rome. These seem to have died a quiet death. Somehow there must have been a feeling that the Statutes and the change of name meant a fresh start, and that anything the International Library and Bibliographical Committee had done, did no longer count.

Some important things had been said and done at this second session of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee, being the first plenary session of IFLA. The change in name reflected not only the initial success of the organization, but also showed more clearly what kind of body this new federation really was. The organization had obviously already found more response than had been expected at the time of its creation, necessitating a change in name. This new name was also more appropriate, for what had been founded now was not the active bureau in Paris, initiating and executing many useful and important tasks in the field of international congresses (as was the ideal of Mr. Henriot). The new body was a rather loosely organized federation of associations, with a President in Stockholm and a Secretary in Geneva, and a little money, but no permanent office, and no guarantees for any kind of permanence.

We saw that a great part of Mr. Godet's proposals were discussed, without this leading to any relevant decisions. Hopefully his useful proposals for the procedure of congresses would be kept in mind all the same. Obviously they came too late for the Italian congress. This first congress could certainly have profited from a better selection of issues and papers. His idea to take one single main issue for each congress was very sensible and has certainly influenced the organization of the later congresses.

That money would become necessary for the well functioning of the new organization, could have been expected - as Mr. Henriot did. A subscription was the obvious solution.

The three sub-committees formed constitute perhaps an odd selection

of library issues. They were the result of the Italian conference, yet this congress might conceivably have resulted in various other sub-committees. The choice probably reflected the particular interest of the people who suggested their creation, and who were all three entrusted with the presidency of the respective committee. In fact this was a very good reason for forming these particular committees rather than any other sub-committees, since the interest and enthusiasm of the chairman was to be a vital element in the activities of the committees.

All together it was an important session. IFLA had been created with its present name and in its present form. Some organizational problems had been solved, The international congress had presented the new federation with a working programme for the years to come and the first sub-committees had been formed. So work could begin.

D. Follow-up of the Congress. 1930 - 1934.

In the first years after the Italian World Congress, IFLA slowly grew and developed a way of being and working, largely decided by, on the one hand a small group of active supporters, and on the other hand the material that had been given by the Congress. Out of this combination of people and matter an organization grew which would prove to be quite viable.

The first plenary session after the Conference was held in Stockholm, in August 1930. The meeting followed the following agenda: -opening by the President

- report of the Secretary
- discussion of a section of the Statutes
- discussion of the resolutions of the Congress and the follow-up
- reports and discussion of the Sub-committees
- reports from other organizations
- discussion on the next session and the next Congress
- national reports

Broadly speaking this would be the agenda of all plenary sessions

for the years to come. The discussion on the resolutions and the follow-up would slowly disappear from the agenda, as decisions or the execution of the resolutions, or the creation of a sub-committee would end the discussion of a particular issue. The list of sub-committees grew slowly accordingly, either as the result of a Congress-issue, or resulting from the suggestion of a member. Until a new Congress was prepared and the cycle could start afresh.

In view of this movement from one Congress to the next, which was realized as originally planned up to the Second World War, I think it would be best to consider the years between the first and the second Conference as a whole. I propose to take each item and follow its course of development through the years, hoping that this will give a clear picture of the growth of the organization.

a. The Bureau.

For the first two years after the Congress, the Executive Committee remained the same. However the Statutes said that the officers of the Committee should be elected "for a term to expire not later than twelve months after the close of each Congress". So at the end on the 1931 Plenary session a new Bureau was elected. Mr. Bishop became the new President. Mr. Godet and Mr. Esdaile were elected vice-presidents. It was proposed to add three honorary vice-presidents, because of the ever widening field of work, and because this would allow more countries to be represented in the Bureau. Such representation was felt to be a need in order to maintain a close contact with the member associations. There were no legal obstacles to this suggestion in the Statutes. It was accepted unanimously and Mr. Krüss, Mr. Leicht and Mr. Lemaître were elected honorary vice-presidents. Mr. Sevensma remained General Secretary. These officers remained in function till after the second Congress, although Mr. Bishop could not always fulfill his obligations as president because of his own workload and the problems of travelling to Europe. So Mr. Godet replaced him as a chairman of the plenary sessions both in Avignon (1933) and in Madrid (1934).

b. Presidential speech.

Mr. Collijn's opening words in 1930 only fulfilled the function of starting the meeting. In 1931 he elaborated slightly more. He commented on the contemporary political and economic scene, which could but influence the life of librarians: "Unfortunately, clouds have gathered at the political and economic horizon of the world since our last meeting, and due to this our present session is not so well attended as our previous meetings in Rome and Stockholm".¹⁾ Yet most of his speech was taken up by the mentioning of a few achievements of the past year. Mr. Bishop's speech in 1932 also dwelt on these two aspects: the achievements and major occurrences in the world of librarianship, and the by then even more obvious financial crisis in the world at large. In his faith and hope for the future of IFLA he spoke some almost profetic words:

"All international projects must of necessity move rather slowly. Patience is a virtue which we must all not only cultivate but make part of our very lives, if we are to achieve international understanding and co-operation in the field of librarianship".²⁾

These words would be remembered and subscribed many times in the years to come. On the difficulties of libraries in the financial crisis, and the role of IFLA in a time when it could by force do so little, he said:

"I take it that you will agree with me that our chief duty in these days is to hold our organization intact, ready for prompt service and development when a happier day shall dawn. The promotion of good feeling and mutual understanding was never more important...."³⁾

Mr. Bishop repeated this faith in IFLA's task at the Chicago meeting of 1933:

"Our task as a Committee in this world-crisis is clear. We must keep our organization alive and vigorous, ready to go forward at the first opportunity".⁴⁾

His speech was repeated by Mr. Godet at the Avignon meeting of the

1) Actes, Vol. III, p. 6.

2) Actes, Vol. IV, p. 7.

3) Actes, Vol. IV, p. 9.

4) Actes, Vol. V, p. 19.

same year, for the benefit of those representatives who had been unable to come to Chicago. He concluded by stating his belief that in establishing personal relations between many librarians from all over the world, in treating matters of general interest, in coordinating efforts and in being the authorized interpreters of wishes and demands, the Committee had already rendered great services, and should continue on this way.

Mr. Godet chaired the meeting again in 1934, as Mr. Bishop had been unable to cross the ocean in time for the plenary session. The opening speech mainly concentrated on the achievements of the past year, particularly on various important books published in the field of librarianship. He thereby no doubt fulfilled an important function, passing on professional information to the various national delegates. Hopefully this knowledge was passed on again to the member-associations and used where necessary.

Altogether the opening speeches of this first period of IFLA did little more than pleasantly starting the plenary session by commenting on some of the achievements in the world of librarianship and the world at large. It was not till later that more fundamental problems were put forward for consideration in the presidential speeches.

c. Secretary's report.

Mr. Sevensma was the General Secretary all through these and many following years. His report followed a set pattern, starting with the state of the membership and finishing with a survey of the financial situation of the Federation. In 1930 twenty-four associations belonged to IFLA, representing twenty countries. By 1932 there were twenty-seven members from 22 different countries; by 1933, twenty-eight, and in 1934 the Federation counted no less than thirty-two members from twenty-four countries. The plenary sessions were usually attended by ca. 25 delegates from member associations and by one or more representatives of the League of Nations and the I.I.I.C.

Next the report would mention the publication of the 'Actes' of the last session. Volumes I and II were published in Uppsala in 1930-31. Vol. III was published in Geneva in 1931 and Vol. IV was published in The Hague in 1932. From then on it was decided to ask Nijhoff Publishers in The Hague to do the printing and selling. In 1934 Mr. Godet was glad to be able to report that the Actes were selling better under the direction of Nijhoff. The selling actually began to help the financial situation of the Federation. This was a very welcome development both for financial reasons and for reasons of publicity. The 'Actes' were very important to the Federation as they were the only regular form of communication and publicity for many years, up to the nineteen-fifties. We may doubt whether they were very effective as such, but their selling was nonetheless a reason for rejoicing.

The secretary's report always mentioned the various items distributed by the Bureau (i.e. by Mr. Sevensma) to the member associations during the year. Such items were usually somehow the result of the last session. For example in 1929-30 the Bureau had distributed the draft of the Statutes of IFLA and, after approval, the Statutes in printed form. Also the projects for a system for an International code for Bibliographical abbreviations had been sent, as the result of one of the resolutions of Rome. A "Guide to the National Information services, loan systems and international Exchange" had been elaborated by the I.I.I.C. and published in collaboration with IFLA. This had also been distributed to the member associations. Also a questionnaire asking for factual information, for a membership list. This list of all the items distributed in the year after the first Congress, shows us quite clearly the vital importance of the Secretary and his inspiring enthusiasm in these early years.

In 1930-31 the resolutions of the League of Nations Committee of Expert Librarians on the preservation of manuscripts and printed matter were forwarded to the members, drawing their special attention to these resolutions. The members were also consulted on

the general utility of the list of notable books published by the I.I.I.C. and the answers were passed on to the Institute.

In 1931-32 the members again received quite a number of items from the IFLA Bureau: a report composed by the special committee of the Library Association on the durability of paper; reports by Mr. Godet and Mr. Feldkamp on legal deposit; a copy of the International Code for the abbreviation of periodical titles; a provisional edition of the list of member-associations of IFLA; Mr. Bishop's 'International Loans between libraries - a report on American and Canadian experience', with a request to make similar reports on the experience with international loans in other countries; and the outline of a form for international library statistics, prepared by Mr. Leyh.

In 1932-33 a request was sent to all members to compose statistics on international loans and send these to the Secretariat. The answers would serve as a basis for discussion at the coming Congress. At the request of the I.I.I.C. members had been asked to give information on the rules for alphabetical library indexes for names in the various countries. A copy of the results was sent to the I.I.I.C.

From this list of items distributed it is again clear how important the Secretariat was. Without the secretary very little would have happened at all, I think.

Mr. Sevensma's report would also mention the various functions attended by members of the Bureau and the contacts with other organizations. There usually had been some communication with the Committee of Library Experts in Paris and with the Committee on Science and Bibliography of the I.C.I.C. In 1933 Mr. Sevensma was happy to report that the I.I.I.C. had stated its readiness to cooperate with IFLA by collaborating through the League of Nations to influence governments to execute IFLA's resolutions. This could be very helpful, since the Federation had no real power at all to support its recommendations.

The secretary's report closed with the financial survey. In 1933

the IFLA budget showed a deficit for the first time, but this could be met from the savings. The next year the better selling of the Actes helped the situation, so that the finance was no great cause for worry in those early years.

Before passing on to the next item on the Agenda of the plenary sessions, we should mention the discussion on section 3 of the Statutes, at the 1930 meeting. The question was whether associations of bibliophiles would be able to join the Federation. They usually had a lot of money! But if they were allowed to join, then why not allow associations of adult education and similar organizations? The final answer was no. Associations 'with allied interests' would only be allowed 'by vote of the Committee'. This would remain so until the change in Statutes in 1952.

d. Discussion of the Resolutions of the Congress.

1. That a new edition of the Bibliotheca Bibliographica should be published.¹⁾

In 1930 Mr. Sevenisma reported that, for the time being, it had been decided to publish a new edition of the Index Bibliographicus instead, under the auspices of the I.I.I.C. This was indeed published in 1931, edited by Mr. Godet with the help of J. Vortius.²⁾ At the 1931 meeting Mr. Cowley presented a preliminary outline of an International Manual of Subject Bibliographies, by W. Grundtvig. Dr. J. Vortius would be co-editor. It was to be a universal manual of retrospective subject bibliographies and would be a kind of substitute for the Bibliotheca Bibliographica. Mr. Cowley asked for recommendations and support. The Committee recognized the usefulness of this project and decided to inform Mr. Grundtvig that the members agreed to support his undertaking. This publication was not finished within the period which we are dealing with at the moment.

2. International code for bibliographical abbreviations.

A committee under the auspices of the I.I.I.C. had composed a system of abbreviations. This was published in 1931, and was distributed to the member associations. A Supplement was published

1) For the full texts of the resolutions, see p. 22-24.

2) Index Bibliographicus catalogue international des bibliographies courantes. 2e ed. par Marcel Godet + Joris Vortius. Berlin-Leipzig 1931.

in 1932, covering the Slavonic languages.

3. A list of all the organizations and institutes which deal with international bibliography.

At the 1930 session it was decided to send out a circular asking the associations for the details needed. This obviously did not have the effect desired, for in 1931 it was decided that Mr. Vincent should approach the International Institute of Bibliography in Brussels for any information they might be able to give. IFLA would then publish a list, with the help of Mr. Vincent. In 1932 it was reported that the IFLA Bureau was still collecting information. This is the last we hear of the planned list. It seems likely that the project was never finished. However, in 1933 the I.I.I.C. published the second edition of their "Guide to National Information Services, Loans Systems and International Exchanges". This publication probably reasonably covered the field of the unfinished project.

4. Recommendations concerning the conservation of books and manuscripts.

At the 1930 plenary session it was decided to ask the Secretary to send a circular letter to library associations drawing their attention to the recommendations made by the League of Nations in 1928. This was indeed done by the Secretary, as was mentioned in his 1931 report. The letter contained a copy of the resolutions. A report to be published by the United States Bureau of Standards on some experiments on the comparative durability of paper, and a paper to be issued by a Committee of the British Library Association, would also be sent to the member associations. The second report at least was distributed, as was mentioned in the Secretary's report of 1932.

These reports were not mentioned again. However, a closely connected problem was raised in 1933 by Mr. Emler, who drew the attention to the problem of security of libraries in times of war. A resolution was accepted by the Committee to the effect that librarians and others should raise their voice to ensure that

archives, libraries and museums would be protected against all eventualities. The I.I.I.C. would seem the most suitable body to study the measures to be taken and to press governments to execute such measures. Presumably the I.I.I.C. was informed of this resolution. However I do not know whether they ever acted along these lines.

Later on the subject of preservation would be raised again and would form the object of a sub-committee.

5. List of libraries possessing apparatus for microphotography and projection.

This problem was being discussed by the Sub-Committee of Science and Bibliography of the I.C.I.C. The information could partially be found in the "Guide to National Information Services, Loan Systems and International Exchanges". IFLA obviously reckoned that they could not improve on this. The resolution really asked that the I.C.I.C. should provide such a list. However it is quite possible that the people present at the Rome Congress had not been aware of the plans for the "Guide".

6. Means of organizing exchanges, traineeships etc.; funds; periodic reports.

We may remember that six sub-committees were formed at the first plenary session in Rome in 1928. One of these was the sub-committee on international scholarships, fellowships and exchange of librarians and assistants. We also saw that three sub-committees were installed in Rome in 1929, disregarding the earlier committees. Mr. Bishop himself suggested the creation of a sub-committee to study the question of the exchange of librarians, and consequently he was chosen as the President of this re-established committee. It was this committee which was entrusted with the execution of the sixth Rome resolution. For the 1930 session the president had made a report on a number of exchanges. There is no mention of any particular effort being made to meet the wishes expressed at the Congress in relation to studying the means of organizing exchanges, contacting authorities and obtaining funds. The action was limited

to reporting on and thereby making known to others, any existing exchange-relationships. However, the Secretary did state his willingness to act as intermediary if any associations wished to try and establish an exchange.

I will discuss the further development of this sub-committee together with the other sub-committees.

7. Library schools; obligatory traineeships; recognized diploma's; American international library school in Paris.

At the 1930 plenary session, Mr. Sevensma suggested that it would be useful to start by asking the various countries for information on the present situation as to library training. This seemed a useful suggestion.

Professional training was again one of the problems that had been recognized early in the life of IFLA. A Committee on the education for librarianship under the chairmanship of Mr. Henriot, was another of the six committees formed in 1928. In 1929 a sub-committee for the training of librarians was created again, again with Mr. Henriot as chairman. Mr. Bergmans, Esdaile and Milam became members.

So it won't surprise us that it was Mr. Henriot who came with a suggestion in relation to the professional training, at the 1930 plenary session. His proposal and the further developments will be discussed in our survey of the sub-committees.

8. List of the member-associations.

The Secretary reported in his 1930 report that a questionnaire had already been sent to all the member-associations to ask for details in order to enable the Bureau to compose a List of Members. This list of members of IFLA, with details on each association was indeed published in 1930-31. A provisional updated edition was circulated in 1931-32. At the 1934 session the Secretary reported that so many requests for the List of members had reached him that a new, updated edition would soon be needed. As could be expected this process of updating and re-editing the Members' List would go on and on all through the years of the development and growth

of the Federation, and has never really stopped.

9. One library collecting all national publications.

Before anything could be done in this field, it was necessary to investigate the situation of legal deposit in each country, at that moment. First of all it was decided to distribute the texts of the communications on the subject delivered by Mr. Godet and Mr. Feldkamp at the Rome Congress. These texts were in fact not distributed till 1931-32, as was reported by the Secretary. However this is the last we hear of this matter in the years up to the next Congress.

10. International Loan.

This was recognized as an important matter. It was decided already in 1930, that this would make a good subject for the next Congress: international loan in all its aspects. At the third meeting of the 1930 plenary session Mr. Godet presented a communication on international loan and postal charges. A resolution was adopted to the effect that the directors of libraries should do everything possible to acquire the adhesion of their country to the Postal Convention of London 1929, of which article 33 allowed a reduction of 50% on the postal charge for printed matter. This reduction had already been accepted in 30 countries.¹⁾

At the meeting of 1931 Mr. Bishop had taken the initiative on this subject by presenting a report on international loans, based on American and Canadian experience. There followed a discussion on the problems of customs and postal charges. It was decided that the Bureau should contact the Postal Union on this matter. Also each country was asked to compose a report on the situation in their country, similar to Mr. Bishop's report, and to send this to the Secretary. One of the main issues was the question of payment: who should pay the postal charges, the library which had requested the loan, or the lending library.

The next year the Secretary reported the distribution to members of Mr. Bishop's report on international loans. He also mentioned having received similar reports from a number of other countries.

1) Text of article 33: see Actes, Vol. II, p. 55-56.

That year international loans were mentioned again a couple of times. In the context of library statistics, Mr. Godet proposed that the Bureau should make statistics on international loans, based on the figures for 1931 and 1932. These should be ready and printed in time to be studied before the next Congress. At the end of the plenary session such a resolution was indeed adopted:

"The International Library Committee decides to make statistics of international loans, based on the results of the years 1931 and 1932. These statistics will be finished and printed in time to be studied before the international congress of 1934, for which international loans will be the main theme".¹⁾

Mr. Collijn distributed a brochure called "Loans of books and manuscripts between libraries of Sweden and foreign countries" by M.E. Sundström.

In 1933 Mr. Sevensma was happy to report having received many reactions to the request for statistics on international loans. These would serve as a basis for discussion at the next Congress. Mr. Lomer was reported to be preparing a study on the subject of international loans for the congress.

At the 1934 plenary session the programme for the Congress was discussed. It was decided to devote the meeting of the Section 'study libraries' to international loans mainly, and to spend one whole plenary session discussing this issue. So the subject was certain to get a great deal of attention.

11. In each country an office charged with organizing and coordinating the international exchange of publications.

Mr. Sevensma reported that this subject had been discussed by the Library Experts of the I.I.I.C. and by the Sub-Committee on Science and Bibliography. This had resulted in the following resolution of the Sub-Committee:

"Considering that in spite of the existing international accords, and the efforts made in the last few years, the international exchanges still don't work satisfactorily

1) Actes, Vol. IV, p. 47.

in a number of countries, the sub-committee recommends that the I.C.I.C. should remind the various governments of the importance of

- a) publishing periodically a list of their official publications, including those of scientific and other government institutions.
- b) organizing in each country a central service responsible for the distribution and quick despatch of these publications, and of supplying this service with the necessary money.
- c) facilitating as much as possible the already existing exchanges between learned Societies."¹⁾

Whether the I.C.I.C. did actually ask the governments to pay attention to these matters, and whether the respective governments took any notice, we are not told. As far as we can see from the 'Actes' the subject was not raised again the next few years, within IFLA.

12. Exchange of theses.

At the 1930 plenary session it was decided to form a sub-committee, consisting of Mr. Emler, Mr. Fick, Mr. Grape, Mr. Lemaître, Mr. Sevensma and Mr. Theissen, to deal with this question. We will discuss this sub-committee together with the other committees.

13. That all publications should be free of custom duties.

After some discussion at the 1930 plenary session, it was decided that the Secretary should collect detailed information on cases where the existing rules were not adhered to. If necessary the Secretary should approach the authorities concerned. With this decision the matter was considered closed. Unfortunately, I don't know whether Mr. Sevensma was ever actually asked to intervene in such matters.

14. National BuReaux for bibliographical information and orientation.

The matter has been discussed by the Library Experts of the I.I.I.C. The "Guide to International information Services" prepared by the I.I.I.C. and published in collaboration with IFLA, was the

1) Actes, Vol. II, p. 15 (translation from the French, by the author).

result. Herewith the matter was regarded as dealt with.

14. Unification of rules for the statistics of publications.

We saw that Mr. Muszkowski proposed the forming of a sub-committee on the statistics of publications, in 1929. This was accepted and he himself was appointed chairman. The execution of this resolution was of course left to this sub-committee.

Resuming, we can conclude that the Resolutions of Rome resulted in a number of publications, such as a system of abbreviations, a "Guide to National Information Services, Loans Systems, and International Exchanges", and a list of the Member-Associations. Of these the first two were published by the I.I.I.C. Three problems were taken up by sub-committees. For one or two matters we cannot be sure that anything really happened about them at all.

e. Sub-committees.

I. Sub-committee on the exchange of librarians.

For the 1930 meeting the President had made a report on some exchanges effected during the year, as we mentioned above. In the same way the sub-committee presented reports in the following years, functioning as a clearing house for information on existing exchange relationships. However we never get the impression that the Committee did any constructive work in this field itself. Surprisingly this sub-committee did not present any report at all in 1933 and 1934. It is not clear why this happened, although it is of course reasonable to suppose that the economic situation in the world no longer allowed such luxuries. The issue would return later on.

II. Sub-committee on professional training.

At the 1930 plenary session a proposition of Mr. Henriot was presented concerning the formation of a "Institut International des Bibliothécaires". This institute should be a school for further

education for librarians from various countries.

According to the proposition, the teaching should be done by librarians or international specialists. Students should be coming from anywhere in the world. There should be a wide curriculum, taught during eight months' courses. The school should be under the control and the direction of the League of Nations. Also, Mr. Henriot would like to see six months' summer courses.

This proposition was studied and finally it was decided that the Committee favoured the plans and would support them.

In the mean time a summer course would be organized, as soon as possible, in the premises of the library of the League of Nations in Geneva. The course would last at most fifty days and would be free of charge. The General Secretary was to be responsible for the organization.

At the 1931 session the sub-committee presented no report. In 1932 it was reported that Mr. Henriot had resigned as chairman. This probably explains the absence of a report in 1931. A new chairman would be appointed, but as this had not happened yet, there was no report in 1932, either. This gives us the impression that the chairman was the vital figure in the committees. Without him, nothing happened. The annual reports were usually his work only. We will see whether this impression is confirmed. But the issue was not completely dropped. In 1932 Mr. Godet did report that the summer courses at the library of the League of Nations had not been realized yet. He suggested that the Federation should ask its members to examine the possibilities of instituting in their countries diplomas of aptitude, of fixing the conditions for obtaining such diplomas and of establishing examinations. Of course diplomas already existed in some countries. The committee welcomed Mr. Godet's suggestion.

Mr. Godet also proposed a resolution. Because there were in many countries no regulations on the employment and status of librarians and library personnel, or at least no official regulations covering all concerned, and in view of the importance of such measures for

the professional status, Mr. Godet recommended that member-associations should examine the possibility of supplementing the official action by instituting their own aptitude-diplomas, by fixing the conditions for obtaining such diplomas and by instituting examinations. This suggestion was accepted as a resolution. The ideas expressed here by Mr. Godet were of course not quite new, but he had rightly refreshed the memories of the member-associations. They were certainly the best agents to achieve anything in this field in their own countries.

In 1933 we hear that the matter had been taken up by the I.C.I.C. The Library Experts of this Committee had asked the I.I.I.C. to undertake an enquiry on the professional training of librarians, as this matter had so far not been studied to any great extent in the international sense. The I.I.I.C. addressed to the different library Associations a questionnaire inviting them to furnish particulars concerning the various grades of librarians, the existence of training schools, or special courses for librarians, the conditions of admission, programmes of study, the types of diplomas awarded, the status of librarians, etc. By the 1933 meeting about 20 answers had been received, which showed the great variety of provisions in the various countries. In 1934 the delegate of the I.I.I.C. reported that more answers had been received and that the result and conclusions and recommendations would be published in a report.

Nothing was heard from the committee in 1933 or 1934. However, this issue, like the last one, would remain an object of study.

III. Sub-committee on Public Libraries.

This sub-committee was the result of a motion passed at one of the library sessions of the Cambridge Conference of the World Association for Adult Education. The motion asked the chairman to request the President of the IFLA to appoint a Committee on public libraries, to assure to librarians present in Cambridge and their colleagues further opportunity for discussion of public library questions at international meetings.

Such a committee was apparently formed, with Mr. Milam as president. In his report he expressed the feeling among public librarians that their affairs had been rather neglected at the Italian Congress. He also offered two recommendations:

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

The report also contained a statement from Miss Demchevsky proposing the creation of an International Lending Library and Information Bureau for Librarians. It would e.g. assemble publications about libraries from all countries, issue catalogues of all such publications, give advisory assistance on library problems etc.

The recommendations were approved, although Mr. Collijn did not think the public librarians' complaints about the Congress wholly justified. Mr. Sevensma stated his readiness to centralise literature in Geneva in order to establish the beginning of a bibliographical centre according to Miss Demchevski's proposal.

In 1931, Mr. Godet reported that the International Labour Office had approached the I.I.I.C. about means of using the public libraries in solving the problem of the leisure time of workers. At the request of the Institut, the Bureau of IFLA had prepared a preliminary report on the matter. The Committee of Library Experts had also studied the issue. Mr. Lemaître would be charged with editing the final report to be sent to the Labour Office. The Bureau decided to ask I.I.I.C. for copies of this report to be distributed to the IFLA members.

This report was in fact presented by Mr. Lemaître at the 1932 meeting. Among the conclusions, the report stressed the importance of public libraries being run by trained librarians. Mr. Schuster

1) Actes, Vol. II, p. 44.

stressed the two-fold task of entertaining and educating.

In 1933 Mr. Milam presented his report, both in Chicago and in Avignon, among other things suggesting some topics which might be discussed at further meetings. At Avignon he expressed the following wishes:

- "1) That National Library Associations which represent the public or popular library movement and which are not now members, be invited to join the IFLA.
- 2) That subjects of special interest to public librarians be placed on the agenda of future meetings of the International Library Committee and of the Federation.
- 3) That the officers of the Federation endeavour to place on each sub-committee librarians competent to represent the different kinds of libraries which have an interest in the subject assigned to that committee."¹⁾

These wishes were adopted by the Committee. Mr. Milam also drew the attention to the publication "Popular libraries of the World", issued by the A.L.A.

Surprisingly, the sub-committee on public libraries presented no report at the 1934 meeting. However, they were not being forgotten. Public libraries were mentioned as one of the seven Sections, in the programme for the 1935 Congress. In the discussion on this programme it was once again stressed that the public libraries should get the right amount of attention, to make sure that they would not feel left out, like in Italy. So, in this respect the sub-committee on public libraries had achieved its purpose in these years between the first and the second Congress by ensuring attention for their problems.

IV. Sub-committee on the exchange of theses.

We saw that this sub-committee was formed in 1930. In 1931 the Secretary reported having received numerous reports on the problems connected with the exchange of university theses. All reports would be forwarded to Mr. Emler, who would make a general Report. France

1) Actes, Vol. V, p. 84-85.

and Germany signed a convention on the subject in 1925. It was decided that it would be useful to try and obtain the text of this agreement, which was working very well.

Mr. Emler did prepare a report, which was presented by Mr. Sevensma at the 1932 meeting. It suggested, among other things, to send out a questionnaire, asking university libraries to state their particular field of interest. This information would be needed to decide which libraries would get which dissertations. Only the most important university libraries could receive all theses. Others would only get a selection according to their interest. The Secretariat was to prepare this questionnaire. Mr. Emler also proposed that each country should publish a yearly list of its theses published, and that each country should designate one library to deal with the exchanges.

In Avignon, Mr. Emler reported that he had no definite propositions, as yet. One of his main problems was that theses were published in widely differing forms in the various countries. Mr. Sevensma stated that he had not been able to get hold of the text of the French-German agreement.

At the 1934 meeting Mr. Lemaître's report was read, which stressed the importance of agreements between particular countries, as compared to international agreements. The report was followed by a discussion on the problems of theses published in periodicals or series, and on the relative value of theses in different countries and in different subject fields. No conclusions were reached. Mr. Breycha-Vauthier read the text of the French-German agreement.¹⁾

Although the search for a good international arrangement for the exchange of theses continues, the general conclusion of these first years seems to be that agreements between two particular countries are far more likely to be effective.

V. Sub-committee on the statistics of publications.

This sub-committee was formed in 1929, at the suggestion of Mr. Muszkowski. It was charged with the execution of the fifteenth resolution of Rome. At the 1930 meeting it was decided that the

1) Actes, Vol. VI, p. 59: analysis of the Accord.

sub-committee should study the proposals made in this field by the committees of the I.I.I.C. and work towards the adoption of a unified method in all countries. The lack of standardization was recognized as the most important problem in this field.

Although the sub-committee did not meet during the year, Mr. Muszkowski presented a detailed report in 1931. He suggested statistical data collecting according to the following fifteen categories:

1. Categories of material (decimal classification)
2. Number of books published: a) in the country, b) abroad.
3. Number of pamphlets.
4. Number of periodical publications: a) daily, b) weekly, c) more than weekly - monthly, d) more than monthly - three monthly, e) others.
5. Total number of works printed: a) in the language of the country, b) in other languages.
6. Number of translations published in the country.
7. Number of copies issued.
8. Off-prints of articles.
9. First editions, re-editions, and new imprints.
10. Categories of publishers (State, printing houses, etc.).
11. Places of printing.
12. Places of publication.
13. Publications not entered in the bibliography (catalogues, yearbooks, leaflet).
14. and 15. Works published abroad in the language of the author or in the language of the respective country, and their translations.¹⁾

The discussion stresses again the absolute necessity of finding a unified basis for such statistics, but of course no immediate conclusions were reached on Mr. Muszkowski's report.

For the 1932 meeting, Mr. Muszkowski prepared another report commenting and enlarging on his 15 categories. The discussion which followed stressed the need of obtaining the cooperation of not only librarians, but also publishers and booksellers. The sub-committee

1) Actes, Vol. III, p. 14 (translation from the French by the author).

was enlarged with Mr. Godet, Mr. Sevensma and Mr. Uhlendahl. No conclusions were reached at this session.

By 1933, the report had reached its final shape. It was decided that the collaboration of booksellers and publishers was now absolutely essential for any further developments. It was suggested that Mr. Sevensma and Mr. Muszkowski should represent IFLA at the next International Congress of Publishers. At the meeting in Avignon it was again stressed that the cooperation of other bodies was now necessary, because the compilation of the actual statistics would have to be done by the authorities which had been doing the statistics up to then, i.e. the associations of Publishers or the Statistical Offices. Since Chicago, Mr. Sevensma had contacted the International Associations of Publishers, and he would prepare a report on this, with the help of Mr. Muszkowski.

In 1934 it was reported that the next international Congress of Publishers would be held in London in 1936, but that no outside visitors would be allowed to attend. It was therefore decided to ask a publisher or the representative of a publishers' association to represent IFLA at the Congress and to voice IFLA's proposals.

Alltogether we can say that thanks to the hard work of Mr. Muszkowski this sub-committee produced a good report and made some progress towards realization, during those first years. However, it is clear that this was mainly the work of one man, with the help of Mr. Sevensma. It can hardly be called the achievement of a committee. Mr. Muszkowski himself stressed this problem, in 1933, by expressing the wish to see periodic meetings of the sub-committee. However, the discussion on this matter showed the practical objections to this, especially the financial problems involved. We will discuss this problem of the working of the sub-committees more extensively later on.

VI. Sub-committee on Library-statistics.

During the discussion on the statistics of publications, at the 1930 meeting, it was suggested to form a separate sub-committee for the statistics of libraries. Mr. Leyh was asked to be chairman. He presented his first provisional report in 1931. He had contacted

a number of specialists, but he had not received many useful answers as yet. Mr. Lemaître presented the rules used in France. He was asked to contact Mr. Leyh on this, who would continue his study of the matter.

In 1932 Mr. Leyh presented his proposed outline for an international statistic of libraries. His outline aimed at obtaining only the minimal information needed for an effective international comparison. For his work he had received the help of Mr. Lemaître. The following categories were proposed:

- A. Stock:
 - 1) Manuscripts, 2) incunabula, 3) printed books (metres of shelves).
- B. Increase:
 - 1) purchase, 2) exchange, 3) statutory deposit, 4) gifts, 5) total, 6) increase in metres shelves.
- C. Use in the building
(reading room):
 - 1) hours of opening, 2) number of readers (cards of admission), 3) number of readers (visitors), 4) number of books delivered on call-slips (printed), 5) number of mss. delivered on call-slips.
- D. Local circulation:
 - 1) number of borrowers, 2) number of books lent (vols.).
- E. Circulation outside the town:
 - a) books lent:
 - 1) number of borrowers, 2) number of printed vols. lent, 3) number of mss. lent.
 - b) books borrowed:
 - 1) number of borrowing libraries, 2) number of printed books lent, 3) number of mss. lent.
- F. Total expenditure for purchase of books and binding:
 - purchase of books: 1) mss., 2) printed books, 3) periodicals
 - binding
 - total
 - expenditure from extraordinary resources.¹⁾

1) Actes, Vol. IV, p. 59-64.

A lot of discussion followed this proposal. It was decided to ask the members to express themselves on paper on this subject and to continue the discussion at the next session.

Mr. Leyh was not present in Chicago, but he did attend the meeting in Avignon. There, he presented his second outline of International Library statistics. He had elaborated his first outline, taking the various comments received into account. He had made the following changes:

- A1: stock in metres
- A2: stock in volumes (7 categories)
- B1: increase in metres (3 categories)
- B2: increase in bibliographical units (5 categories)
- B3: increase in volumes (7 categories)
- C1: use in the building (reading room) (5 categories)
- C2: local circulation
- C3: circulation out of town
- C4: loan service with foreign countries
- D : total expenditure for books and binding
- E : personnel statistics

As we can see, comments usually meant demands for more detail. Mr. Leyh's original idea of only asking for the minimum information necessary was obviously not getting much chance of being realized. His proposal was again followed by a long discussion. Mr. Leyh again promised to examine the suggestions and to incorporate all reasonable amendments proposed. This limitation in his promise is quite understandable.

In 1934, Mr. Leyh was not present. However, his proposals as presented in Avignon and published in the Actes (Vol. V, p. 138-154) were accepted as definite. It only remained to be decided for which categories of libraries they should be used. No decision was taken in this matter.

We can again conclude that one man, in the name of a sub-committee, did a lot of work and produces a useful report. As with the sub-committee on the statistics of publications, we will have to see how much actual result all this work would have in the long run.

VII. Sub-committee on hospital libraries.

At the fourth plenary session in Cheltenham in 1931, Mr. Sevensma reported on a correspondence with Mrs. Roberts, Organizing Secretary of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John Hospital Library, suggesting the formation of an international committee for hospital library services. Such a committee should collect information regarding methods of conducting hospital library services, offer facilities to study the cooperation between hospital and public libraries, undertake publicity for the system of hospital libraries, etc. This was thought to be a good idea, and the formation of such a sub-committee was decided on. Mr. Lemaître was elected as president. He presented his first report in 1932, based on a questionnaire sent to all member-associations. Many replies had been received. It is interesting to see that only a couple of countries actually answered the systematically composed questionnaire. The others all replied in a kind of letter-report. Mr. Lemaître's report stressed the importance of close contacts with the medical authorities. He stated in his conclusions:

"The above information seems to show that the movement towards the establishment of libraries for the sick is not an attempt without a future, but an ideal towards which are working the joined efforts of the competent authorities in various countries, with more or less success, in various degrees of developments."¹⁾

Mr. Bishop proposed to send copies of the report to the Director of the Health Section of the League of Nations. The Secretary, as the librarian of the League, would be able to discuss collaboration with this Director.

It was decided that the committee would try to suggest projects to countries not yet having a hospital library service, and would study ways of ameliorating the situation in those areas where this was most needed, e.g. in mental hospitals.

Mr. Lemaître again presented a report in Avignon, in 1933. He had received information on the situation with regards to hospital libraries from various countries. To a circular sent by the International

1) Actes, Vol. IV, p. 86.

Committee of the Red Cross responses had also been received from a number of countries, The International Conference of Hospitals had adopted a number of resolutions in favour of hospital libraries. All together Mr. Lemaître could report a growing interest for the matter.

Mr. Lemaître's report in 1934 again showed the evolution of hospital libraries in various countries during the last year. In Spain a questionnaire had been sent to Spanish Health Inspectors to ask for information on the situation. The results were presented in a report by Miss Capdevielle. Mrs. Roberts had been very active again during the year. In December 1933 an International Society of Hospital libraries was formed by her.

Hospital libraries were obviously getting more and more attention in many countries in those years. Mr. Lemaître did some very useful work by recording the situation and the activities going on. The most active person in the field seems to have been Mrs. Roberts.

Concluding we can say that the sub-committees did some interesting preparatory work in the shape of questionnaires and reports. Not many tangible results were achieved as yet, but there were certainly possibilities. However, all this work was obviously only done by a few hard-working chairmen. The sub-committees were not yet really functioning as such, in between the yearly sessions. We saw that Mr. Muszkowski highlighted this problem in 1933. He also voiced the need for periodic reunions of the sub-committees in a resolution, which was adopted by the Committee. However, it would be a long time yet, before the sub-committees would change their way of working.

f. Reports from other organizations.

In those early years it was only the I.I.I.C. which reported on its activities at every session of the Library Committee. Subjects treated were e.g. Guide to National services, List of remarkable works, Public libraries for workers, decimal classification, normalisation of periodicals, international bibliography of translations, educational films, the publication of bibliographical bulletins, International guide on documentation, etc. It seems to have been a fairly active Institute. In comparison with IFLA, it had of course the advantage

of a better permanent organization, in Paris, and probably more money. It certainly seems to have done some useful work for libraries. It seems to have been functioning quite well as a "centre to induce the execution of studies by professionals", to "coordinate the work done by experts and publish the results".¹⁾

g. Various other resolutions adopted or discussed.

During the years a number of topics, not related to either the last Congress, or the work of the sub-committees, were raised by representatives and became the subject of resolutions.

1) In 1930 Mr. Lemaître mentioned in his report on the situation in France, that a vocabulary of technical library terms was being prepared in French, German and English, under the auspices of the French Association of Librarians. In 1931 he could report that the work was nearly finished. In view of the importance of this publication also as a basis for similar works for other languages, he asked IFLA to accept the patronage of this publication. This proposal was accepted by the Committee and it was decided that IFLA would subsidize the editing.

At the meeting of 1933 the delegate from France reported that the vocabulary of French-English-German library terms was finished. Publication was expected early in 1934. However, the actual publication was not reported at the 1934 meeting.

2) In 1932 a number of such resolutions were adopted. Mr. Sevensma presented a proposal of Mr. Emler concerning edition dates and periodical indexes. After some discussion the first paragraph of his resolution was accepted unanimously:

"The Committee draws the attention of the member Associations to the regrettable fact that a great number of publications are not marked with the date of publication".²⁾

No further discussion of the effect of this resolution can be found in the Actes.

3) Also in 1932 Mr. Collijn addressed the librarians on the problem of library budgets. In this time of crisis there was a great danger of cuts. Mr. Collijn particularly stressed the danger of stopping

1) Actes, Vol. V, p. 25-26.

2) Actes, Vol. IV, p. 46.

periodical subscriptions, since this practice leads to gaps that may never be filled. He stressed the important function of libraries:

"they are at the same time the depositories, the workrooms and the instruments of science".¹⁾

His plea resulted in the following resolution:

"The Committee urgently request Governments, in spite of the world crisis, to maintain undiminished, for the service of intellectual workers, the financial provision made for national education and instruction, and notably credits voted for libraries".²⁾

This resolution was to be sent to the Governments.

At the 1933 session Mr. Sevensma reported that many replies had been received from Ministries of Finance or Public Instruction. Also some information had been collected from members. In some countries, e.g. Czechoslovakia, the resolutions seemed to have had some effect. However, in other countries, such as Finland, considerable cuts had been made.

At the Avignon meeting it was reported that the resolution was backed up by the I.C.I.C. and the Assembly of the League of Nations, which had both adopted resolutions attracting the attention of Governments to the serious consequences of cuts for the level of contemporary culture. How much effect all this had, in the end, is impossible to assess. The financial situation was obviously only getting worse.

4) At the 1932 meeting Mr. Lemaitre presented a resolution on library building:

"That all schools of Architecture should give a course on the construction of libraries".

This was accepted unanimously and it was decided to send copies of this resolution to all associations of architects and to all associations of librarians. At the 1933 session in Avignon it was reported that the Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures in Paris had put on its syllabus for the second year a course on the planning and building of a large library, and for the third year a course on building a workers' library. Whether this was really the result of the resolution

1) Actes, Vol. IV, p. 30.

2) Actes, Vol. IV, p. 43.

we cannot say. Neither do we know if this was the only effect it ever had.

5) Mr. Sevensma presented a proposal, in 1932, concerning greater uniformity in communications on national progress. These national reports would then become even more important and useful. He suggested that the reports should touch on:

- A. Libraries: 1) new buildings, reorganization, adaption.
 2) legislation on libraries.
- B. Publications: 1) library catalogues.
 2) bibliographical publications.
 3) library guides.
- C. Librarians: 1) changes in the higher staff.
 2) legislation bearing on the library profession.
- D. Role of the libraries in society: collaboration with other organizations.

The Committee unanimously agreed that it would be very useful to draw up the reports along such set lines. When the resolutions were afterwards sent to the member-associations, particular attention was drawn to this resolutions on uniformity of reports. In 1933 the matter was mentioned again in the discussion on library statistics, whereby it was suggested that the standard annual reports would also be useful material for comparison. In the following years, Mr. Sevensma in his annual survey repeatedly stressed the importance of the national reports.

6) At the 1932 session Mr. Leyh presented a resolution on the high subscription rates of certain German periodicals. After some discussion and some alterations, a resolution was adopted stating that IFLA recognized as right the recent protests from America, England, Sweden and Switzerland against the high subscription rates of many German scientific periodicals, stressing the danger to the German booktraders and to the scientific world of Germany and other countries if these periodicals could no longer be bought by the libraries. IFLA therefore pressed the association of German scientific publishers to do everything within their means to lower the price of

the periodicals both by lowering the number of copies and by adapting the price to the decreased costs of production.

During the following year, various negotiations took place between the organizations interested, resulting in an agreement signed on 3rd August 1933 between the German associations of Universities, Booksellers, Scientific publishers, and Librarians. This agreement stated that the volume and price of these periodicals should be fixed, for each year, and that the volume and price would be reduced by 20% in 1934. The universities agreed to cooperate, e.g. by not publishing theses in periodicals.

IFLA thanked the German associations for this agreement. However, various libraries, particularly in America, had already complained that the measures were insufficient. Some German representatives of publishers were present at the 1933 Chicago meeting, where this matter was being discussed. It was decided to hold further negotiations with them. These talks did indeed take place in Chicago, on October 15th and 18th. This resulted in a proposal of Dr. F. Springer offering for 1934 reductions of 25 to 40% in the price of 26 periodicals. This was considered quite a good result of the protests and negotiations.

At the meeting in Avignon, Mr. Krüss reported that the German government would ensure the execution of the Chicago agreement. However, in 1934 there were complaints that the price of the German periodicals was still much higher than the price of any other periodicals. Mr. Bultingaire proposed another resolution on this subject, which was studied carefully. It was suggested that the German publishers had shown great willingness to negotiate so far, and ought to be treated with care. Perhaps the problem rather lay with the editors of the periodicals? Yet, after careful consideration, the following resolution was proposed and adopted unanimously:

"The Federation ... notes ... that the publishers of German scientific periodicals have kept their promise, since 1st January 1934, to diminish the price and the volume of this kind of publication.

.....

However, the Federation cannot ignore the considerable disproportion in prices between the price of German periodicals ... and the price of the periodicals from other countries, and asks the German publishers to continue on the present way towards reduction ...

Although certainly recognizing the fact that the fixing of an annual maximum price constitutes already a notable progress, the Federation presses the publishers to replace this with a fixed annual price, as advocated by the libraries of the world."¹⁾

The problem was not solved yet!

7) The discussion on the price of German periodicals also resulted in a resolution proposed by Mr. Leyh at the 1933 meeting in Avignon, stressing other causes for the high prices of certain periodicals, Mr. Leyh proposed:

"...

....., the Federation believes that it is her duty to examine whether it is legally allowed to publish in periodicals or series theses which are in principle material for international exchange and thus to burden the budgets of libraries.

It should also be examined if parallel publications, such as exist particularly in the field of bibliographies and bibliographical surveys for the natural sciences, do not form an overproduction by the publishers which does not correspond with the needs of science and which entail supplementary expenses for the libraries.

Although this matter was not discussed as such at the 1934 meeting, the issue would be raised again later, as it formed the subject of one of the sections of the 1935 Congress.

Finally a few minor matters. At the two sessions held in 1933, Mr. Sevensma had the sad task of appealing to member-associations to help refugees. He presented a list of refugee librarians needing work abroad. The International Committee for Securing Employment to

1) Actes, Vol. VI, p. 45 (translated from the French by the author).

Refugee Professional Workers was willing to help financially. We do not know whether this appeal did actually help anybody.

The same political causes led to problems for the German libraries. In 1934 they could no longer promise cooperation with the activities of the I.I.I.C. because of the bad relations of the German government with the League of Nations. However a-political an international organization wants to be, it is still affected by the political situation in the world, as IFLA would experience.

h. Discussions on the next sessions and the next Congress.

Each session would end with a discussion on the place and time of the next session. Fortunately there was always an invitation from some country. Sometimes the actual discussion was left to the Board.

At the 1933 meeting it was decided to hold the next International Congress in 1935. The place would be decided by the Board. International loans would form an important topic. Already at Avignon it was clear that the place would probably be Spain.

The Congress was discussed in detail at the 1934 session. First Mr. Godet read his proposition made in Rome (1928) on the principles governing international congresses, stressing that the programme of the Congress should not contain too many different issues. To achieve this it would be necessary to decide carefully on the subject to be treated at the Congress. As we know, International Loans was to be the major issue.

Mr. Sevenema read a report prepared by the Executive Board, on the programme of the next Congress, proposing an arrangement of subjects to be treated and inviting discussion on some organizational matters.

It was decided to send invitations to the National Association of Publishers and Booksellers. Other problems discussed were the appointment of presidents and reporters for the various sections and the relative attention given in the programme to matters concerning public libraries and special library matters. The public libraries certainly ought to get the right amount of attention, as they had felt rather neglected at the last Congress.

It was proposed to give the Congress the title of "Second Congrès International des Bibliothèques et de Bibliographie".

The following programme was proposed:

- I. Opening session.
- II. Session for organizational matters (Commentary on the programme of the sections).
- III. Meeting of the sessions.
 - a. Public libraries.
 - b. Special libraries.
 - c. Study libraries. International Loan.
 - d. Professional training (including exchange of librarians).
 - e. Interchange and help between libraries.
 - f. The overproduction in the field of periodicals.
 - g. Libraries and bibliography in Spain.
- IV. Plenary session on International Loan.
- V. Plenary session on libraries in the modern world.
- VI. Closing session: vote on resolutions.

The members present were satisfied that their various suggestions were sufficiently incorporated in this programme outline.

i. National reports.

The last regular feature of the Committee's sessions to be discussed are the national reports. Each year the various representatives of the member associations reported on the main library activities in their country in the past year. We saw that the Actes were considered to be quite an important aspect for IFLA, as they formed the only regular means of communication between IFLA and its members. Of these Actes, the Annexes really formed the most important part, as these contained the full texts of most of the sub-committee reports and all of the national reports. Thus the national reports were an important means of informing other countries of one's national developments, one's most important publications in the field etc. All taken together these reports now form an interesting source of library history.

We also saw that the importance of standardization of these reports was stressed. If such a normalisation could have been achieved, it

certainly would have made it easier to abstract the important facts and to compare the developments. However this was probably asking too much for such a relatively loosely organized federation as IFLA was.

Within the context of IFLA's activities and achievements we can only stress the importance of the national reports as a source of information for the members. We will not go into any detail as to the information supplied.

Thus the first five years of IFLA came to an end. Few palpable results had been achieved, but the organization had grown steadily, and developed in a healthy fashion, and the possibilities for achievements in the future were certainly present. So IFLA went to its second Congress full of hope and good plans.

j. Reactions in England and the Netherlands.

Surprisingly, the references made to the work of IFLA, the League of Nations or the I.I.I.C. in the Library Association Record of the British Library Association, were very few in these years. In 1930 we only find a short notice on the 8th Conference of the International Institute of Bibliography, in 1929, and on the meeting of the Committee of Library Experts of the I.I.I.C. in Paris in 1930. In 1931 there was a short notice announcing the 'most welcome' international code of abbreviations for titles of periodicals, drawn up by the Sub-committee under the auspices of the I.I.I.C.

In 1932 we do find a report on the IFLA meeting in Berne, mentioning in particular the resolution on library budgets. The report is followed by a report on the meeting of the Committee of Expert Librarians, which also adopted a resolution on budgets. In 1933 the editor attended the ALA Annual Conference in America and represented Great Britain at the IFLA meeting there. However his report "Impressions of an American Tour" gave no particular information at all on IFLA.

In 1934 we find announcements of the IFLA Congress in Spain in 1935. More details on travelling arrangements and the programme of the Congress are given in 1935. Articles published in 1934 on the

price of German periodicals and various actions to get these reduced do not mention IFLA either.

Altogether we may conclude the IFLA did not 'live' in British Library circles in those early years, although the few delegates to the IFLA meetings seemed active and involved.

The IFLA meetings received a better treatment, on the whole, in the Netherlands. In Bibliotheekleven of 1932, Mr. J.S. Theissen¹⁾ published a quite extensive and detailed report of the 1931 meeting in Cheltenham. He gave a good impression of matters discussed. He particularly mentioned the national reports, which, as he said, gave a good survey of what was going on in the world of librarians.

There is no report on the 1932 meeting, but quite an extensive report was written on the 1933 meetings in Avignon and Chicago, in connection with the publication of the Actes of those meetings. Mr. Brummel²⁾ commented in this report on the surprisingly un-economic arrangement of two meetings, in a time of financial crisis. Also in other respects his comments were not exactly praising. He thought that the Actes did not usually abound with interesting information or important resolutions. He found the real contents of the bulky Actes of 1933 rather thin. He seems to have doubted the actual effect of Collijn's resolution on library budgets. Nor does he seem too enthusiastic about the results achieved in relation to German periodicals. He did however admit the importance of Mr. Leyh's work on statistics and Mr. Lemaître's work on International Loans. However, what he considered to be most important were the national reports, which, as he said, brought together a large number of data which were otherwise difficult to obtain. He very much approved of the attempts at standardization of the national reports, and gave as his opinion that the Dutch report might be improved! He concluded by admitting that he was not exactly jubilant about the working and the achievement of IFLA, but also by acknowledging the problems involved in trying to come to international arrangements and solutions for international problems. He thought that in international affairs the Dutch saying was particularly true that "God's mills

1) Bibliotheekleven, 1932, p. 41-45.

2) Bibliotheekleven, 1934, p. 147-148.

grind slowly".

In 1935 Mr. Brummel again provided a report on IFLA, on the 1934 meeting in Madrid. This time however, he gave little personal comment, but concentrated on a fairly detailed account of the meeting. He thought that the index to volumes I - VI of the Actes would prove very useful.¹⁾

It is difficult to say whether IFLA did really 'live' more among Dutch librarians than in England. In Holland too, it probably effected only a very small group of actively involved librarians. But at least they did report extensively and critically on their experiences and thus enabled other librarians to stay informed, if they wanted to .

1) Bibliotheekleven, 1935, p. 10-11.

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Chapter III. Pre-war years.

A. Second World Congress.

a. Eighth Plenary Session, Madrid 19th and 20th May 1935.

First and second Meeting.

In accordance with the statutes, the Committee met at the time of the International Congress. The first and second meeting were held in Madrid before the Conference. The third meeting was held in Barcelona, after the Conference.

Mr. Bishop opened the first meeting with a short speech. He thought as much time as possible should be devoted to the national reports, as there were more delegates present than ever before. So most of the time of the first and second meeting was taken up by the representatives from 25 countries presenting communications on the national developments in the field of librarianship.

b. Second International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography.

The "Actes du Comité International des Bibliothèques" do not tell us anything about the International Congress, apart from the resolutions, which were discussed at the third meeting of the Plenary session, in Barcelona. For full details of the International Congress we would have to go to the Congress Proceedings, which were, however, never fully published, because some of it was lost in the Spanish Civil War.

However, as going into all the details of the Congress would lead us too far anyway, I think it will suffice to consider the reports of the English and Dutch representatives.

In the British Library Association Record we can find an announcement of the Congress early in 1935. Edgar Osborne wrote the official report on the Congress, published in the Library Association Record of August 1935, p. 319-320. From his account we can conclude that the programme was indeed executed along the lines planned at the 1934 Plenary session (see p. 59).

Over a hundred and fifty papers were read: "In one section it was only possible to allow five minutes in which to summarize each paper".

There had obviously been no lack of preparatory work. Mr. Osborne did

not go into any details of the reports, as the proceedings were expected to be published soon. He himself attended the meetings of the Public Libraries Section, so most of his report is concentrated on this aspect. He mentioned that many resolutions were adopted, six of which were proposed by the Public Libraries Section. He thought that the most important of these resolutions was the one asking for a better financial support for public libraries. He also reported that: "A striking feature of the Conference was the interest taken by the Spanish people in the Public Libraries movement". The earlier exhortations to attend the Conference obviously had not had the required result: "Disappointment was expressed at the small number of British Libraries represented at the Conference". There were in fact six British librarians present. The report ended with a list of well-known figures present at the Conference.

From the report we get the impression that Mr. Osborne was fairly pleased with the results of the Conference as far as the Public Libraries were concerned. Unfortunately he gives us little information on the general organization or the atmosphere of the Conference, nor does he give a personal opinion on its usefulness.

The Dutch delegate, Mr. W. Leendertz, wrote a report for Bibliotheekleven, 1936, p. 11-16. His report gives us much more information on the Conference as it was really experienced by the librarians present. As Mr. Leendertz had also attended the 1929 Conference in Italy, he began by comparing the two Congresses. The Spanish Conference was attended by ca. 550 congressists of which ca. 200 were Spanish; in Rome there were more delegates. Mr. Leendertz considered this smaller number an advantage, as, according to him "the most important element of such a Conference is the contact with colleagues from many places, and this contact could now be more intensive".¹⁾

The Conference in Spain was generally better prepared and better organized; things happened as planned and on time. This was a great change from Italy. Mr. Leendertz thought that this was mainly due to the fact that the Congress was actually organized by IFLA, whereas in Rome the organization had been left mainly to the Italians. So,

1) Bibliotheekleven, 1936, p. 12

altogether, the Congress compared very favourably with its Italian predecessor.

The preparations had of course an effect on the Section meetings. The programme was limited to matters with an "International" or "general" character. Reports had been handed in in time, making it easier for the sections to come to agreement on the resolutions to be adopted. In his report Mr. Leendertz stressed once more that the resolutions could of course not be binding in any way. They merely expressed what the congressists considered to be desirable or necessary. Particularly in the field of International Loans, Mr. Leendertz thought that a way had been prepared for more fruitful international cooperation. Finally, he came to the conclusion that:

"the main point of all the meetings and of all the Congress did or where it led to, was the possibility it offered to renew personal contacts, and to discuss problems together, through which cooperation can grow. The importance of such Conferences lies in such contact, which is not the least important for librarians who always need each other to obtain information and to help each other to find the publications needed".¹⁾

We can conclude that Mr. Leenderts thought the Congress definitely successful, not so much for the resolutions it adopted, as for the possibilities it offered for personal contact. How successful the Congress was in terms of palpable results, would depend on the influence of the resolutions in the coming years.

c. Eighth Plenary session, third meeting, 30th May, Barcelona.

The third meeting was mainly taken up by the discussion of the resolutions adopted at the Congress. These were read by Mr. Sevensma: (for full text see Actes, Vol. VII, p. 21-31.). Summarized:

Overproduction in the field of Periodicals.

I German periodicals have been reduced in bulk and price, but library budgets have been reduced to an ever greater extent.

II Rationalisation of scientific periodicals in all civilised countries needed.

III Appointment of a special Sub-committee to consider the production

1) Bibliotheekleven, 1936, p. 15

of books and periodicals and the cost in relation to library budgets, suggested.

IV Expression of appreciation of the German intention to reduce the exportprice of German books and periodicals.

V Theses should only in especially well-founded exceptional cases be printed in periodicals and series and should in every case be unmistakably indicated as theses.

International Loans.

The proposals of this section began with a list of eleven 'general Theses' stating the basic principles of international loan and the conditions necessary for its effective functioning. These also stated that 'Rules for International Loan' would be formulated and published by IFLA.

As postal charges was one of the main problems, the section adopted a number of resolutions, asking each country to try and obtain the best possible arrangements and asking the Federation to support these attempts. The section also proposed the creation of a Sub-committee to design a form to be used for all requests for international loan, and to study the legal problems involved.

Special Libraries.

I. A sub-committee should be formed for special libraries (parliamentary, administrative, commercial and industrial libraries), to maintain the contact between these libraries, in between annual IFLA meetings.

II. The formation of a special group to regulate relations between parliamentary libraries and the League of Nations.

III. Coordination between parliamentary librarians on publications.

IV. Approving and supporting the work of a committee of Experts on the rationalisation of legal documents.

V. Official list of public publications in each country, and a bureau charged with the sales of such publications.

Collaboration and mutual aid between libraries.

This section recommended the creation of union catalogues and the regulation of the relations, internationally, between National

Information Bureaux. It also proposed:

1. the use of a standard form for requests.
2. that the national information bureaux should aid in supplying photocopies and by forwarding requests to the appropriate libraries.
3. The International committee should aim at the creation of an international union catalogue of manuscripts, by starting a 'short title catalogue' in one of the main libraries of the world.
4. Supporting the work of Dr. Vortius on the Bibliotheca bibliographia internationalis.
5. Suggesting the creation of a committee of Experts to work on the standardization of books and libraries. National organizations should create a body responsible for the application of the standardization. Stressing the need to add to all publications the full names of the author, the date of publication and the original title of translations.
6. recommending the use of the Croatic system for transcribing slavonic names in catalogues, side by side with the systems in use.
7. recommending the creation of a sub-committee for uniform cataloguing rules, starting with the rules for alphabetical order.
8. The section took the following decision: the library associations of the different countries are invited to work towards:
 1. periodical lists of national publications, appearing at short intervals, as exact and complete as possible.
 2. apart from weekly or monthly lists, also annual lists.
 3. indexes to these lists.
9. recommending the creation of a committee to study the gaps in the present system of special bibliographies.
10. Recommending the creation of national centres charged with the contact with documentation centres and special libraries, such that at any time a survey of bibliographical work is possible.
11. recommending that the exchange of theses is extended to the exchange of other scientific publications, in order to enable equal exchanges.
12. stressing the importance of exchange of publications, of lists of recommended works, and of lists of official publications.
13. stressing the importance of selected catalogues between public

libraries, and the importance of good translations, for public libraries.

Public libraries.

1. Hoping that the excellent work done by libraries in the rural districts of Spain will continue to receive moral and financial support.
2. stressing the importance of ample financial support for public libraries, to fulfill their important cultural purpose. Extra money needed, for increasing leisure time, adult education, work for children. Advisory centres needed to deal with problems of rural areas.
3. for rural areas close cooperation with libraries in cities, and with schools and other bodies is needed.
4. Library training needed in schools for professional librarians, and also courses for teachers and for non-professional workers in rural areas.
5. Supporting library services on ships, under government supervision, in cooperation with official library administration.
6. Hospital library services should be extended and improved: special training for hospital librarians, expansion of service to mental hospitals, and close cooperation with public libraries.

To deal with these resolutions of the Congress, a number of new Sub-committees were formed. For each Committee a president was appointed who in collaboration with the Executive Bureau of the Federation should name the members of the sub-committee.

For the sub-committee suggested by the Section 'Overproduction in the field of periodicals', Mr. Munthe was elected president. For International Loan a sub-committee was created to study the legal questions involved, under the chairmanship of Mr. P.S. Leicht. For Special Libraries a sub-committee was formed with Mr. M.E. Lancaster-Jones, deputy-keeper of the Science Museum in London, as president. As president of the sub-committee on Parliamentary Libraries Mr. J. Rais was appointed. The Section 'Collaboration and Mutual Aid between libraries' also resulted in two new sub-committees. For the sub-committee on Uniform cataloguing rules a president would be chosen

by the Executive Board. Mr. Prinzhorn, director of the library of the Technische Hochschule in Dantzig was elected as president of the sub-committee on normalisation in the field of books and libraries. The matter of special international bibliographies was referred to the committee on special libraries.

So, six new sub-committees had the task of realising as much as possible of the wishes and demands voiced in the sections of the Congress. We will look at each of them to see how much they achieved. The discussion was closed with a vote of thanks to the organizers of the Congress and an expression of gratitude to the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation for their gifts of money.

B. Follow-up of the Congress, 1935 - 1939.

The plenary sessions in the years after the Second World Congress, would generally follow the same pattern as the meetings in the earlier years. The resolutions of the Congress provided a working-programme for these years.

As the agenda for the annual meetings was roughly the same each year, and the same as it had been before the Second Congress, I will again take each item, in the same order, and follow its course of development through the years before the war.

a. The Bureau.

According to the Statutes, the Executive Board was elected for a term to expire not later than twelve months after the close of each Congress. So, at the 1936 plenary session, a new Board had to be elected. Mr. Bishop resigned as President. Mr. Godet was elected in his place. Because of the important work he had done for the Federation, Mr. Bishop was made an Honorary President. Mr. Godet's place as vice-president was filled by Mr. Krüss. The other vice-president, Mr. Esdaile resigned and was succeeded by Mr. Schmidt. Finally Mgr. Tisserant was made an Honorary member. Mr. Sevensma remained Secretary, helped by Mr. Breycha-Vauthier, the legal librarian of the League of Nations. The Bureau would continue to work in this

formation up to the Second World War.

b. Presidential Speeches.

In 1935 the Presidential speech was only short, as Mr. Bishop thought that as much time as possible should be devoted to the national reports, as there were more delegates present than ever before. In his speech he stated that the Library Committee was now a well established body, with regular meetings, and that it had done much to give personal contact among the leading librarians of the world, without which an effective international collaboration in the field of librarianship was not possible. Obviously, he too thought that the personal contact was one of the most important achievements of IFLA up to that moment.

In the years 1936 to 1938 Mr. Godet devoted much of his presidential speeches to the problem of the relationship between libraries and the new centres of documentation. The immediate cause of his concern was an invitation, in 1936, of the French Union of Documentation Organizations to take part in the World Congress of Documentation to be held in Paris in August 1937. Yet, of course, the relation of librarians to documentalists was already a problem before. Mr. Godet stressed that it was not just a problem of cooperation, to what extent it should extend. The problem went much further: it touched "the essential role of libraries in the modern world".¹⁾ Mr. Godet stressed the needs of the modern society, which was changing so rapidly, and the role therein of the periodicals, which he called the "Books in movement". Dealing with the "incessant, torrentuous and multiform" production in the form of books, articles, films, photographs and gramophone records created many problems, which had resulted in the rise of this new concept of 'documentation centres'.

Mr. Godet tried to define these centres: "These are, we are told, essentially active organizations, which assemble or use, whatever the form, all the documents that are useful to their specialisms, and which are supposed to be able to supply precise documentation, always up-to-date, on any subject, particularly topical subjects, whether scientific or economic, technical or practical, thanks to the richness

1) Actes, Vol. VIII, p. 13.

of information they possess between them, doing this by checking periodicals, registering articles, and composing collections of leaflets, press cuttings and photographs".¹⁾ Although the distinction between these centres and libraries might be clear in certain cases, 'documentation' had been going on in many libraries as a matter of fact, without being distinguished from other library work. Yet, the difference between traditional libraries and the new centres should not be ignored. "Yet, however disputable, the ideas of the documentalists are all the same, symptoms of a new situation and new needs, and many librarians of our old Europe, fixed in respectable but out-of-date traditions, would be wise to pay attention to these new situations and new needs, and to adapt to them, progressively, if they don't want to see the current of modern life and public interest turn away from them in the end".²⁾ Mr. Godet concluded that "Libraries and documentation centres, to the extent in which they differ from each other, are made to cooperate".³⁾

At the time of the 1937 plenary session, the World Congress of Documentation had just finished. Mr. Godet mentioned in his speech that the Congress had been attended by many librarians. It had resulted in 21 resolutions, almost all of which were of importance to librarians. The rest of his speech was mainly devoted to a reflection on the growing number of union catalogues, and on the possibilities of photography for library work.

In his 1938 speech, however, Mr. Godet returned to the problem of the relation between libraries and centres of documentation. According to the French Union of documentation Offices, documentation meant: "l'établissement, la recherche, la réunion et l'utilisation des documents".⁴⁾ If one accepted this definition, libraries would only be one particular kind of documentation, and there need be no problem. However, 'documentalists' tended to take the word in a much more restricted sense, making it impossible to equate libraries and documentation centres. The main characteristics of the centres were: specialisation, up-to-dateness, utility and mechanisation. They dealt with e.g. analysing periodicals, distracting important information,

1) Actes, Vol. VIII, p. 14/15.

2) Actes, Vol. VIII, p. 15.

3) Actes, Vol. VIII, p. 15.

4) Actes, Vol. X, p. 13, "to search for, collect, house and utilise documents".

particularly numbers, statistics etc., making abstracts, translations, etc. Libraries do offer a service in some fields, e.g. local studies, which is really documentation. Yet, on the whole libraries do not have the money or time for 'documentation' activities, and part of it is beyond their field of work anyway. Also, if documentation may be useful in some subject-fields, there are other subjects where the institution cannot and should not do the analysing for the client, as the essence of the service is in enabling the contact of the reader with the actual sources. In practice the "difference often lies not so much in the actual facts, as in the attitude of the functionary, who as 'documentalist' is inspired more by considerations of utility, and as traditional librarian more by the interests of culture."¹⁾

Mr. Godet thought that centres of documentation formed a useful development which would continue in the future. He thought that the main cause of troubles was the difference mentioned between the theory, where documentation engulfed all, and the reality where it only occupied a small part. Mr. Godet would like to see centres of documentation and libraries living side by side as peaceful and cooperating neighbours.

As could be expected, the 1939 meeting was strongly influenced by the political atmosphere of the time. Therefore it should not surprise us that Mr. Godet's speech also referred to the problems of the time. The president first talked about the divisions in the world. The world was divided, not only politically, but also in the general concept of life, one part giving priority to the State, and the other part giving priority to the individual. As for libraries this division led to two opposite ways of directing library services. The first opinion led to the subordination of intellectual activities to political aims. Libraries were used as a means to instruct the readers in a particular philosophy and way of life, selecting both books and readers for this aim. Librarians had to be devoted to the ultimate cause. On the other side, librarians would try to promote free study and free thinking offering all kinds of thinking and all philosophies for the reader to choose and judge.

1) Actes, Vol. X, p. 17.

Mr. Godet stressed that this was of course a simplification, and that the reality was much more divers and complex, showing many shades.

However, there were also still many communal things, tying librarians together, rather than dividing them. First of all, there was a common object: the Book. In this context the International Loans Scheme, to which Germany in particular contributed a great deal, was very important. Secondly, librarians held and had a duty to guard a technique, together. To keep this alive, and to develop it, international contact and consultation was essential. "We feel, among us, the existence of a more elevated, more impersonal and stronger bond: servants, in spite of everything, of the same culture, animated by the same piety for the treasures of the spirit, we are all, because of our function as librarians, guardians responsible for the same sanctuary, elevated above the events of the day and the historical situations of the moment. Because of our function, we are in fact devoted to the same noble duties, and if needed, called upon to make the same sacrifices."¹⁾

In these difficult times, Mr. Godet would like to re-establish the term of 'conservator' for librarian; librarians as conservators of the intellectual and moral values which are passed on from one century to the next and for which the book is only a vehicle. These values would always need saving in times of crises so that humanity can carry on humanising Man, which is the essence of civilisation.

It is difficult to judge the value of Mr. Godet's speech now. At the time it was probably important to say something on the situation, as to ignore it was impossible. Our best judge is perhaps the Dutch delegate, Mr. W. Leendertz, who reported that Mr. Godet's speech was very impressive. It was applauded loudly by the majority of the delegates, apart from the Germans, who voiced a protest. However, their objections do not seem to have led to a major incident.²⁾

We get the impression that Mr. Godet was the kind of man who could voice fairly strong opinions with sufficient tactfulness, so that nobody could really feel offended.

As to this earlier speeches; he no doubt contributed to the discussion on the relationship between libraries and centres of

1) Actes, Vol. XI, p. 15/16

2) Bibliotheekleven, 1939, p. 176.

documentation; a discussion which would go on for a long time yet. Here again his tactful and careful wording must have made his discourses acceptable to both parties concerned. By seeing and using the possibilities of the presidential speech for stimulating discussion on important library matters, Mr. Godet made, I think, an important contribution to the Federation.

c. Secretary's report.

Mr. Sevensma continued to report on the activities of the Bureau, in the same way as before. In 1935 the plenary session was attended by a record number of 65 delegates. In the years after the Congress the attendance remained fairly good, with an average of ca. 50 delegates. The number of members continued to grow slowly. By 1937, the Federation counted 43 members, from 32 countries. However, by 1938 the Federation had lost a member, as Austria no longer had its own independent library association.

The Actes continued to be published each year in The Hague, and the number of copies sold continued to rise. Vol. VI contained a cumulative index, as this was the end of the first series; with the second Congress, a second series of Actes was started.

In 1935 a new revised list of Members of IFLA was published. By 1938 the Bureau was again asking for the latest information on the member-associations, in order to prepare a new edition of the List. This new List was published in 1939. Apart from the details of the members, it also contained the Regulations on International Loans and a list of all the libraries adhering to this scheme.

The proceedings of the Congress caused some problems. The Bureau was only responsible for some of the volumes. The rest of the manuscripts remained in Spain and could not be obtained, because of the Spanish Civil War. Only in 1939 did Spain manage to supply 200 copies of Vol. III of the Proceedings, to be sold from The Hague.

The Bureau was again responsible for the distribution of a number of documents to the members. In 1937 Mr. Sevensma reported having sent to members: the text of the Regulations on International Loans, with models of the forms to be used, accompanied by a demand for

adhesion; Mr. Godet's report on International Loans, as presented at the Congress, printed as a pamphlet; and the rules for uniform library statistics with a request to select two libraries willing to give their statistics for 1935 and 1936. The Bureau of course collected the answers to the demand for statistics and the adhesions to the International Loan regulations.

In 1939 Mr. Sevensma moved to Leiden (Netherlands) where he became University Librarian. However, he did continue his work for IFLA from his new seat, while Mr. Breycha-Vauthier continued to help him from Geneva. The Federation took the occasion of this move, and the sixtieth birthday of the Secretary to honour him by instituting the Sevensma Price.

The finances of the Federation did not give any particular problems in the years 1935 to 1939. Mr. Sevensma must again have worked very hard and very thoroughly. The Federation certainly had much to thank him for.

d. Discussions of resolutions.

Unlike the resolution of the first Congress, the execution of the resolutions of the Second World Congress had all in some way been referred to a Sub-committee. The actual resolutions were never again discussed as such. International Loans was the only matter to be discussed separately. We will therefore only consider this last matter, before moving on to the work of the sub-committees.

International Loan.

Before the 1936 meeting the Bureau distributed to members the rules of International Loans, as these had been formulated at the Congress in Spain, with projected loan-forms, information-request-forms and labels. The Bureau also sent a report by Mr. Abb on the matter of international loans. Mr. Godet had written the regulations and composed the forms. The Sub-committee on legal matters involved considered these regulations and added some comments. Mr. Abb's report appeared to be along similar lines. At the 1936 session, the committee considered the propositions and managed to come to agreement on

Regulations for International Loans. (see Actes, Vol. VIII, p. 99-110).¹⁾

1) see Annex V.

The Committee also accepted the forms, which would be printed in the language of the country using them, with a translation in French. Of course, each country would have to decide whether the national association could accept the regulations and which libraries would join the scheme. Therefore, the Regulations were published the following year, and distributed to the members, as Mr. Sevensma reported. By the time of the 1937 meeting a number of associations had answered positively to the request for adhesion. More countries were expected to adhere soon, such as Germany and England, which were both very important if the scheme were to be effective. A few countries reported having minor problems with the adaptation of the rules, but apparently none of these were prohibitive.

At the 1938 session, it was reported that not all members had answered yet. However, already the main libraries of 15 countries had joined the scheme, and the delegates assured the Committee that there were still more libraries intending to adhere. As we mentioned before, the list of libraries adhering to the scheme was published in the 1939 edition of the List of IFLA-members, together with the Regulations of International Loans. By then the system functioned in 19 countries. The other countries were once again urged to join. About six countries had provided statistics on their international loans, as requested in article 9c. of the Regulations. Mr. Godet stressed the importance of these statistics, which could provide useful information. He would like to see uniform statistics from all countries for the coming year. According to the information received, Poland, Switzerland, Holland and Hungary were the greatest users of the German books.

Postal charges remained the main problem, but it was suggested that libraries could often reduce the costs by making the best possible use of the reductions for printed matter and by using the special forms as designed by IFLA for the purpose. Also associations should try to approach the postal officials in their country, in order to try and obtain better postal rates for international loans at the next International Postal Congress, where the international arrangements

for post would be revised.

I think we can say that the International Loan scheme was a major achievement of the Federation in the years before the war. Many important libraries took part in the system, which seems to have worked fairly efficiently, although there were still problems. However, at the very moment when the scheme would have had to begin to prove its effectiveness, the war broke out.

e. Sub-committees.

The sub-committees did not report or meet in 1935, presumably because there was already so much to discuss in relation to the Congress and because there were so many national reports. So, our discussion of the sub-committees starts with 1936. We will first look at the sub-committees which existed before 1935, in the same order as before, and next at the new committees created in 1935.

I. Sub-committee on the exchange of librarians.

We saw that this sub-committee did not present a report in 1933, nor in 1934. In fact the committee seemed to have disappeared completely, till it suddenly reappeared at the 1939 meeting. Apparently it had not died completely, for it still had a president, namely, Mr. Bishop. At the 1939 session, Mr. Sevensma read a note from Mr. Bishop, saying that it would be interesting if exchanges could be organized between library directors or their deputies or other senior personnel, rather than junior personnel, as had been done before. This would give senior librarians a chance to get acquainted with the functioning of foreign institutions. The Actes do not say whether this suggestion was followed by any discussion. Perhaps it was felt to be a good idea, but not very opportune.

II. Sub-committee on professional training.

This committee, too, was silent in 1933 and 1934. It seems to have died a quiet death. The subject would be studied again after the war.

III. Sub-committee on Public Libraries.

We saw that this sub-committee managed to secure a fair deal of attention for Public Libraries at the Second World Conference. At the Congress many countries provided information on the situation as to public libraries. All this information would be published in Volume

III of the Proceedings of the Congress. As this volume had not appeared yet in 1936, the sub-committee decided to wait for the publication, before taking further action. Unfortunately, Vol. III was one of the manuscripts which remained in Spain during the Civil War. It was only in 1939 that Mr. Sevensma reported 200 copies of Vol. III on sale at the publishers in The Hague. Therefore it should not surprise us that there was no report from the sub-committee in 1937 either. However, the I.I.I.C. had published a report, interesting to public libraries: "Mission sociale et intellectuelle des bibliothèques populaires".

Mr. Schuster remarked that interesting questions for public libraries to be discussed internationally would concern the fields of interests of readers in the various countries, what foreign languages were read, etc. It would be useful to hold an enquiry into these matters.

A resolution was adopted, stating that the Sub-committee should hold an enquiry into the fields of interests of the public library readers all over the world. It should deal with the following questions:

- which subject was most in demand during the last year? What was the order of priority of the other subjects?
- what was the proportion fiction - non-fiction?
- which foreign languages were read? which one most, and in which order the other languages?
- which were the five most asked for works?

Any further information and comments would also be useful. Answers from a limited number of representative libraries were considered sufficient. The inquiry would have to be repeated in coming years. The Institut für Leser- und Schrifttumskunde in Leipzig would deal with the realisation of the project.

In 1938 Mr. Schuster presented a report. The preparatory work had already given interesting information. He proposed to carry on his enquiry through the help of the German Institute and two other institutes, namely the Graduate Library School of Chicago University and the School of Librarianship of London University. The Committee agreed that this would be a good idea. Mr. Godet would like to use

the enquiry to obtain comparative figures which might help to judge whether there was a 'crisis of the book' or not. Whether Mr. Schuster's figures would be helpful for that purpose, would have to be seen.

At the 1939 meeting, Mr. Schuster explained how the enquiry was being conducted by the three institutions. In America the work was done in great detail. In Germany, however, the scope of the survey would be more limited. Unfortunately, the enquiry would never be finished.

IV. Sub-committee on the exchange of theses.

At the 1936 meeting it was decided to wait for the publication of the relevant volume of the Proceedings of the Congress, as this would contain various interesting reports.

In 1937, Mr. Emler proposed the following resolution:

"University theses are more and more the object of keen interest and the scientific libraries more and more desire to receive them. A certain number of countries do not demand theses to be printed and can therefore not offer their theses for exchange. However, it is hoped that these countries would not have to do without foreign theses.

We propose therefore that these countries should pay the cost of sending them theses, and to invite them to send in exchange official scientific publications, conforming to lists composed for this purpose."¹⁾

This resolution was adopted. Next, the sub-committee was renewed, as some members had left, and others had lost contact with the issue.

At the 1938 meeting there was no report from the sub-committee. However, the issue was discussed. Mr. Abb stated that more and more institute-libraries and universities desired to obtain foreign theses. However, this was not possible as these institutes had no exchange material to offer. Mr. Abb thought that the collection of foreign theses should be restricted to the Central University libraries. These central collections should be strengthened and extended. It was remarked that a list of all universities which had theses for exchange would be useful. It was also hoped that it would be possible

1) Actes, Vol. IX, p. 31, Translated from French by the author.

to publish a list of the publications available from the various institutions in the different countries. Such lists could best be published in e.g. national library journals. Mrs. Fallot stated that the I.I.I.C. was already trying to collect such information. They would contact the sub-committee.

At the 1939 meeting it was reported that Mr. Emler had resigned as chairman. Mr. Guinard was elected to succeed him. Mrs. Duprat read a report by Mr. Guinard. This stressed the importance of lists, such as mentioned in 1938. It would be useful to have an alphabetical list of libraries involved by country and town, and an alphabetical list of publications offered.

In his report, Mr. Guinard expressed his amazement at not having heard anything since he had belonged to the sub-committee for a year. This is not surprising, as we saw that the sub-committee had not produced a proper report since the Congress. Mr. Guinard expressed the following wishes:

- that in each sub-committee a permanent contact should be established between the chairman and the members - who often do not know each other.
- that each sub-committee should meet at least once a year, before the annual session of the Committee, to examine the questions in hand at leisure and thoroughly and to be able to present the results of its work to the Committee.

Mr. Guinard's obvious dissatisfaction with the working of the sub-committees was not something new, as we know. His wishes were very sensible and really needed to be voiced once more. However, a more effective working pattern for the sub-committees would only be established after the war.

Finally Mr. Godet concluded that the sub-committee would extent its activities to university publications other than theses, but not to the publications of learned societies.

V. Sub-committee on the statistics of publications.

At the 1936 meeting, Mr. Muscowski, who was still the president of this sub-committee, presented a report by Mr. Rulikowski, proposing

that the sub-committee should change its method of working. Instead of making a standard form for statistics, it should become a kind of Supreme Court, judging matters relating to such statistics and recommending the best features of national statistics to other countries for imitation, thus slowly working towards unification. In the discussion Mr. Rodowicz stressed the need to standardize the systematic classes used in the statistics, and the meaning of terms such as 'book', 'pamphlet', 'periodical'.

In 1937 it was reported that Mr. Muszkowski would stop his work as delegate to IFLA and as president of the sub-committee. Mr. Uhlandahl was appointed in his place as chairman. Two new members were appointed. As we might have expected, the sub-committee, having lost its president, had no report to offer.

Mr. Uhlandahl as the new president started work on the issue with fresh energy. At the 1938 meeting he presented a report, stressing the connection between statistics of publications and national bibliographies. As he thought that the realisation of full uniform statistics was a long way off, he suggested to start by trying to establish a more simplified form of statistics, e.g.:

- a. independent works (books, pamphlets, compilations, series),
- b. periodicals,
- c. newspapers,
- d. works of art and reproductions,
- e. geographical maps,
- f. musical scores.

Once such statistics had been achieved, the information could be subdivided into various categories, such as:

- a. language,
- b. originals and translations,
- c. first editions, later editions and reprints,
- d. books, pamphlets,
- e. subjects,
- f. publishers,
- g. periodicity.

One should work from the general to the specific. If the various countries could first produce the general statistics, they could perhaps eventually come to such detailed universal statistics as devised by Mr. Muszkowski.

Mr. Uhrendahl was encouraged by the Committee to carry on along these lines.

At the 1939 session, Mr. Uhrendahl reported on the progress with his scheme, The division of publications into six clearly definable categories, as suggested by him in 1938, had been tried for the compilation of statistics in Holland, Switzerland and Germany. Mr. Uhrendahl drew a few conclusions:

- in order to achieve a reasonable impression of the situation, both the national bibliographies and the library statistics should be considered in combination;
- to start with, a good impression of the production of publications in one particular year was needed, to function as material for comparison;
- it would be useful if more countries could use the simplified scheme and produce statistical information for 1938.

Representatives of France, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Switzerland, Denmark and Japan promised to cooperate with the scheme. Obviously, it was generally thought to be a realistic and useful undertaking. Although the work would have to be stopped in the next few years, the idea of these six categories was taken up again in 1947.

VI. Sub-committee on library statistics.

This sub-committee was very little effected by the Second World Congress. At the 1936 meeting, Mr. Leyh expressed his wish to continue his work, and in particular to see, from 1935 onwards, annual international library statistics, published by the Federation. The outline as composed by Mr. Leyh before the Congress, was sent to all members. The kinds of libraries for which it should apply, was left to the members to be decided.

It was suggested that Mr. Leyh should seek contact with the directors of large libraries to try and encourage the use of

standardized statistics. As we suggested before, the standardization of library reports would also be useful. Mr. Leyh's project could produce a very interesting piece of work, but many delegates expected difficulties to arise.

It was decided that the Bureau would ask members to compose library statistics according to the scheme, for one or two libraries in each country, starting from 1935.

In 1937, Mr. Leyh reported having received statistics from 8 countries, on 13 libraries. Answers from 5 more libraries had been promised. In the discussion it was stressed that uniform library statistics could only be achieved, if libraries were willing to try and use Mr. Leyh's scheme, and to state the problems encountered on paper. That was the only way to find out.

Since so little information on 1935 had been received, it was decided that libraries should compose statistics for 1938 and send these to Mr. Leyh.

By 1938, Mr. Leyh was losing heart. He had received information from 14 countries, but this was not enough to draw any conclusions. He thought that the Committee ought to decide whether the work should be carried on or not. If it should be, he would like to see a representative from each country responsible for the statistics, who should get into touch with him.

After some discussion it was decided that the questionnaire should be reduced. A shorter, simplified list of questions would be sent to all members, asking them once more to give the statistical information for 1939. However, this does not mean that the Committee pronounced itself definitely in favour of continuing the work. Nor was any promise made as to national representatives.

By the 1939 meeting, Mr. Leyh reported having received very few responses. It is therefore not surprising that he expressed the wish to resign. Particularly the refusal of America and England had been very disappointing to him. Even if these countries could only fill in a small part of the questionnaire, their answers would have been interesting and helpful; even if they themselves did not see the use.

However, Mr. Leyh's resignation was not accepted. The Committee unanimously favoured the continuation of his work, basing his conclusions on the information received. After the war his work for the sub-committee would finally be taken over by others.

VII. Sub-committee on hospital libraries.

After the Second World Congress, the sub-committee on hospital libraries carried on along the same lines as before. Many important reports would be published in Vol. III of the Proceedings of the Congress, but these were not available yet in 1936. It was reported that the Guild of Hospital Librarians had been transformed into an International Association of Hospital Libraries, during the international congress of hospital libraries in May 1936. In view of the fear that economical crises might cause problems for many hospital libraries, Mrs. Roberts expressed the following wish:

"The International Library Committee expresses the wish that the greatest possible efforts are made in all countries to organize and support hospital libraries, as these libraries as considered a social service of the first order, because of their usefulness for the sick."¹⁾

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

As usual, Mr. Lemaître presented a report on the development of hospital libraries in various countries. In France a National Committee of hospital libraries had been founded.

Mr. Lemaître again presented the report in 1937. The international congress of hospital libraries held in 1936 had had a useful influence in attracting public attention. It would be desirable if a committee were created in each country to stimulate the creation and development of these libraries. The National Guild of Hospital Libraries in London would be glad to help such committees. The report also gave the latest developments in a number of countries.

Mr. Sevensma presented Mrs. Roberts' report on the International Guild, which stressed among other things the importance of volunteers in hospital libraries. Copies of the quarterly review of the Guild, the 'Book Trolley' were distributed.

At the 1938 meeting, members were reminded of the existence of the

1) Actes, Vol. VIII, p. 30. (translated from French by the author)

International Guild of Hospital Libraries, in London. The report of the Guild gave a brief summary of the position internationally. There seemed to be widespread interest, and progress was being made in many places. It seemed that IFLA could help mainly by attracting attention to the Guild and urging individual libraries to join.

In 1939, Mrs. Roberts' report on the International Guild stressed the responsibility of hospital authorities for establishing hospital services. Mr. Lemaître's report drew the attention to a publication of the American Library Association 'The Hospital Library', which was a new edition of 'Hospital Libraries'. The difference between the two editions of this useful guide showed the developments in the field. Mr. Lemaître also summarized the developments in England, Ireland, South-Africa and France.

We can conclude that this sub-committee continued to have the same function it had before the Spanish Congress. Mr. Lemaître's reports continued to be useful for recording the situation and the latest developments. Otherwise, most of the work was still being done by Mrs. Roberts and the Guild. Rather than trying to duplicate this work, IFLA did indeed best by drawing the attention of members to this Guild.

VIII. Sub-committee on the price and overproduction of periodicals.

The Committee reported for the first time in 1937. Mr. Munthe stated that the aim of the sub-committee would be to act in certain cases by reporting to the Federation and/or writing to the publisher. Cases concerned would be:

- if higher prices were charged from foreigners than within the country,
- if publishers had a kind of monopoly in a field so that they could charge exorbitant prices,
- if a periodical was filled with non-original material,
- if the articles in a periodical should really be monographs,
- if abstracting journals overlapped,
- if yearbooks were unnecessarily reprinted every year.

Mrs. Cunningham was doing a comparative study of international periodical prices, per page, to be able to come to a fair judgement. The prices of German periodicals did not seem to be much above the average any longer.

Mr. Munthe again presented the report in 1937. Devaluation was not helping library budgets, which were suffering under the burden of subscriptions of new scientific periodicals. The German publishers had kept to the 25% reduction promised, but the situation was still not satisfactory. One of the problems was formed by the "families of periodicals" whereby subscription to one periodical compelled the library to subscribe to another periodical as well. This was obviously wrong. The misuse of scientific periodicals to publish theses, which was an encroachment on the free exchange, was being studied by Dr. Holmberg. One case of unfair pricing was reported, namely the International Who's Who, which was sold for much higher prices outside England. The value of the work was doubted too. Mr. Munthe resigned, this year, to be succeeded by Mrs. Cunningham.

At the 1938 meeting a report by Mrs. Cunningham was presented. She had made a detailed study of the price of German medical and biological periodicals and had also surveyed French periodical prices. The prices had increased considerably in the last year, according to her. 45 new journals had appeared in medicine and allied sciences in the last year. The survey showed that nothing had been gained in regard to further price decreases since 1935, and that some of the ground gained since 1932 had been lost again. If this continued, subscriptions would have to be stopped again.

The report also drew attention to the need for a study of the abstracting publications in all countries. A Joint Committee composed of representatives of library associations and scientific societies was going to work on this, in order to eliminate overlapping and duplication. It would be helpful if the sub-committee would be willing to cooperate. Also, librarians were continually complaining that it was difficult to obtain information on the publications of international congresses. A yearly list of congresses, with data concerning the

publication of proceedings etc. would be useful. The situation as to theses in periodicals seemed to be better, but not yet solved.

A resolution was adopted, supporting the study of indexing and abstracting services, and deciding that the Federation would nominate a representative for this work.

Mr. Sevensma drew the attention to the "Bulletin de renseignements sur l'oeuvre des organisations internationales" published regularly by the League of Nations. This would contain much of the desired information on congress proceedings.

Finally a resolution was adopted on the insertion of adverts in periodicals on special pages. This matter was referred to the committee on special libraries.

For the 1939 meeting Mrs. Cunningham had again written a long and detailed report. Prices of German periodicals had on the whole slightly improved. New scientific periodicals continued to appear in large numbers. International organizations such as IFLA should do all they could to make scientists aware of the inadvisability of new journals, unless these really filled an existing gap.

Mrs. Cunningham presented IFLA at the first meeting of the Joint Committee on Indexing and Abstracting services, sponsored by the American Library Association. It looked as if this committee was going to do some very useful work.

Finally it is interesting to see that Mrs. Cunningham expressed her appreciation of the assistance and support in this work extended by the members of the Sub-committee. This shows that Mrs. Cunningham did not really do all the work, although on the other hand, it does stress that the chairman did most of the work. She would continue to work for this sub-committee after the war.

Altogether, we can say that the sub-committee did do some very useful work in these years, by studying periodical prices, and highlighting some of the problems, but we get the very strong impression that we should say 'Mrs. Cunningham' rather than 'the Sub-committee'!

IX. Sub-committee on the legal problems of International Loans.

This sub-committee was very short-lived. It presented its one and

only report in 1937, having studied the following two questions:

- the responsibility of the borrowing library in case of loss or damage;
- regulations concerning disagreements which might result from possible damages.

They proposed a text to be printed on the back of the loan-form, to deal with these eventualities. Their proposals were adopted.

X. Sub-committee on Special Libraries.

At the 1936 meeting, Mr. Lancaster-Jones presented the first report. He analysed a number of problems: preserving of the sources, adequate bibliographies, the provision of abstracts and digests, and the provision of summaries of progress and of the stage of knowledge reached at a given date; and he described ways of better organizing information services. He also submitted a scheme for a world index to scientific and technical literature, brought to the notice of the sub-committee by the Science Museum Library in London. The Science Service, Washington, D.C. had submitted a programme of documentation based on the use of microphotography.

It was remarked that the best results would be obtained if one library did all the abstracting work for each small field of interest.

Mr. Lancaster-Jones again presented the report in 1937. He surveyed the progress made in the field of bibliography during the last year, drawing particular attention to the work done by the Science Museum Library to further its scheme for a World Index to Scientific and Technical Literature. He approved of the work done by the I.I.D., which had arrived at adaptations of the Decimal Classification, in collaboration with various specialised organizations, with advantage to both parties, and while maintaining the unity of the system. Further progress was recorded in the publication of this system in English and German. Activities continued in the production of microphotographic apparatus and the application of this process for libraries. In the compilation of lists of periodicals purporting to relate to a specific subject, he thought it desirable to specify in regard to each item:

- the place (country) in which it is published,
- the subject or subjects with which it deals.

He recommended that the arrangement of the titles in an extensive list should be according to national groups in the first instance. Mr. Lancaster-Jones was particular interested in comments on this recommendation. However, there was no discussion on it, as it was suggested that anybody interested should contact Mr. Lancaster-Jones directly. So we don't know the general opinion on this.

The 1938 report drew the attention to the importance of supplying lists of current periodicals on specialised subjects. The Institute of Agriculture was preparing such a guide for agricultural periodicals; the Science Library in London would also produce one. Both these institutions were also preparing lists to periodical abstracting and indexing services in their respective fields.

The importance of technical libraries was increasing in many countries. The report once more drew the attention to the important role of micro-photography. Some very interesting and useful work in the field of technical periodicals was being done in Sweden, by the Society for Technical Literature (Tekniska Litteratursällskapet T.L.S.).

Mr. Lancaster-Jones' report for 1939 mentioned a number of interesting publications, such as the Ulrich's periodicals directory, the Handlist of Current Periodicals from the Science Library and the World Bibliography of Bibliographies. It was discussed whether this last publication, by Besterman, was not a duplication of the work of Mr. Grundtvig and Mr. Vortius. Mr. Esdaile explained that there was a considerable difference between these two publications. It was noted with interest that special libraries were gradually evolving their own textbooks. The project of an international guide to technical periodicals had to be abandoned for the time being.

In his report Mr. Lancaster-Jones mentioned that no formal session of the sub-committee had been held during the last year, but that many of its members had met on the occasion of the annual conference of the F.I.D. and the British Association of Special Libraries and

Information Bureaux. On that occasion the opportunity was taken to have several informal discussions. We know that sub-committees hardly ever met in between the annual sessions, for various reasons. It is good to see that this sub-committee did take such opportunities for informal discussions, so that presumably the annual report was not completely the work of Mr. Lancaster-Jones alone. This also stresses the importance of letting conferences of allied organizations coincide, in the same country. However, all this does not alter the fact that the reports of this sub-committee in the years 1936 to 1939 were mainly the work of the chairman. The committee did not achieve any thing tangible, but it probably fulfilled a useful function in drawing attention to progress made in various countries and in stimulating discussion and contacts. This same work would be continued after the war, under a new chairman.

XI. Sub-committee on Parliamentary Libraries.

Mr. Damiani presented the first report. The committee had started working immediately after the 1935 Congress. A questionnaire had been sent to the parliamentary libraries of the various countries, in July 1935, asking for information and suggestions on the following matters:

- coordination of the methods of work and of publications,
- rationalisation of legal documentation,
- editing of the summaries of the working of the various Parliaments,
- amelioration of the exchange arrangements for official publications,
- formation of parliamentary libraries, as organizations independent of general parliamentary administration,
- parliamentary libraries and legal deposit.

Only a small number of answers had been received. It was suggested that more answers might come, if the questionnaire was also sent to the national associations, in the various countries.

We don't know whether any more answers to this questionnaire were received during the following year, as the matter was not mentioned at the 1937 meeting. There was no report either. Instead there was a long discussion which resulted in the decision to have 5 issues studied. The reports from 5 reporters on these subjects would form

the basis of a discussion at the next meeting. The issues chosen were:

- Governmental and parliamentary publications,
- legal deposit in parliamentary and legal libraries,
- world exchange of parliamentary and legal information and publications,
- possibility of normalisation of references made by authors and publishers,
- functioning of the 'Legislative Reference Service' of the Library of Congress.

The reports on these subjects should be sent to the Bureau by March, 1st, 1938. Mr. Damiani was appointed general reporter.

From the 1938 report of this sub-committee it becomes obvious that only one of these reports was actually written. Miss Meyer gave a survey of the origin, the history and the functioning of the 'Legislative Reference Service' of the Library of Congress. Of the other reporters, only Mr. Childs, who should have reported on the first issue, did something. He did not write a report, but he did send some information, namely a pamphlet 'Library of Congress. An account of Government document bibliography in the United States and elsewhere', which he published in 1930; he accompanied this with some up-dated information. He also sent the text of the 1937 agreement between the United States and Mexico on the exchange of official journals and parliamentary documents, and a pamphlet "The current recording of United States Government Publications" published in 1937. I suppose altogether, Mr. Childs thought that this information sufficiently covered the subject he was supposed to study.

The sub-committee had also received a report from Mr. Breycha-Vauthier on the library of the League of Nations. The report of the sub-committee presented at the 1938 meeting summarized these three surveys. Together they showed the great importance of good relations between the directors of parliamentary information services, enabling them to stay informed of new publications and interesting changes. A resolution was presented asking the Federation to invite all directors of libraries and other institutions interested to get into contact with the Federation in order to organize regular contacts between parliamentary documentation

centres. The resolution also thanked Mr. Sevensma for his excellent work in making the library of the League of Nations into what it was now, and hoped that this library would continue to be accessible to all countries, and would continue to be so useful. This resolution was adopted unanimously.

The first questionnaire, sent in 1935 and 1936 obviously had not had much success, for in 1939 it was reported that another questionnaire was being prepared, which would ask for information on general methods and instruments of documentation in parliamentary libraries, and also information on bibliographies, institutions and persons which might be helpful for research in the field of parliamentary and legal matters. The information would be regularly up-dated and published. Whether this questionnaire was ever sent is doubtful. The sub-committee continued under a new president after the war, and this particular survey was never mentioned again.

The conclusion on this sub-committee is that it really tried very hard to collect information and to have certain issues studied in more detail. However, the response was minimal. Hopefully the existence of the sub-committee did give some support to the librarians concerned and did stimulate discussion and contacts.

XII. Sub-committee on the normalisation in the field of books and libraries.

Mr. Prinzhorn presented the report of this committee in 1936. He thought that the sub-committee should deal with the standardization of rules for alphabetical arrangements, the ordering of citations, the useful form and shape of periodicals, the form of library cards and bibliographical cards, the transcription of foreign letters etc. Much of this also interested the I.I.D., but many members of the sub-committee belonged to that Institute too, so it would be possible to prevent duplication of efforts. The International Standards Association and the International Committee of Scientific Organizations also dealt with standardization, so duplicating their work must be avoided too. From France it was reported that a special committee was studying the elaboration of rules for alphabetical lists. Rules for the ordering

of personal names and names of commercial firms would be published soon.

At the 1937 meeting, Mr. Prinzhorn reported that the sub-committee had now also become a committee of the I.I.D. in order to be as effective as possible in the field of standardization. It had been decided to form special committees in each country responsible for the execution of the standardization. Thirteen countries had already appointed chairmen for such committees. On the programme of the joint IFLA-I.I.D. committee were rules for alphabetical ordering, transliteration, rules for citations, the shape of periodicals etc.; in fact the same kind of programme as the original IFLA sub-committee had envisaged for itself. To avoid duplication, Mr. Prinzhorn would get into contact with the sub-committee on the unification of cataloguing rules, on the issue of transliteration.

In 1938 it was reported that the joint IFLA-I.I.D. committee had now come under the supervision of the International Standards Association. As 'ISA-committee 46 Documentation' it had its secretariat with the German committee for standardization.

The committee's first task would be to ensure the execution of the already existing international standards. This concerned the international rules for abbreviation of periodical titles, the ordering on lists of periodicals, and the shape of library cards and bibliographical cards. These matters would be discussed at the meeting of the sub-committee during the F.I.D. conference in September 1938 in England. The other tasks of the committee would also be discussed there. The committee would report regularly on the progress of the various issues in the library periodicals.

At the 1939 session, Mr. Prinzhorn reported on the meeting of the ISA-committee 46 in September 1938 in London. It was decided that the rules for the abbreviation of periodical titles and the rules for the ordering of lists of periodicals would be proposed for ISA-recommendations. Mr. Damiani's work on transliteration had been distributed and would be discussed in the various countries. To stimulate the discussion on rules for alphabetical ordering, countries had been asked to establish national rules, if these did not exist as yet.

Normalisation in the field of photographic reproduction was also discussed. Particularly in Germany and America good progress was being made in the field of standardization.

In the discussion the attention was drawn to a new format for catalogue cards, being introduced in some new libraries. It was stressed that this development should be stopped as much as possible, as it threatened uniformity.

It is difficult to compare this sub-committee with the other IFLA sub-committees since it really became an ISA committee. After the war it would continue as a committee of the International Standards Organization. Of course it was a good thing, that IFLA did not try to have its own committee, duplicating the work of others. The effectiveness of the committee in these years is hard to measure, since the adoption of the various rules in the different countries was of course a slow process. No doubt it stimulated such execution, by discussing the value of the rules and stimulating the devising of more rules, and by reporting on the progress made. Standardization continues to be a major concern in international librarianship.

XIII. Sub-committee on the unification of cataloguing rules.

Mgr. Tisserant had been appointed chairman of this sub-committee. He reminded the committee of the important work done by the Vatican library in the field of cataloguing rules. A code was published in 1930, which was being tried out in various countries. Collaboration between the Vatican Library and IFLA could be very profitable. As mgr. Tisserant was, however, leaving the Vatican Library and also his work for IFLA, he resigned as president in 1936 and was succeeded by Mr. Bishop.

Mr. Rodowicz reported that Mr. Sustrac had done some work on the unification of cataloguing, for the I.I.D., but that the Institute had decided to leave this matter to IFLA. However, mr. Sustrac's work ought to be considered. He had devised a kind of auxiliary code, to be used for international works, which should help to make the national codes more simple and more precise. Mr. Godet assured Mr. Rodowicz that Mr. Sustrac's work would certainly be studied.

Apparently, not Mr. Bishop, but Mr. Metcalf took over the presidency of the sub-committee. He presented the report in 1937. He stated that a study should be made of the existing national or international codes. He realized that it would be a long time before any kind of international agreement would be achieved. Five topics had been singled out for consideration:

1. language question. Would it be possible to find a code which could transcend the language barriers? The sub-committee was undertaking the preparation of a glossary of cataloguing terms in at least four languages: English, French, German, Italian. The Vatican Rules and the Prussian Instructions should also become available in 4 languages, as should the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules.
2. The theories and policies behind various rules should be studied.
3. The sub-committee should act as a clearing-house for information on the subject.
4. Transliteration should be studied.
5. The problem of cataloguing musical scores, and of other special cataloguing codes should be studied.

Mr. Lemaître announced that his French-English-German vocabulary of library terms would soon appear. Mr. Krüss reported that the Prussian Instructions would soon be translated into English and Greek. The Vatican Rules had already been translated into various languages.

In 1938 Mr. Metcalf's report contained a study of various cataloguing codes and the policies for using them. There was also a statement on cataloguing in the United States. It was suggested that similar reports should be prepared by other countries each year, and should be published. Mr. Metcalf's report also contained a useful list of books, periodicals and reports on cataloguing published in 1937.

The report presented in 1939 consisted of two parts: first a statement on the international cataloguing situation, based on letters from Committee members, and second a statement on cataloguing in the United States in 1938, prepared by Mr. Russell of the National Archives. Good progress in this field was reported from France. The sub-committee intended to try and combine the best elements of the various codes

into a code of its own.

This sub-committee did some useful work in these years before the war, by registering various codes, stimulating knowledge of these codes and their translation into other languages and initiating the study of the pros and cons of the different systems. Like most committees it also fulfilled a useful function in acting as a clearing-house for information on the subject. The members of the committee seem to have been helpful in supplying Mr. Metcalf with information on the situation in their country. The sub-committee would carry on in the same vein after the war.

Some conclusions on the working of the sub-committees.

If we try to sum up the work of the sub-committees in the years 1935 to 1939, the picture is neither too favourable nor too disappointing. The sub-committees basically continued to work in the same manner as they did in the early years. Meetings in between the annual sessions were almost unknown. Good exceptions were the committee on special libraries and the committee on standardizations, but in both cases the members met on the occasions of other conferences or meetings; not because the sub-committee of IFLA had decided that it needed to come together. Reports continued to be written by the chairmen. If a president resigned there was usually no report. A new chairman would be appointed at the annual meeting, who would present his first report at the next session. Often a new president would start to work along new lines. This lack of continuity, which of course made progress slow, could also be seen in regard to other members of the committees, so that it was usual for members of a committee hardly to know each other. The best sub-committees seem to have been those committees of which the members regularly reported to the chairman on the situation in their country in relation to the particular issue. This at least enabled the chairman to give a good survey of the gegenral situation, in his report.

Yet, the picture is not just bleak. All sub-committees did fulfill a useful function as clearing-houses for information on their subject.

This really was quite important. They also stimulated thought and discussion and brought together people from all over the world working in particular fields or particular kinds of libraries. This must have been a great help to many librarians.

Of course tangible results were very few. That such results are very difficult to achieve in an international context, is well-known. Therefore it was all the more encouraging that IFLA did achieve one such actual result in setting up the International Loan Scheme. And it was all the more disappointing that the war put a stop to it. Disappointing was also the lack of support given to some very useful schemes, such as Mr. Leyh's projects for library statistics and the minimal responses received to questionnaires such as that sent out by the sub-committee on Parliamentary libraries. However, some very useful studies were undertaken, such as Mrs. Cunningham's studies on periodical prices, and some very helpful reports were presented. Very encouraging was also the cooperation with other organizations, avoiding duplication of efforts.

As to the resolutions of the Spanish World Congress, the picture is not very clear. The various sub-committees created as a result of the resolutions did none of them actually attempt to realize particular recommendations. They all took their tasks as concerning the general field of their particular subject. This was probably the only possible course of action. Attempting the execution of a particular recommendation without first exploring the general field of interest, would probably not have led to any results anyway. The Congress had highlighted a number of problem-areas, which needed particular attention. This attention they received through the sub-committees. Only a few resolutions which were not covered by committees, were forgotten altogether.

So, in the end, the result of five years work was quite reasonable, considering that five years only really means five times two or three days in which to meet, report, discuss, decide and leave again, and all that in an atmosphere of growing unrest and disillusion with international contacts.

f. Reports from other organizations.

In the early years it had only been the I.I.I.C. which sent a delegate to the Federation's meetings and reported at the plenary session on the Institute's activities. After the Second World Congress, however, two other organizations began to send a representative of their organization to the annual meetings of IFLA, namely the International Institute of Documentation, which would change its name to Federation Internationale de Documentation (F.I.D.), and the International Committee of Agricultural Libraries. Moreover, a representative of the League of Nations was present at most meetings.

At the 1935 plenary session the I.I.I.C. was still the only outside body, reporting on its activities. Mr. Rossi drew the attention to a number of publications of the Institute: "Guide des Services nationaux de renseignements", "Bibliothèques populaires et loisirs ouvriers" and "Rôle et formation de bibliothécaires". He also mentioned that the Institute was undertaking a study on the social and intellectual mission of public libraries.

At the 1936 meeting Mr. Sevensma reported that the International Institute of Documentation had expressed a wish to collaborate with IFLA, notably by sending representatives to each others meetings. Moreover, the I.I.D. offered to cooperate with IFLA's sub-committee on uniform cataloguing rules. After some discussion, the Committee adopted a resolution to the effect that IFLA was willing to exchange representatives with I.I.D. and to cooperate in order to avoid duplication of efforts. The International Committee of Agricultural Librarians had also expressed a wish to collaborate with IFLA. The representatives of both organizations would be present at all IFLA annual meetings, up to the war.

the I.I.I.C. continued to send a delegate to each annual IFLA meeting. Matters dealt with by the Institute in these years before the war included: an investigation on legal deposit, a Guide to National Unions of Documentation, an International Guide to Archives, the publication "Mission sociale et intellectuelle des bibliothèques populaires", a new edition of the Guide to national Information

centres, and a study of rural libraries. The Institute also undertook a project to have the Bibliographie de la France printed on cards. The Institute intended to frequent publishers to publish with each publication also a card to be used in the catalogues of libraries. The IFLA committee discussed this plan, and judged it to be impossible to execute. For us it is interesting to see that Cataloguing-in-Publication was being discussed in 1938, as the problem is still not satisfactorily solved in 1976.

In 1936 the representative of the International Committee of Agricultural Librarians explained the history and constitution of the Committee. Its tasks were to develop the work of agricultural librarians by publications, by developing an international centre of agricultural bibliography at the International Institute of Agriculture, and by other means of mutual aid between the agricultural librarians. The delegate also told something about the Committee's plans for the future. By 1937, the representative could report that the Committee had held its first meeting in August 1937 in Paris. They had published the "Survey of current bibliographies on agriculture and allied subjects". In 1938 the number of members had grown to 24, representing 20 countries. The World list of Agricultural Libraries and Documentation Centres was expected to appear by the end of 1938. The publication of this list could indeed be reported in 1939.

At the 1937 plenary session, a representative of the I.I.D. presented a report, stating what should be the functions of the Institute

- a. clearing-house for bibliographical information,
- b. coordination of methods,
- c. auxiliary centre for bibliographical documentation,
- d. stimulate union catalogues - publish list of existing union catalogues,
- e. diffusion of the idea of world documentation.

The delegate reflected on the relations between IFLA and the I.I.D., without, however, arriving at any clear distinctions or definitions. He concluded that the efforts of libraries, special libraries, documentation centres and archives ought to be united. He saw this as a task

of the Institute. Mr. Godet answered that he was glad to see good relations between IFLA and the I.I.D. and he tactfully remarked that the relationship between libraries and documentation centres was different in each country.

In 1938 Mr. Donker-Duyvis presented the report of the new International Federation of Documentation (F.I.D.) He explained the revision of the Statutes and the organization of the new Federation. He also invited librarians to participate in the next Conference of the Federation. For more information he referred to the "I.I.D. Communications" of which he distributed copies to anyone interested.

The same representative presented a report in 1939, stressing the success of the 1938 Congress and the importance of the next international conference to be held in Zurich in August 1939. The report gave the latest developments of Universal Decimal Classification. Work on this continued. Finally the representative drew the attention again to the "F.I.D.-communications" which gave detailed information on all problems related to documentation. With their regular conferences and the regular publication of their "communications" F.I.D. certainly seems to have been already on the right road to becoming an effective international organization.

g. Various other resolutions.

Unlike during the years before the Second World Congress, only a small number of other issues, unrelated to the work of the sub-committees, cropped up during the years before the war, demanding resolutions.

a. In 1936 Mr. Sevensma reported that a letter had been received from the French Union of Documentation Organizations inviting IFLA to take part in the World Congress of Documentation to be held in Paris, in August 1937. He offered a report on the subject, stating that the programme of the Congress showed that essential library matters would be discussed under new terms. "Therefore I don't quite see how our Federation could participate in a Congress of which the programme shows so little interest and understanding of our professional work."¹⁾ However, it would of course be useful to know what exactly 'documentation

1) Actes, Vol. VIII, p.43.

meant to the organizers of the Congress; where the work of libraries ended and the work of documentation began. It would be useful to grasp the opportunity during the Congress to examine the point of view of documentation, from the point of view of libraries, in order to come to some practical and precise definition. Mr. Sevensma therefore proposed not to collaborate officially, but to hold the 1937 Committee's session in Paris at about the time of the Congress, to enable librarians to attend the Documentation Congress.

After some discussion an answer was decided on, stating:

"...The programme of the Congress contains a good number of questions which touch libraries specifically, and which, consequently, will return in the studies of IFLA. The Federation will certainly recommend to its members to participate in the Congress and to express in their reports everything libraries have already done and can still do in the field of documentation.

However, the programme, in the elaboration of which IFLA had not participated, oversteps in many points its field of activity. It seems, to the Federation, much too excessive, and can therefore, in many of its issues not lead to any useful discussion. Therefore, IFLA regrets that it cannot accord its patronage to this Congress."¹⁾

In view of the objections raised by Mr. Sevensma this really seems to me a fairly tactfully worded answer. The decision not to participate officially was probably very wise. Whether the librarians who did attend the Congress were able to have any influence there, or whether it made anybody any the wiser on the relations between libraries and documentalists, is difficult to say. The Congress certainly raised many questions related to libraries. However, as we saw, the discussion on the relationship was not closed at this Congress, and the problems were not solved. Perhaps the fairly good relationship of IFLA with F.I.D. was one of the results. No doubt personal contacts between workers in both fields were stimulated.

b. At the 1938 meeting Mr. Godet gave some information on the work of Mr. Grundtvig, who was elaborating the "International Manual of

1) Actes, Vol. VIII, p. 47 (transl. from French).

Special Bibliography" with the help of Mr. Vortius. Mr. Godet stressed the evident usefulness of the work and asked the Committee to suggest how Mr. Grundtvig and Mr. Vortius could best be helped. After some discussion a resolution was adopted to the effect that the member-associations should help the work, either by each charging a qualified person to collaborate with Mr. Grundtvig and Mr. Vortius, or by putting them into contact with a central institution, or an institution specialised in bibliographical matters, which would consent to cooperate. As there is no further mention of the "Manual" in the Actes up to the war, it is impossible to know whether Mr. Grundtvig and Mr. Vortius did get the help they needed.

c. As we mentioned before, the Committee decided to take the occasion of Mr. Sevensma's move from Geneva to Leiden and his sixtieth birthday to honour him and thank him for all he had done so far, by the creation of a Sevensma Prize, in 1939. The price would be paid, every two years, from a fund to be established. The Price would be given for the best study on a set subject - a subject which would relate to Libraries and Practical Life, as this subject had always occupied Mr. Sevensma. A sum of 10.000 Swiss francs had already been collected which would form the basis of the fund.

The scheme was offered to Mr. Sevensma, as a kind of present, immediately after the presentation of his report. Mr. Sevensma expressed his sincere thanks for this honour. The practical details were discussed at the end of the session. The Statutes for the Price were accepted unanimously. It was decided that the first theme would be announced at the 1940 session. The first decision of the jury would be taken at the 1941 meeting. The article should have a length of 50 to 100 pages. It was suggested that IFLA should publish the winning article. The competition would only be open to members of associations belonging to IFLA, under the age of forty. So, the Price was explicitly meant to stimulate the younger members of the profession. Altogether, the institution of this "Prix Sevensma" was a very good idea, and a very good way to honour a man who had done so much for the Federation.

h. Next Congress.

As before, the choosing of a place to hold the next annual meeting never created any major problems in the years 1935 to 1939. Again, there always was at least one invitation. Both China and India invited the Committee to come to their countries in 1936. Although everybody agreed that it would be a good idea to hold the session in a non-European country, most associations said that they would not be able to afford sending a delegate that far, in those difficult times. So, an invitation from Poland had to be accepted, instead. In 1937 the meeting was held in Paris, to coincide with the World Congress of Documentation. In 1938 it was held in Brussels, and in 1939 in The Hague and Amsterdam.

Already in 1935 Germany invited IFLA to hold the next World Congress in Germany in 1940, to coincide with the Gutenberg celebration of 500 years printing. However, no decision was taken at that stage. The German invitation was finally accepted in 1938. The Conference would be held in Berlin, Leipzig, Frankfurt and Mainz. The Congress would concentrate on library users, i.e. all questions were to be considered from the point of view of the users. The Motto was to be "The Library and its Users". Particular attention would be paid to microphotography and other methods of reproduction, and their uses of libraries.

At the 1939 meeting the date of the Congress was set as August 3 - 12. Although most of the delegates present at the 1939 session did not for a moment believe that it would be possible to hold an International Congress in 1940, least of all in Germany, the preparations and discussions on the programme did continue. Apparently nobody dare to speak the truth out loud. Presumably, the Bureau dropped the preparations quietly, sometime during the following months. The Committee would not meet again till 1947.

i. National reports.

As before, the delegates from the various countries continued to present their annual national reports, which were always published in the Actes. They remained one of the most important means of informing the countries of the national developments, the most important publications etc. As such, they formed an essential, and

often, large part of the annual volumes. As a record of the times and the library developments all over the world in the years 1935 to 1939, the reports still have not lost their value.

As it would lead too far to go into the details of all these national reports, I will only mention a few interesting facts. As a foretaste of what was to come in many countries, China reported both in 1938 and in 1939 on the extensive loss of books as a result of the hostilities. Many collections had been destroyed, although some books had been evacuated in time to the interior of the country. Understandably, China asked for donations from other countries, to set up new libraries after the wars. In 1938 their request was still seriously considered. By 1939 it was already nearly too late for most of the members to be able to help China.

At the 1938 meeting, the representative from France expressed a number of wishes from the French association:

- a. the regular exchange of publications of member-associations.
- b. an enquiry into national information centres on library management, the creation of such centres where they did not yet exist, and a regular contact between such centres.
- c. reports of sub-committees to be sent to the Bureau one month before the session, and the distribution of summaries of these reports to all members, a fortnight before the session, to enable a useful discussion at the annual meetings.

Unfortunately, the Actes do not report any discussion on these wishes. Yet, they were very sensible demands. The first wish shows that there was little, or at least not sufficient contact between the member-associations, outside the annual meetings. The wish expressed was very sensible, as an initiative from the Bureau or a resolution at one of the meetings might have been all that was needed to stimulate further contact among the associations.

The third wish referred again to the problem of the sub-committees. These were obviously still not working satisfactorily. There never seems to have been any problem about distributing documents to members, once they had been received by the Bureau. So, presumably, the problem

was that committee-reports were not ready in time, or were not sent, which shows that the committees were still not working effectively, as indeed we concluded in our discussion on the sub-committees. As for the second wish it was reported in 1939 that the administrator of the National Library in Paris had decided to create an Information Bureau on libraries and library management, attached to the Secretariat of his establishment. He hoped that strong collaboration would be established between the new bureau and the French association of librarians. Cooperation with other countries was desirable too. Mr. Godet asked the associations to give all possible information on national library information centres in the respective countries. As a result of this request national centres were mentioned in: Germany, England, Italy, the United Nations, Denmark and Switzerland. So, a start had been made.

j. Reactions in England and the Netherlands.

We already looked at the reactions and reports in England and the Netherlands in relation to the Second International Congress in Spain. In relation to the annual sessions between 1935 and 1939, the pattern is very similar. Some information can be found in the British Library Association Record, but very few comments. In March 1937 a short review of the Actes of 1936 was published.¹⁾ The reviewer drew particular attention to the "far-reaching and most suggestive opening address by the acting President of the Warsaw meeting, Mr. Godet". The national reports were considered important as they "give information as to a number of developments which might otherwise be missed". Finally the review mentioned the names of the three British delegates. The review gave no further comment on the work of IFLA. In November of the same year, the Library Association Record printed the official report of the British delegate to the 1937 meeting. The representative of the Library Association gave a straightforward report of the meeting, without any personal comments.

In the Library Association Record of 1938 we only found a review of the I.I.I.C. publication on the social and intellectual mission of public libraries (see p. 99), which was considered an invaluable

1) Library Association Record, March 1937, p. 140.

work of reference.

In May 1939, the request was published of the IFLA sub-committee for library statistics, asking for statistics from two libraries in each country. At the 1937 session Mr. Sevensma reported having distributed the requests for this information. The request was sent out once more in 1938. This shows us how long it took for such messages to reach the actual librarians in the various countries.

The Actes of 1938 were reviewed.¹⁾ Again, Mr. Godet's speech attracted the attention: "he stressed that librarianship had more to fear than such accidental damage - the decay of culture and the superseding of the book by other means of information. Mr. Godet endeavoured to clarify the relative aims of centres of documentation and libraries in the diffusion of knowledge, and he made a plea for a working partnership between the two cultural agencies". Also the national reports were mentioned again, which "admirably display the progress of librarianship throughout the world".

In August 1939 a short report on the 1939 session in The Hague was published, together with a short article on the Sevensma Prize, with the statutes. The report on the meeting mentioned the invitation from Germany: "The Committee unanimously kept politics out of consideration (The only condition on which the Federation can survive) and accepted the invitation"²⁾. This is interesting, as it is one of the few personal comments in these reports on IFLA meetings. The British delegate obviously agreed with the decision to carry on, irrespective of the political situation.

The official report of the Library Association delegate was published in July 1940³⁾. The president of the Federation "pointed out that in spite of the vast expenditure on armaments and of ideological divisions between countries, there had nevertheless been much cultural activity and evidence of a deep sense of the identity of the interests of libraries everywhere which made international cooperation through the Federation more than ever necessary". As to the next international Congress, the report said: "Though many members of the Committee thought it improbable that these meetings

1) Library Association Record, May 1939, p. 245.

2) Library Association Record, August 1939, p. 447.

3) Library Association Record, July 1940, p. 209.

could be held, they believed it to be best that the arrangements should be accepted".

It is good to see that altogether more information on IFLA and its activities reached the members of the British Library Associations than in earlier years. Mr. Godet's speeches obviously - and rightly - made an impression on his audience. He had the ability to touch on the right matters at the right time in a tactful and impressive way. The importance attached to the national reports is also as we would have expected. It is a shame that the British delegates did not give more of their own opinions and reactions to the work of IFLA. This would surely have made their reports more interesting and stimulating to their colleagues.

The reports of the Dutch representatives to the plenary session between 1935 and 1939 did not give much more information on the actual meetings, but they did contain more personal comments. Perhaps this was just because of the particular man who used to attend the meetings, and who obviously enjoyed them, and also enjoyed writing about the session afterwards.

In 1937 Bibliotheekleven published Mr. Leendertz's report on the tenth plenary session held in 1937 in Paris. It said, amongst other things: "The importance of such meetings lies not so much in the decisions taken - for internationally things cannot really be decided, only desired - as th the regular meeting of colleagues from different countries, colleagues who seek this contact, and who try to realize the wishes, formulated at the meetings".¹⁾

The report also referred to the national reports, which were supplemented by informally received information: "one receives information from many countries on library situations, of which one would otherwise never hear".²⁾

Talking about the problems and considerations of the various sub-committees, Mr. Leendertz remarked that not enough was being done for hospital libraries and book provisions in prisons, in the Netherlands. Another criticism was directed at the lack of Dutch material on the library exhibition in Paris.

1) Bibliotheekleven, 1937, p. 204.

2) Bibliotheekleven, 1937, p. 204.

In 1938 the same representative wrote an article on the eleventh session held in Brussels. He thought that the national reports had provided the most interesting information at this meeting. Also he stressed again that one could learn much from personal contacts. He was glad to see that many countries were willing to join the International Loan Scheme and to adhere to the rules. According to him the most important decision taken was the agreement on holding the next World Congress in Germany, in 1940, to coincide with the Gutenberg commemoration, and to coincide with the congress for documentation in Frankfurt.

As to the sub-committees, the report stated that many committees did not make much progress, but, it said, "the expression of wishes, and particularly the possibility to hear what others desire or have already done, can be very stimulating".¹⁾

Finally, in 1939, Mr. Leendertz published a report on the 1939 meeting in the Netherlands. As I mentioned before, the report mentioned Mr. Godet's speech and the reaction of the audience. Fortunately, the German delegates did not take it too badly. As the war had broken out by the time Mr. Leendertz's report was printed, he decided not to say anymore on the Congress programme. The sub-committee reports contained interesting information for 'insiders', he thought. He concluded:

"We hope that the international links will not be destroyed completely, by the war, although everybody will understand that it will be very difficult to rebuild what has been built slowly over the years, and what has now been destroyed by a single stroke".

"We only wish to express the hope that, as librarianship is such a peaceful and serving profession, the old ties may soon be renewed, when peace comes".²⁾

It is difficult to say whether the Dutch reports on IFLA's activities reached more people than the English reports. However, I am inclined to think that they were more likely to stimulate interest. In the end, we probably have to accept that the number of people who really felt involved in IFLA was very small in both, or perhaps all, countries.

1) Bibliotheekleven, 1938, p. 188.

2) Bibliotheekleven, 1939, p. 177.

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Chapter IV.

Conclusions.

A. Statutes.

The Statutes of the International Federation of Library Associations defined the object of the Federation as:

"to promote international library cooperation" (section 2) and the duties as:

"to select the time and place for international library conferences and ... to prepare for such conferences and to make investigations and recommendations concerning international relations between libraries, organizations of librarians and bibliographers and other agencies". (section 5)

The statutes stated that conferences must be held at least every five years, and that other sessions 'may' be held. Moreover, the Committee was to have 'power to appoint subcommittees'. (section 7).¹⁾

Looking back over the first period of IFLA's existence, from its creation to the war, we can first of all say that the Federation did keep its defined object in mind, all the time. It did achieve its broad object, but to a certain extent. International library cooperation was definitely promoted by the existence and the activities of this Federation. We saw in some detail what the federation did, in those first years. Surveying the activities once more, I will now try to decide how effective the Federation was in its attempts to achieve its object, what were its major successes and what were the causes of its failures.

Having decided that the federation was true to its object, we should now look at its duties. In this respect, too, the organization did what it was meant to do. It did organize congresses at least every five years: 1929, 1935 (6 years!), and the next one would have been in 1940. One could criticize the federation for not doing more; more regular congresses might have been useful. We will return to this later. However, we cannot say that the stated duty was not fulfilled. The federation also did make investigations and recommendations

1) see Annex I: Statutes.

concerning international relations, and also concerning a number of other issues of international interest.

As to sections 6 and 7 of the Statutes, the organization did even more than it need have done. Plenary sessions need not have been annually. But it certainly was a very good thing, and a very important element in the development of IFLA that the tradition of annual sessions grew up so easily and naturally. On Sub-committees, too, more was done than strictly necessary. The many Sub-committees, which again grew naturally and spontaneously were to form the main body of the working organization. So, simply comparing the statutes with the actual work done, the conclusion most obviously be that IFLA did all it was meant to do and even more. However, accepting this favourable judgment, I think it would still be interesting to evaluate the actual working of the federation in the early years and to compare this to a modern definition of the functions of international organizations in the social science, as defined by Thomas Humphrey Marshall.

B. Achievements.

In the years 1927 to 1939 IFLA achieved a number of things, some more important, some less. It managed to create a federation with a governing committee and a growing number of members. The only really constant factor in this administrative organization was the Secretary. It is not quite clear who first thought of asking Mr. Sevensma to act as Secretary for the new Federation. But it certainly was a wise move. Mr. Sevensma was a Dutchman who became the librarian for the new library of the League of Nations in 1928. In 1927 Rockefeller had donated two million dollars to the League for a Library. Mr. Sevensma was particularly well placed to act as a secretary, both because of his geographically central position in Geneva and the possibility of using certain facilities of the League, and because of his own disposition as a hard worker who particularly enjoyed building up new things. This he did for the Library of the League of Nations as well as for the Federation.

However, the fact that Mr. Sevensma was secretary during all those years does not mean that the Federation really had a Permanent

Secretariat, in the sense of a permanent office with some staff. When Mr. Sevensma became librarian of the University of Leiden, in 1938, he continued to be secretary for IFLA from his new abode. Mr. Breycha-Vauthier, who had started to help him a few years before, continued to assist him from Geneva. But a permanent secretariat, which can function as a centre for the organization, irrespective of the person temporarily acting as secretary, was not realized till much later. There was no staff actually working for and paid by the Federation, nor was there money for this. The contributions of the members paid for the printing of the annual volume of Actes and for minor expenses such as the stamps for the distribution of various matters to the member-associations. The Congresses were also subsidized by the Federation. But there was never very much money left, even after selling the Actes.

Having a really permanent basis would have helped the federation in its development, as would have done a better financial arrangement. But if the Federation was unlucky in not having these assets, it was very lucky in having such a hard-working and faithful Secretary.

The number of members grew steadily in these early years. If we look at the list of members of 1935,¹⁾ we see that the federation counted 34 members at the time. This number grew to about 40, by 1939. Of these 34 members, the majority already existed before the creation of IFLA. As might have been expected, the oldest library associations were those of Switzerland, England, Germany, the United States and surprisingly Japan, which all five had organizations before 1900. Most of the West-European countries established organizations between 1900 and 1925. Among the countries which did not create library associations till after 1927 were Spain, Greece, Italy, Finland, Letland, Jugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. As for Spain, we know with certainty that the existence of IFLA contributed directly to the creation of these organizations. For the other countries this is less easy to prove, but I think we can assume that IFLA did have some influence, indirectly. Looking at the members we should notice that 'international' was still a limited concept!

1) Répertoire des Associations de Bibliothécaire membres de la Fédération Internationale. IFLA, Nijhoff, The Hague, 1935.

Of course these member-associations were not all alike in their organization and set-up. Greece, for example, only had an official government body for librarians. The representative sent to the meetings was therefore no doubt a government official. His status in his own country and his power to enforce IFLA recommendations would have been very different from that of many other representatives. Yet the strength and influence of the national associations was decisive for the power of IFLA; the international federation depended upon its members for the execution of its wishes and recommendations. So it was, and is, essential for IFLA to have effectively organized members. One member per country, or rather one library association per country, would seem best. This was in fact usually the case. Some countries had separate organizations for public librarians. The Netherlands were the worst with three organizations represented, of which one was a government advisory body.

However important the working of the national bodies was to IFLA, and the power of the delegates, there was nothing much it could do about this aspect of its effectiveness. Some countries would send the same man or woman each year; some would send a different one for each session. The regular attendants seem to have done most of the work in the sub-committees, but there was of course a danger that they were working in isolation, without any real contact with their national fellow-workers. The, probably ideal, situation of a national committee for international cooperation which could choose a representative to send to IFLA, was only achieved in these years by the American Library Association.

In the course of the years, the regular attendants of IFLA sessions saw quite a bit of Europe, as IFLA met in ten different countries. No doubt it had a beneficial effect on a national library association to be the host to IFLA members. This is true not only for brand-new organizations such as Spain, for which the IFLA congress was probably of vital importance, but also for longer established associations. Receiving these guests from all over the world would without any doubt act as a stimulus to the national library world and the national

discussion of library matters in the whole country, inter alia drawing the attention of the Government to such matters. However, here again IFLA as organization could exert little influence. The Committee could but accept an invitation from one of the members. Only occasionally did the Committee itself suggest a place, such as in the case of Paris, 1937, which was to coincide with the Documentation Congress. Sometimes there was a choice, but there were usually other considerations to decide the issue, such as the fact that nobody would be able to afford a trip to China or India (1936).

The timing of the sessions was usually carefully discussed, to make sure that the meeting would not coincide with other meetings that some of the representatives might want to attend, such as FID-meetings. If possible a combination with a national meeting was favoured, such as in Cheltenham in 1931, where the IFLA session was followed by the British Library Association meeting, to which all delegates were invited. So, although the time and place of the annual sessions and particularly the conferences was quite important, the power of the Committee to actually choose was only limited.

We saw that the Federation did its duty in organizing international congresses, regularly. The first one was mainly organized by Italy, but the second one really was an IFLA-conference, although of course the local committee did a lot of the work. The first time, the organization drowned itself in its own enthusiasm; there was just too much of everything. But the federation learnt its lesson, and in Spain the conference was much better run, the speeches were fewer and better prepared and the sections worked more effectively; even the delegates were fewer, but communicated better with each other.

Both congresses fulfilled an important function in bringing together librarians from all over the world and confronting them with a wealth of information. In both cases the result provided IFLA with a working programme for the following four or five years. The first Congress resulted in 15 rather specific and detailed recommendations.

Five years later, the Federation had, I think rightly, learnt that such a congress can best be used as a stimulus for the work of sub-committees, whereas the more specific matters can be dealt with more effectively at the annual sessions or in the sub-committees. So, the Spanish Congress resulted in a IFLA sub-committee for each of the areas dealt with. Consequently, the effect of the Congress can only be measured by looking at the sub-committees.

Whether it might have been useful to organize congresses more often, is a purely theoretical question. No doubt a congress received more attention, drew more scholars, and generally intensified the discussion on the various issues much more than the annual sessions. For those reasons, it might have been a very good thing. However, the organization was obviously not equipped to cope with more frequent happenings on such a larger scale.

In discussing the various sub-committees we briefly evaluated their achievements. I will therefore not survey each sub-committee separately, in this recapitulation, but rather re-group the achievements of the committees according to a number of criteria.

First of all we can divide the issues concerned into:

- international issues,
- issues concerning a group of countries,
- locally important issues.

To start with the latter, matters that are only of importance to one country should not be dealt with by an international organization. IFLA has in fact managed with success to keep such subjects out of the discussion.

Occasionally matters were discussed which only effected a group of countries, or which could best be dealt with at a more regional level. The exchange of librarians was a basically international matter, but effective exchange relationships were usually those between particular countries. The same applies to the exchange of theses. The discussions on this subject led to the conclusion that agreements, such as between France and Germany were more effective than general international arrangements. I think this is in the nature of exchanges of all kinds. Nonetheless, IFLA continued to aim at international agreements. The third issue we should mention is library statistics.

This is again an international matter, which however, did not have the successful treatment it might have had, because some countries, notably the United States and England, were not interested. In fact the matter might have been dealt with much more successfully, if regional solutions had been tried first.

All other achievements of IFLA in the years before the war, can be called international. I should like to divide them into three groups:

A. General,

B. Library-technical: 1. general

2. relating to a specific type of library,

C. Psychological.

In this division of subjects I will also include the various resolutions, not connected with a particular sub-committee, and the indirect achievements, which will form the main part of division C.

Under the heading General we can place the work of three sub-committees. The sub-committee on statistics of publications produced a report by Mr. Muszkowski, which was also brought to the attention of publishers and booksellers. Later, Mr. Uhlendahl simplified the original categories.

The sub-committee on the price and over-production of periodicals drew the attention to various problems, such as overlapping and published some useful reports on periodical prices. The committee in fact continued the earlier work on the price of German periodicals. In that matters IFLA had contributed to the discussion and helped to achieve agreements with the German publishers in 1933. The problem of theses in periodicals continued to arouse anxiety.

The sub-committee on normilisation also did some general work, although a large part of its field of interest was purely library-technical.

Quite a few of the 'unconnected' resolutions of the earlier years were of general international importance. We can mention a resolution of 1932 drawing attention to publications without a date of publication, a resolution advocating courses on library architecture, which was

also sent to the associations of architects, and a very important resolution drawing attention to the need to raise, or at least not diminish, library budgets, in 1932.

Last but not least, we should mention the International Loans Scheme, which was certainly of more than purely library-technical importance. I can but repeat that this was probably IFLA's greatest and most tangible achievement of the pre-war years.

Library technical matters can be subdivided in general matters, and matters concerning particular types of libraries. A number of sub-committees dealt with such general matters. The sub-committee on library profession tried in vain to set up international summer-courses. Later on the matter was taken up by the I.I.I.C. which tried to collect information on the situation in the various countries as to library training.

We mentioned the sub-committee on library statistics, which was hampered in its work by the indifference of two important countries. Nonetheless, Mr. Leyh did some very useful work in composing first elaborate and later more simplified categories. It might have consoled him to know that the matter is still not dealt with really satisfactorily anno 1976.

The exchange of theses was also mentioned earlier. After the second Congress, in Spain, the discussion was extended to include other scientific publications.

The sub-committee on the unification of cataloguing rules produced two useful reports on existing cataloguing rules and their application.

Finally the sub-committee on normalisation should be mentioned again. Together with the FID and the ISA some useful work was done towards the normalisation of various library materials.

Unconnected with a particular sub-committee, IFLA contributed to the publication of a vocabulary of technical library terms in French, German and English, by subsidizing this work (1930-31).

Four sub-committees were created to promote the interests of

particular kinds of libraries. The sub-committee on public libraries managed to draw the attention to the importance of public libraries, and ensured a prominent place for this issue at the Spanish Congress. This led to an enquiry being set up into the interest of public library readers, for which research was done in Germany, America and England.

The sub-committee on hospital libraries produced regular reports on the situation in various countries. In later years it concentrated on encouraging libraries to join the international Association of Hospital Libraries.

For special libraries a sub-committee was created after the Conference in Spain. Among other things it advocated selected lists of periodicals. Many of its members also belonged to FID, thus ensuring good communications with that organization.

Parliamentary libraries also benefitted from the creation of a sub-committee after 1935. The committee tried to collect information on the situation in various countries and to act as a clearing-house. A point of contact for parliamentary libraries from all over the world was certainly much needed.

Finally we should say something about the psychological effects IFLA had. These are the intangible results that cannot be proved. Fortunately there is some contemporary evidence to support our view that this was an important element. In the reports of the Dutch representatives we repeatedly found the comment that the main result of the meetings always was the personal contact between attendants. Particularly Mr. Theissen stressed again and again that the things he learnt from other representatives during informal talks was the main benefit he gained from attending the annual sessions. Of course this need not surprise us, since the same applies for many congresses and international meetings nowadays.

Also difficult to measure is the professional encouragement the delegates received from discussing matters with people from other countries. A.C. Breycha-Vauthier, in his tribute to William Warner

Bishop, expressed his belief in the importance of this element.¹⁾
In this respect he particularly stressed the importance of the national reports:

"Their presentation serves a double purpose: on the one hand it may encourage associations to achieve results worthy of publications, at the same time the recognition accorded those results by librarians of international repute must help forward efforts sometimes insufficiently appreciated in the countries where they originated. On the other hand, a powerful stimulus is provided by the interchange of new ideas brought about by the reports".²⁾

The publication of the Actes was of course meant to stimulate this effect. In the same way it was hoped that the Sevensma Prize would interest and encourage younger librarians.

I don't think we need to repeat all the things the sub-committees did not do. It is obvious that their working effectiveness was far from optimal. In explanation, we might just remind ourselves of some of the drawbacks of all international organizations: the dependence of the international organization on the effectiveness of the member-organizations, distances, lack of money, language problems, variation in the status of the delegates, different delegates each year, lack of contact between the members, lack of real power of the international body, different level of economic and educational development and the cultural differences, which make it almost impossible to find clear definitions and unambiguous categories to build on. Moreover, IFLA had the disadvantage of no real bureau, and particularly the difficult economic and political situation of the time. Taking all these factors into account, the sub-committees did not do so badly.

C. Functions of International organizations in the social sciences.

Thomas Humphrey Marshall defined the three main functions of international organizations in the social sciences as:

- building an 'international faculty' or body of professionals in each discipline, mainly through congresses held by the organization;

1) A.C. Breycha-Vauthier, The Federation of Library Associations, p. 34-49.

2) *ibid.* p. 42.

- promoting the development of teaching and research in particular subjects by means of research projects, seminars and publications that serve as tools of research, such as bibliographies, dictionaries of terminology, etc.;
- sponsoring publications such as scholarly journals and selected papers not easily available in many countries, and furnishing translations of these papers in more widely known languages.¹⁾

If we compare the work of IFLA before the second World War to this modern definition, we come to the following conclusions.

Through the sub-committees, IFLA did build a body of experts in each field, to some extent. However, we must admit, that the work of the sub-committees was mostly the work of one or two men, in each field. The 'experts' would only meet once a year to discuss the report of this one person. But the possibilities were there, and a more effective working of the committees would certainly have created such a body of professionals in each field.

Of course, more congresses would also have helped. Each congress brought together a large number of expert librarians. More regular conferences would certainly have led to an 'international faculty'. So, the necessary means to fulfill this function were present, but the working of the organization was not really effective enough as yet.

The promotion of the development of teaching and research was also effected through the sub-committees, mainly. That was where the research was done. Teaching was treated more specifically by the sub-committee on professional education. This committee also attempted to organize a seminar, namely an International Summer School. Unfortunately, this plan was not realized. As to publications, we should mention the three-language dictionary of technical library terms, and the project of Mr. Grundtvig and Mr. Vortius. Promotion of developments in general was achieved through the contact between librarians at the annual meetings and the consequent encouragement. So, I think IFLA did fulfill this function of an international organization quite well.

Publications of IFLA itself were only the annual volumes and the

1) Marshall, Thomas H. "International Cooperation in the Social Sciences" International Organizations in the Social Sciences. Paris, Unesco Social Science Clearing House. 1965, p. 13.

regular editions of the List of member-associations. In the field of translations we can mention the translation of cataloguing codes into various languages. The contribution from the slavonic countries was not yet so voluminous as to necessitate many translations into more widely known languages. If IFLA did not sponsor many publications itself, at least it did create the possibility of making any important publications available known to a wider public, at its annual meetings. In doing this it certainly fulfilled an important function.

Alltogether, I think IFLA's activities in the pre-war years went a long way towards fulfilling the requirements of an international organization in the social sciences as defined in 1965.

The pre-war years of IFLA did not produce very many tangible results. They were years of development, characterized by a steadily growing number of members and attendants at meetings, by growing enthusiasm of the participants, showing in the volume of the annual Actes, by more and more contributions from members on national accomplishments, and an increasing number of sub-committees. But these years were also a time of growing problems. At a time of great financial and economic crises, the clashes of basic philosophies and political threats were aggravated by the fear for an imminent war. These times were not conducive to international planning or coordination of any kind. Under the circumstances, IFLA did very well.

Annex I.

Statutes of the International Federation of Library Associations.

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the International Federation of Library Associations.

Section 2. The object of the Federation shall be to promote international library cooperation.

Section 3. Members of the Federation shall be those Library Associations which approve these statutes and which comply with such other provisions as are adopted from time to time. Associations with allied interests may be admitted to membership by vote of the Committee.

Section 4. The affairs of the Federation shall be administered by the International Library Committee; this Committee shall consist of representatives selected by Associations which are members of the Federation. There shall be from each country only one designated member or substitute with the right to vote, but with him may be associated delegates. Delegates are selected for a period not exceeding 5 years but are eligible for re-election.

Section 5. The duties of the Committee shall be to select the time and place for international library conferences and with the cooperation of local committees to prepare for such conferences and to make investigations and recommendations concerning international relations between libraries, organizations of librarians and bibliographers and other agencies.

Section 6. International Library Conferences shall be held at least once in five years. Plenary sessions of the Committee must be held in connection with each international library conference. Other sessions may be held at the call of the chairman and must be held when requested by one third of the Committee.

Section 7. The Committee shall have power to appoint subcommittees from its own members or from the members of any of the cooperating library Associations.

Section 8. The officers of the Federation and of the Committee shall be a President, two Vice-presidents and a Secretary. These officers shall constitute the Executive Board and shall be elected by the

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Committee for a term to expire not later than twelve months after the close of each congress. The Secretary may be, but need not be, a member of the Committee designated by some national Association. He shall have the right to vote. Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled by the Committee.

Section 9. Annual dues for each member Association shall be fixed at a rate between 25 and 50 centimes (Swiss) for each member of that Association or on a basis of 5 or 10% of the receipts from membership dues of the Associations, but shall not be more than 2.500 francs (Swiss) for any Association. Dues shall be payable to the Secretary on or before March 1st for each calendar year. The amount of the dues will form the budget of the Federation.

Section 10. Any Association may withdraw from the Federation, if its dues for the year have been paid.

Section 11. By-laws may be adopted by the Committee.

Section 12. Resolutions adopted by the Committee or by any Congress held under its auspices shall not be binding on any member Association until ratified by that Association.

Venice, June 29, 1929. (With amendments as adopted at Stockholm, August 20, 1930).

Annex II.

Sessions of the International Library Committee.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Proceedings Vol.</u>
1928	Rome	Collijn (Sweden)	I
1929	Rome, Venice, Florence	" "	I
1930	Stockholm	" "	II
1931	Cheltenham	" "	III
1932	Bern	Bishop (U.S.A.)	IV
1933	Chicago, Avignon	Godet (Switzerland) for Bishop	V
1934	Madrid	Godet, for Bishop	VI
1935	Madrid, Barcelona	Bishop	VII
1936	Warsaw	Godet	VIII
1937	Paris	"	IX
1938	Brussels	"	X
1939	The Hague, Amsterdam	"	XI
1947	Oslo	Munthe (Norway)	XII
Secretary 1929 - 1958		T.P. Sevensma (League of Nations, The Netherlands).	

Annex III.

Delegates.

Abb, G.	Director of the University Library, Berlin.
Bergsmans	Belgium
Bishop, W.W.	Librarian of the University of Michigan.
Breycha-Vauthier, A.C.	Legal Librarian of the League of Nations, Geneva
Brummel, L.	Director of the Royal Library, the Hague.
Bultingaire, L.	Librarian/Honorary Chief of the National Museum of Natural History, Paris.
Capdevielle, Miss J.	Librarian of the Arts Faculty, Madrid.
Cashmore, H.M.	City Librarian, Birmingham.
Collijn, I.G.A.	Director of the Royal Library, Stockholm.
Cowley, J.D.	Lancashire County Librarian, England.
Cunningman, Mrs. E.	Librarian, Vanderbilt University, School of Medicine, Nashville.
Damiani, E.	General Director, Biblioteca della Camera dei Fasci e delle Corporazioni, Rome.
Demchevski, Miss M.	Bulgary
Donker-Duyvis, F.	General Secretary of F.I.D., the Hague.
Duprat, Mrs.	Librarian at the National Museum of Natural History, Paris.
Emler, J.	Director of the National and University Library, Prague.
Esdaille, A.	Secretary of the British Museum, London.
Fago, Prof. V.	Librarian, Director of the International Exchanges Service, Ministry of Education, Rome.
Fallot, Mrs.	Representative of the I.I.I.C., Paris.
Fick, R.	Director of the University Library, Göttingen.
Godet, M.	Director of the National Library, Bern.
Grape, A.	Director of the Royal University Library, Uppsala
Guinard, J.	University-Librarian, Bordeaux.
Renriot, G.	Professor at the Paris Library School and President of the French Association of Librarians. Conservator of the Library, Forney.
Holmberg, A.	Library Director, Kungl. Svenska Vetenskaps-

	akademien, Stockholm.
Krüss, H.A.	General Director of the Prussian State Library, Berlin.
Lancaster-Jones, E.	Deputy-keeper of the Science Museum Library, London.
Lasso de la Vega, J.	Director of the University Library, Madrid.
Leendertz, W.	Librarian, Nederlandse Handelshogeschool, Rotterdam.
Leicht, P.S.	Senator, Professor at the University, Bologna.
Lemaître, H.	Honorary Librarian of the National Library, Paris.
Leyh, G.	Director of the University Library, Tübingen.
Lord, M.E.	Director, Public Library of the city of Boston.
Meyer, Miss J.	Library of Congress, Washington.
Milam, C.H.	Secretary of the American Library Association.
Munthe, W.	Director of the Library of the Royal University, Oslo.
Muszkowski, J.	Director of the Krasinski Library, Warsaw.
Prins, A.	President of the F.I.D., the Hague.
Prinzhorn, F.	Director of the Library of the Technische Hochschule, Danzig, later on Director of the University Library, Leipzig.
Rais, J.	Honorary Chef of the Parliamentary Information Services and the Library of the Chambres des Députés, Paris.
Roberts, Mrs. M.E.	England.
Rodowicz, St.	President of the library section of the Polish Society of Engineers, representative of I.I.D.
Rossi, A.	Principal Secretary of the I.I.I.C., Paris.
Sato, J.	Delegate of the Library Association of Spain.
Schmidt, Ch.	General Inspector of Archives and Libraries at the Ministry of National Education, Paris.

Schuster, W.	Director of the Town Library, Berlin.
Sevensma, T.P.	Director of the Library of the League of Nations Geneva. From 1928: Director of the University Library, Leiden.
Theissen, J.S.	Director of the University Library, Amsterdam.
Tisserant, Mgr. E.	Pro-prefect of the Vatican Library.
Uhlendahl, H.	General Director of the Deutsche Bücherei, Leipzig.
Vincent, A.	Keeper of the Royal Library, Brussels.
de Vos van Steenwijk, J.Ed. Baron.	Professor, Chef of the Section of Scientific Relations of the I.I.I.C., Paris.
Welsford, P.S.J.	Secretary of the Library Association, London.
Wharton, L.C.	British Museum, London.

Annex IV.

Composition of Sub-Committees of IFLA, as published in Actes, Vol. V, 1934.

a) Sub-Committee on Hospital Libraries	President: Mr. H. Lemaître 19 members
b) Sub-Committee on Public Libraries	President: Mr. C.H. Milan 8 members
c) Sub-Committee on the Exchange of Librarians	President: Mr. W.W. Bishop 3 members.
d) Sub-Committee on the Exchange of University Theses	President: Mr. J. Emler 4 members
e) Sub-Committee on Professional Education	President: vacant 3 members
f) Sub-Committee on Library Statistics	President: Mr. G. Leyh 7 members
g) Sub-Committee on the Statistics of Publications	President: Mr. J. Muszkowski 4 members

Mr. Sevensma belonged to all seven Sub-Committees as an extra member.

Sub-Committees as published in Actes, Vol. VIII, 1936.

Sub-Committees as published before, plus:

h) Sub-Committee on Special Libraries	President: Mr. E. Lancaster Jones 5 members
i) Sub-Committee on Parliamentary Libraries	President: Mr. J. Rais 2 members
j) Sub-Committee on Uniform Catalogue Rules	President: Mgr. E. Tisserant 7 members
k) Sub-Committee on Legal Questions concerning International Loans	President: Mr. P.S. Leicht 4 members

1) Sub-Committee on Normalisation in the
Field of Books and Libraries

President: Mr. F. Prinzhorn

4 members

m) Sub-Committee on Overproduction of
Periodicals

President: Mr. W. Munthe

4 members

Mr. Sevensma belonged to h) and i) as an extra member.

Annex V.

RÈGLEMENT DU PRÊT INTERNATIONAL.

1.

*But du Prêt
International.*

L'organisation du P. I. a pour but de faire venir, des bibliothèques étrangères, par la voie la plus rapide, la plus économique et la plus sûre, les livres dont sont nécessaires à des recherches et que les bibliothèques du pays ne possèdent pas.

2.

Adhésions.

Sont considérées adhérentes à l'organisation du P. I., les bibliothèques qui déclarent accepter les présentes règles et sont prêtes à accorder une réciprocité complète. Le secrétaire général de la «Fédération internationale des associations de bibliothécaires» recevra les inscriptions par l'entremise de la centrale nationale (voir Art. 9) ou, à défaut de celle-ci, par les soins de l'association ou d'une des associations bibliothécaires du pays. Les bibliothèques non autorisées à accorder une réciprocité complète ont, néanmoins, la possibilité d'adhérer au P. I. si la centrale nationale s'engage à faire venir les livres demandés d'autres bibliothèques du pays.

3.

Frais.

La bibliothèque emprunteuse supporte tous les frais de port, d'assurance et d'emballage occasionnés par l'envoi et le retour des livres. Elle est responsable de la perte de ceux-ci et de tous dommages subis par eux.

4.

*Expédition des
demandes et
des livres.*

L'envoi des lettres, des imprimés et des paquets, se fait par la poste. Les envois du P. I. doivent porter un timbre spécial sur l'emballage. Chaque envoi doit être accompagné d'un bordereau mentionnant le nombre des bulletins de prêt ou des ouvrages expédiés. Les bulletins

et bordereaux doivent être rédigés en français ou dans la langue nationale accompagnée de la traduction française. Les bulletins de reçu peuvent être utilisés comme bulletins de demande, si la bibliothèque de l'autre pays admet cette simplification.

5.

Durée du prêt.

La durée du prêt est, en règle générale, d'un mois, non compris l'expédition et le retour des livres. Cependant, la bibliothèque qui prête peut prolonger ou réduire ce délai.

6.

Contrôle.

Chaque bibliothèque a le devoir, avant d'envoyer une demande à l'étranger, de s'assurer que le livre désiré ne se trouve pas dans le pays.

7.

Restrictions.

En règle générale, ne sont pas expédiés:

1. les livres et périodiques souvent demandés dans le pays,
2. les ouvrages d'une valeur telle qu'ils ne doivent pas sortir de la bibliothèque,
3. les publications en vente dans les librairies et dont le prix ne dépasse pas un montant équivalant à 3 francs suisses or.

Les livres qui existent dans le pays, mais sont momentanément prêtés, ne doivent pas être demandés par la voie du P. I.

Les manuscrits sont, autant que possible, prêtés aux mêmes conditions que les imprimés; la décision à prendre est laissée cependant dans chaque cas particulier à la bibliothèque qui possède le manuscrit.

8.

*Voies
d'expédition.*

Les envois de livres se font directement de bibliothèque à bibliothèque; les demandes, soit par la même voie, soit par l'entremise des centrales du P. I. La bibliothèque qui prête peut mettre comme condition que les demandes lui soient transmises par la centrale du P. I., s'il en existe une.

9.

*Organisation
des centrales.*

Il est recommandé qu'en chaque pays soit fondée une centrale pour le P. I., qu'elle soit en relation avec une grande bibliothèque et comporte, si possible, un bureau de renseignements avec catalogue général.

La centrale a pour tâche:

a) de transmettre les demandes venant de l'étranger aux bibliothèques du pays que la nature de leurs collections et leurs règlements mettent en mesure d'y donner suite.

b) de contrôler les demandes venant du pays, de s'assurer que les livres demandés ne se trouvent pas dans une de ses bibliothèques, et en cas négatif, de faire suivre la demande à l'étranger.

c) d'établir une statistique des prêts internationaux effectués par les bibliothèques du pays, et d'en communiquer annuellement les chiffres au secrétaire général.

d) d'annoncer au secrétaire général les appareils de photographie, de photocopie, de photomicrographie et de projection qui se trouvent dans les bibliothèques du pays.

(Dimensions: 15 X 10,5 cm = maximum admis pour les cartes postales par la Convention postale universelle.)

Recto.

Demande de Prêt. La Bibliothèque de qui a adhéré au Règlement du Prêt international adopté par la F. I. A. B. demande en commun- ication à la Bibliothèque de l'ouvrage indiqué ci-dessous, pour être consulté par M.			
Auteur (avec prénom) Titre		Cote	
Lieu et date Pour les collections: Tomaison Année		Nombre de volumes	
Remarques	Lieu et date	Timbre	Signature

* Voir § 4 du Règlement, page 99.

*Demande de prêt.**

Verso.

1. Qualification juridique de la bibliothèque emprunteuse: a) Bibliothèque dépendant des autorités publiques (État, Province, Commune, etc.), b) Bibliothèque dépendant d'une institution privée (société, fondation, etc.), (Biffer ce qui ne convient pas). 2. La Bibliothèque emprunteuse déclare expressément que le livre emprunté ne sera pas prêté. (Biffer si un prêt à domicile est envisagé.) 3. Les risques de perte et de détérioration sont entièrement garantis par la bibliothèque emprunteuse. Si la valeur de l'ouvrage dépasse le montant de..... prière d'en donner avis et d'attendre réponse avant de faire l'envoi. 4. Dans le cas d'impossibilité d'un règlement amiable entre les parties, la bibliothèque emprunteuse s'engage à soumettre tout litige pouvant résulter du prêt, ainsi que toute réclamation concernant frais d'envoi, de réexpédition et d'assurance ou de perte et détérioration à un arbitrage. Si l'arbitrage n'est pas accepté, indiquer quelle sera la juridiction compétente pour régler les litiges éventuels:.....

* Voir le rapport de la Sous-Commission des questions juridiques relatives au prêt international, p. 109.

Modèle
de
DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENT
d'une bibliothèque ou d'un bureau central au bureau central d'un autre pays.
(Dimensions de chaque partie: 12,5 x 7,5 cm.)

Recto.

<u>Demande de renseignement</u> de		
à		
Nous vous prions de nous indiquer la bibliothèque qui possède l'ouvrage indiqué ci-dessous et la prêterait à notre bibliothèque — à une de nos bibliothèques.		
Lieu et date	Timbre	Signature
Auteur		
Titre		
Lieu et date		
Pour les collections: Tomaison		Année
Remarques	Bibliothèque	
	Cote	

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