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Nemesis

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The Recovering Nemesis

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As we were getting this together, it seemed like nothing much had happened. It was June, after all, and the beginning of a long, lazy, hazy, and hot (rather than crazy) summer. Boy, were we wrong! A lot is going on!

On the serials pricing front, things look good, at least right now, because of the strength of the dollar abroad. Projections look right now at about 8% all told. And as we were preparing this column many of us received a little cloth bag from Faxon with a copy of Adrian Alexander's "Periodical Prices 1989-91." The data will be discussed as part of a Faxon-sponsored "Serials Pricing Forum" at the ALA Annual Conference on Monday, July 1, from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. in Room 304E of the Georgia World Congress Center. EBSCO, as reported in NS#3 of the *NOSPI*, predicts a slightly higher overall increase of between 9 and 12%.

Also included in the same Faxon bag was a "Client Communication Update" regarding "The Current Soviet Publishing Situation." As stated in the April issue of *ATG* (v.3#2), the Soviet publishing world is in considerable flux especially since agencies such as Aeroflot and MK (Mezhdunarodnaia Kniga) are now asking for payment in hard currency and the government is no longer subsidizing postage and operating costs. It appears that air mail will be used sparingly (only for government-sponsored newspapers) and that all other publications will be sent by surface mail taking "45 to 60 days for these materials to reach the U.S." In addition, some titles have not yet published their first issue for 1991.

And on another note, RS Open Hearing on Reorganization will be held in the GWCC Room 217 E, from 11:30-12:30 on July 1. This should be interesting, especially since some of us greatly object to the monicker ALMS (Acquisition of Library Materials Section) which Acquisitions may be given if it splits off from the Collection Development and Management Section of ALCTS.

The ARL May Membership Meeting

took place in Montreal with several interesting topics discussed. Among other things, the ARL Statistics Committee is apparently looking at the possibility of including access and electronic services as well as government documents in the main ARL Statistics and possibly the larger ARL Index.

Out of the Solinet Board meeting in May in Atlanta, Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) come two resolutions, the first on "Support for the Development and Dissemination of Scholarly Journals in Electronic Format by the Higher Education Community," and the second on the fact that there should be no copyright on publications resulting from research done with government funding. These resolutions are wending their way up to the far reaches of the White House Conference on Libraries, etc. (WHCLIS). (see page 19)

Along Robert Maxwell lines, there is quite a spread on him in the June, 1991 *Vanity Fair*. In the May 31, *USA Today*, page 2B it is also announced that Maxwell is stepping down as Chair of Maxwell Communication Corporation. And when Katina was in New York at the American Booksellers' Association Meeting, she bought a current copy of the *New York Daily News*. It has yet to look like either a Pergamon or an Elsevier journal.

Speaking of ABA, there is a definite feeling of "downness" which also surrounded the SSP Annual Meeting held in Philadelphia at the end of May. *Against the Grain* will carry a write up on SSP meeting in the September issue. In the area of conferences, fewer people seem to be attending. Enter the possibility of the electronic conference and Mike Markwith reports on one in this issue, Creating User Pathways to Electronic Information presented by the Faxon Institute, April 28-30. (see p. 17)

One interesting article did appear in the *Boston Globe* in April 1991 called "Magazines Distributed Worldwide" by Davis Bushnell. Interviewed in Westwood, Mass., Richard Rowe (President and CEO of Faxon) said a few interesting things about libraries and subscription agents. Also worth noting

is Faxon's plan to unveil an "article delivery system... Customers will be able to get overnight service on articles they want culled from any one of 10,000 journals. Clients will be charged an annual fee of \$4000 plus \$10 an article." Hmmm. And we have just received a Faxon press release announcing the formation of Faxon Research Services, Inc., "a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Faxon Company. Faxon Research Services is charged with providing a current awareness and document delivery service to knowledge-based workers, particularly those working in scientific, technical and medical fields." Thomas J. Michalak (currently associate vice president of Academic Services and director of University Libraries at Carnegie Mellon University) has been appointed president of Faxon Research Services.

And in a recent *PW* article, we understand that General Cinema is terminating its offer on Harcourt Brace Jovanovich bonds.

On another front, Macmillan has bought Lexington Books/D.C. Heath as well as G.K. Hall as the mergers and acquisitions continue.

The New York Times for Sunday, June 2 (section 3, p.1), in the business section carries an article "Pursuing Al Sikes's Grand Agenda." Sikes is chair of the Federal Communications Commission and he "sees a world in which people could use satellites and high-speed fiber-optic communication lines to take college courses at home, have television sets double as multimedia computer work stations, use communications networks to transmit the contents of an entire library in seconds and track down a person anywhere in the globe to deliver the data." And this is just 1991, what will life be like in ten years?

And the June, 1991 *American Libraries* arrived just as we were going to press. Many familiar names and opinions are expressed in the "AL Summer School" article by Judy McQueen and Buzzy Basch, "Negotiating With Subscription Agencies." (pages 532-534). ☛