November 1992

Rumors

Katina Strauch
Against the Grain

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Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

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If Rumors Were Horses

Merrill Smith (once of Yankee Book Peddler) has a new job. She is Director of Libraries at Stanley Community College in Albemarle, S.C. Congratulations, Merrill.

Joan Griffin (Dartmouth) is back from Africa. Where she had a fabulous time, we understand.

And Celia Wagner (Blackwells) is back from Australia. She, also, had a fabulous time. However, we're still waiting for a picture from either of these two globe trotters (Joan and Celia)!

We hear tell that Bob Mastejulia is getting very well settled in to life in Vermont at Countryman Press (see ATG, September 1992, page 1). Dana Alessi and others have received news from him and he seems to be doing very well.

And Sandy Beehler (Cornell University) writes that a quarterly report, *Russian Economic Trends*, offers insights into the Russian economy along with more comprehensible statistics than have previously been available. The report is produced by two British economists funded by the European Community. It is available from Whurr Publications, 19B Compton Terrace, London N1 2UN; or P.O. Box 1897, Lawrence, KS 66044-8897. (See this issue, Bet You Missed it, page 44)

A new company is born — Publishers Communications Group. Created by J.

Charles Germain with the financial support of a third party, PCG will offer to European, North American, and Asian publishers cost effective promotional and editorial services on a global basis. While continuing to operate as Chief Executive of Gauthier-Villars North America, Charles is looking forward to the success of his new endeavor.

CARL Systems Inc. of Denver, Colorado, and B.H. Blackwell have signed a letter of intent to jointly develop, expand and market the UnCover current awareness and document delivery service. The existing UnCover service will be

enhanced and expanded from 12,000 to 20,000 titles eventually and will be delivered to libraries worldwide over appropriate public and private networks. CARL Systems Inc. will continue to market UnCover as an integral part of its library management system and existing and future CARL Systems customers will continue to receive access to the UnCover service. Preparation of the detailed final document is currently under way and negotiations between the Boards of the two companies are progressing quickly.

Keith Stetson (Fairfield Univ.) writes of the news of the merger of Reed International PLC and Elsevier NV. The two companies have agreed in principle to merge, subject to the approval of the shareholders of both companies. See this issue, Bet You Missed it, page 45.

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International Focus

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How are libraries, publishers, and vendors going to be affected by the Maastricht Treaty. Economic and monetary union should lead to a more prosperous European Community and this is good for U.S. publishers. Furthermore, the single currency will probably reduce currency conversion costs. The EC commission estimates that European and foreign companies doing business in Europe will save 24 billion dollars per year in currency transaction costs. Price stability should result in low inflation rates, low interest rates and sound government budget policies. This combination should create a favorable investment climate and will help U.S. exporters and U.S. publishers with subsidiaries in the EC. We can also assume that their European competition, stimulated by increased growth rates, larger domestic markets and a single currency, will become tougher.

From a library's point of view we are going to see in the coming years a single price for journals, monographs, and library services. This price will be in ecu. According to the Maastricht Treaty, by the way, it is now illegal to practice differential pricing inside Europe. ☞

Rumors

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Faxon writes of the change in its U.S. organization "to adjust to the new realities in the marketplace." They have restructured internal organization and some positions have been changed and 35 to 40 have been eliminated. This issue contains a letter from Richard Rowe on some of the changes. See page 28.

Effective October 5, 1992, **Blackwell North America, Inc.** was fully operational in their new and expanded distribution center located at the following address —

Blackwell North America, Inc., 100 University Court, Blackwood, NJ 08012. Telephone: 609-228-8900; Fax BRAND NEW: 609-228-7262. Toll Free: 800-257-7341/631-3161.

For mystery lovers out there, **St. Martin's Press** (175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010) publishes a newsletter called ***Murder at the Flatiron Building***. It is fun to look at to see what

new titles are coming out.

Baker & Taylor has announced a joint marketing agreement with **T.C. Farries and Co. Ltd.**, a leading United Kingdom library supplier. According to the agreement, which went into effect on September 16, 1992, this will facilitate B&T customers worldwide in the direct purchase of U.K. published books. Part of the enhancement is the release of the **World Edition of B&T Link™**, B&T's standard-setting electronic information and ordering software package.

EBSCO has announced that the **Georgetown Library Information System (LIS)** can now load the company's invoices on magnetic tape. Incorporation of the ANSI X12 Standard by early 1993 is the next step.

The **University of California Press** has announced a special issue (no. 42, Spring 1993) of their journal ***Representations*** on "Future Libraries," edited by **R. Howard Bloch** and **Carla Hesse**.

Joel Baron (Vice President and Chief Publications Officer for **The Faxon Company**), **Marjorie Hlava** (founder and President of **Access Innovations**, a database publisher headquartered in Albuquerque), **Nolan Pope** (Associate Director for Automation for the **General Library System at the University of Wisconsin-Madison**) and **Bonnie Lawlor** (Executive Vice President for Database Publishing at the **Institute for Scientific Information**) have been elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the **National Information Standards Organization**.

CASPR, Inc., of Cupertino, California announced at LITA in Denver in September a Windows version and an MS-DOS version of its user access software **LibraryBrowser™**. The new versions of **LibraryBrowser** run on the network in a client-server environment.

After a bout with pneumonia, the amazing **Buzzy Basch** (**Basch Associates**) is getting better and is all ready for his appearance at the **1992 Charleston Conference**. After that, Buzzy is on his way to Stockholm to speak on serials issues. Buzzy and **Judy**

McQueen have recently released a report, ***"Academic Library Responses to Serial Price Increases."***

Online access to **Alfred Jaeger Inc.** back volume/issue service is now available through **EBSCO's EBSCONET® Online Subscription Service**.

Interperiodica Publishing, in association with the **Russian Academy of Sciences** is pleased to announce its expanding slate of English translation journals from the **Russian Academy**, adding 11 new journals to its 1993 roster. **Interperiodica**, based in Moscow, was formed in 1992 with the express purpose of eliminating the one-to-two-year wait for English publication of Soviet scientific research. For further information, contact **Catherine Ebert** at 800-633-4931. Address for subscription office: P.O. Box 1831, Birmingham, AL 35201.

The fall issue of ***Dialogue, The Business of Publishing***, the newsletter edited and published in fall, winter, and spring by **Helmut Schwarzer**, Director of Publisher Relations, **Yankee Book Peddler** is out. Besides the usual useful Digest of Publishing/Trade News, the lead article, "Should Monopoly Lead to Complacency?" contrasts figures for American Book Title Production from various sources. Worth a close read.

An agreement in principle has been reached between **R.R. Bowker** and **J. Whitaker & Sons, Ltd.**, to create a combined database of over two million bindings on a single CD-ROM disc, updated monthly. The disc will contain all entries from **Bowker's Books in Print Plus™**, and Whitaker's **Bookbank**.

A free eight-page brochure listing all of the currently available technical standards covering the information sciences developed by the **National Information Standards Organization** is now available from NISO. The brochure includes brief annotations describing each standard and an order form. To request a free copy write or call or etc.: NISO, P.O. Box 1056, Bethesda, MD 20827. Phone: 301-975-2814. FAX: 301-869-8071; Internet: NISO@ENH.NISO.GOV. ☞