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If Rumors Were Horses

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Against the Grain

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Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3, JUNE 1991

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If Rumors Were Horses

Well, it looks like the Elsevier-Pergamon buyout went through. However, there's a lot more to the story than that. See this issue for related stories (pages 36-38)

And — there are changes at Pergamon! As we hear it, 40 out of 150 people are being let go; in fact June 7 was the last day of work for 39 Pergamonites. One of the casualties is the wonderful, magnificent Inge Valentine. Inge is currently looking for a job. Any help out there?

Guess what? The rumor we printed about Jim Smith at Faxon seems to have caused a flap — not that it was wrong or anything, just that Jim is still Vice President and Director of Academic Information Service Center until a successor is chosen. Once that happens, Jim will become Vice President for Sales & Market Development for Faxon. And of course we all know that the always smiling, good humored and fun to be around Smith doesn't step down from anything unless it's a step up.

And Dana Alessi continues to wend her way up the corporate ladder — getting more and more experience. Now she's becoming a Southerner, moving to Charlotte, N.C., and learning how to say words like "hey." She has become Director of Eastern Sales to schools and public libraries and will be responsible for 12 reps, and 17 territories. Congratulations, Dana, but don't lose touch with all of us!

And it's out, the official News Release about Deana Astle and Charles A. Hamaker winning the Bowker/Ulrich's Serials Librarianship Award (we told you about that, way back when, in v.3 #1; do you remember?) for "their outstanding

achievements and accomplishments in the field of serials librarianship." Congratulations again, Deana and Chuck.

I talked to Dimi Berkner the other day and she is thriving at Columbia University Press. One thing that she's getting ready to release is *Granger's Index to Poetry* on CD-ROM which looks pretty good. Included will be 850 poems and 150 anthologies (full text), searchable by key word. For the college libraries out there, this sounds great, especially for the \$599 introductory offer. Look for it at ALA in Atlanta.

Chuck Hamaker is well after three weeks in a hospital where they had to hold him down to make him be still and relax. Take care of yourself, Chuck!

Richard Meyer (once of Clemson University fame) has been named Director of Libraries at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

Jennifer Cargill has been named Director of Libraries at Louisiana State University effective July 1, 1991.

And Charleston Conference alumnus Susan Campbell (York College of PA) is going to England this summer. Have a blast, Susan! Can you buy us some pounds while you're over there?

And the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS) and Marcia Tuttle, editor of the electronic *Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues* have announced a transfer of responsibility for the newsletter. Effective in May, Marcia began issuing the newsletter on an independent basis. Little else has changed (maybe we should say

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Acquisitions Librarians

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my colleagues take exception to what follows but in my opinion the burden falls harder on librarians with managerial responsibilities or librarians whose assignments are integrated into an interdependent pattern where their work directly and immediately effects the work of others. Both situations usually apply to acquisition librarians.

A greater and greater proportion of an academic acquisitions librarian's time is now spent on activities other than acquisitions. What I find even more worrisome is that the activities for which academic acquisitions librarians are rewarded are not necessarily beneficial to their departments. What is good for them is not always good for their departments; it quite often can be detrimental.

Fundamental, effective acquisitions work is needed more than ever in academic libraries. Yet the environment in which this work is practised is becoming both more complex and diffuse. Academic acquisitions librarians face ever-growing managerial responsibilities, in-

Rumors *continued from page 1*

"yet"), the *Newsletter* is still free and is available on bitnet, among other locations. However, the *Newsletter* will no longer be distributed on Faxon's courier system because of the necessity for the editor to rekey the entire newsletter for courier.

And Karen Muller (ALCTS) has announced the creation of a new electronic newsletter, *ALCTS Network News* (or *AN2*). *AN2* aims to provide timely and comprehensive coverage of items of concern to librarians engaged in collection management, acquisitions, cataloging, serials, preservation, and the reproduction of library materials. For further information, contact Karen or ALCTS.

Bob Houbeck has been appointed Director of Libraries at the University of

Michigan, Flint. His appointment is effective July 15, and he and his family are already looking at real estate.

Word is that NASIG (The North American Serials Interest Group), AAUP (The American Association of University Presses), and SSP (The Society for Scholarly Publishing) are having their meetings together in Chicago in June of 1992. Sounds like the place to be.

The death of George Delacorte, a publishing giant, occurred in May (see *Time*, 5/20/91 p. 64).

Faxon has announced the formation of a current awareness, document-delivery service, Faxon Research Services with Thomas J. Michalak of Carnegie Mellon as President. ☛

creasing professional development requirements and the idiosyncrasies of collegiality. Confronted with these burgeoning demands, the skills and attributes most important are those that grant us the ability to make time for and focus on our acquisitions work.

Were I now to revise the title of the program that inspired this review, thusly would I describe the academic acquisitions librarian: BOOKMAN, BUSINESS MANAGER, LIBRARIAN, CLERK, INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER, STEVEDORE AND STATESMAN. ☛

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