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And They Were There-Reports of Meetings

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And They Were There

Reports of Meetings

Column Editors: **Sever Bordeianu** (U. of New Mexico) <sbordeia@unm.edu> and **Julia Gelfand** (UC, Irvine)

ATG encourages reports on meetings. Please contact Sever Bordeianu if you are interested in reporting on a meeting or in suggesting a meeting for review by ATG! — KS

Istanbul — Bridge from East to West IFLA — 61st Annual Conference, Istanbul, Turkey

by **Judith R. Bernstein**
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Sipping Turkish coffee in the rooftop cafe of the Swissotel, one looks south from modern Istanbul to the Golden Horn of the Bosphorus and feasts one's eyes on Old Istanbul, on the exquisite minarets of sixteenth-century Hagia Sophia and the Sultan Suleyman Mosque built in 1557. One looks east from European Istanbul across the Bosphorus to Asian Istanbul. Turkey is the only country in the world which spans two continents, uniting a solid footing in the past with an active movement towards the future. What more fitting a setting could be had for IFLA, the International Federation of Library Associations, for its 61st Annual Conference, August 17-26, 1995, on the theme "The Libraries of the Future."

Istanbul attracted the largest number of registered delegates in IFLA's history, some 2390 persons. The largest delegation was the 625 Turkish representatives; the US delegation was the next largest with 226 representatives. Because of the unexpected turnout, sessions were crowded with standing room only at keynote speeches and plenary sessions.

New technology, the Internet in particular, was a pervasive theme, reflected in some 60 of the 150 conference papers as well as in the opening and closing ceremonies, contributed paper sessions, council meetings, open forums, and poster sessions. The Information Technology section and the Serial Publications section provided a program on "Electronic Publishing" which included papers on standards, the publishers' point of view, and ways of using electronic documents in libraries. The Science and Technology Libraries section and the Biological and Medical Sciences Libraries section program focused on "Archiving the Electronic Journals." Continuing this focus, the program of the Acquisitions and Exchange Section, in cooperation with several other sections, was on "Providing Access to Collections and Services in a Time of Change." Among the papers presented were "Acquisitions in an electronic age," "Electronic journals: delivery, use and access," and "The changing role of document delivery and interlending." Nor were special constituencies forgotten. Libraries for

the Blind and Libraries Serving Disadvantaged Persons presented papers on "The information highway and the print handicapped," "Electronic books for the visually impaired," and "The virtual library in a prison situation."

Technology issues were also central to several overlapping Thursday workshops which created a dilemma for librarians as to how to divide their time. In the morning sessions, the Collection Development Workshop, with the theme "From Print to Electronic Publishing: new opportunities for library services," covered not only the publishing process and distribution of books and journals, but included developments in electronic publishing, electronic information projects, and electronic libraries. The Art Libraries theme on "Libraries of the Future" included papers on imaging, the virtual museum, art on the Web, and the George Fullard electronic art book project. Document Delivery and Interlending presented "The Expanded role of electronic and networked information in ILL and document delivery." Information Technology and the UDT Core Programme jointly sponsored a program on "The Internet and the World Wide Web."

On Thursday afternoon, University Libraries and the User Education's workshop on "Internet training and use internationally," the Regional Activities workshop on "Network and Virtual Libraries," and the Science and Technology and User Education workshop on "Electronic Journals Access, Use and Implications of Training" all occurred simultaneously. Fortunately, IFLA now has a presence on the Internet and has made most of the conference papers available there. Many of the papers can be accessed at: <<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/home.htm>>

While technology was the focus of many meetings, there were other topics of considerable interest. "Document Delivery versus Ownership: Cost Implications and Decision Making" was a very successful program. Libraries destroyed by political action or natural catastrophes was the subject of the presentation "Libraries are not for burning: international librarianship and the recovery of the destroyed heritage of Bosnia-Herzegovina." Another topic related to the Eastern

European political situation was explored in "Changes in reading in socially crucial times in Estonia." In other IFLA actions, the Preservation Core Program will continue its efforts on safeguarding photographic collections with programs at the Caracas Centre to serve as a model for Latin America as well as a project proposal to UNESCO. The Section on Cataloging is preparing the publication of a 4th edition of the "Names of Persons." The IFLA Section on Information Technology has loaded its newsletter on the IFLANET WWW server. The Rare Books and Manuscripts section is planning a directory of sale catalogs.

A dominant note of the conference was the effect the "paperless library" would have on freedom of access and provision of services to the underserved and the unserved. Both the fear and the promise of this new technology were eloquently expressed at the opening IFLA ceremonies by keynote speaker, **Dr. Talat S. Halman**, Professor of

Near Eastern Languages and Literature at New York University and former Minister of Culture of the Turkish Republic. Halman postulated four nightmares: the obsolescence of learning, the creation of global uniformity and conformity, the emergence of tyranny where a dictator enforces the ultimate censorship by manipulating the powers of cyberspace; and an age dominated by technologically advanced countries while the rest of the world falls under intellectual colonialism. However, his nightmares of cyberspace are balanced by his dreams: full, functional, fruitful literacy; humanity liberated from ignorance through communication and learning created by Cyberspace; universal participation in democracy; and a global renaissance whereby all societies and individuals will not suffer loss of their own authentic cultures and will learn about others' "faiths, doctrines, cultural values in a spirit of tolerance and harmony".

The Conference in Istanbul affirmed its commitment to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as stated by the IFLA Conference in 1989 and expressed "deep concern about increasing infringements on free expression and the free flow of information in any part of the world." An ad hoc Committee on Access to Information and

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Freedom of Expression was formed and charged with "advising IFLA as to how it should implement its commitment to access to information and freedom of expression." Guest lectures on freedom of access will take place at the IFLA Annual Conferences in 1996 and 1997, and a policy action proposal defining actions IFLA should take will be put forth.

1995 was an IFLA election year and in addition to the unopposed reelection of **Robert Wedgeworth** as President, **Robert Stueart** (USA); **Marta Terry** (Cuba); **Christine Deschamps** (France); **Borge Sorensen** (Denmark), and **Warren Horton** (Australia) were elected to the Executive Board. **Sally McCallum** of the Library of Congress became the new chair of the IFLA Professional Board. There are currently 1460 members of IFLA from 139 countries with 90% of IFLA's revenue coming from membership dues.

Serious library work takes place at IFLA. Global concerns are addressed and informative papers are presented but the nights are given to renewing and forming networks of friends and colleagues.

Combining the grace of traditional Islamic hospitality, delicious and varied foods, outstanding architectural sights, and a shopping paradise, the Turkish government and its people provided us with an exceptional experience. While the Turkish language may have been daunting, we could share with our Turkish colleagues the concert of classical Turkish music, the concert by the world's first established military ensemble, and the gala soiree at the Ciragan palace. The final IFLA party and mini bazaar hosted by the Ministry of Culture at the Yildiz Palace was outstanding with a perfect evening culminating in a Turkish rock group performance.

Those of us at the Conference traveled through the ancient city of Istanbul, founded 660 BC, by taxi, tram, and bus and we walked, walked, walked. Each turn brought new sights, smells, and sounds. Arts and crafts in Turkey are as varied as the many peoples who have passed through this region and are well made and beautiful. We bargained on the streets, in the great Covered Bazaar, and in the taxis. We were enticed into shops where we sipped the proverbial apple tea while carpet salesmen tried to convince us of the virtue of their wares. (We wondered who would ever buy all these carpets?) We added a day or two to our trip to see the great Blue Mosque commissioned in 1603 with the intent of rivaling St. Sophia, and the Topkapi Palace built by Mehmed II after the Fall of Constantinople in 1453. We were awed by the Pavilion of the Holy Mantle, which holds the sacred mantle of the Prophet Mohammed and his footprint and seat, where one is privileged to hear the reading of the Koran, recited all day. A lucky few stumbled upon Mimar Sinan's small architectural master-

piece, (Sinan was the greatest of the Ottoman architects), the Rustem Pasha Mosque, with its exquisite tile work. We visited the Chora Church, originally constructed by Constantine the Great in 300, where breathtaking mosaics done in the 1300's still vibrate with life and color. A center of Ottoman culture was the highly stylized and ornamental calligraphy used on buildings, in poetry, in paintings, and above all in the decoration of mosques and editions of the Koran. We visited the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum and stood transfixed by the exhibit of the exquisite "tugras" or calligraphic signatures of the great Sultans. Librarians were also able to join tours to the library of the Suleymaniye Mosque and view rare Korans and calligraphic works.

We delighted in breakfasts of tomatoes, cucumbers, cheese, and olives. We feasted on fish from the sea of Marmara in elegant restaurants and sidewalk cafes. We enjoyed the kebabs and the boreks and the superb coffee. We fattened ourselves on baklava and lukum and pastries. And we bought spices and trinkets in the Egyptian Bazaar. But most of all, we loved the Turkish people who were helpful, generous and giving.

The next IFLA annual conference will be held in Beijing from August 31-September 5, 1996 with the theme "Challenge of Change: Libraries and Economic Development." The deadline for advance registration is May 1, 1996 at a cost of \$350 for participants and \$225 for accompanying persons. Copenhagen will be the site of the conference in 1997, Amsterdam 1998, Bangkok 1999. The United States is hoping to field the conference in Boston in 2001.

And Another Report on IFLA — Istanbul, Turkey

by **Dora Biblarz**
(Arizona State University)

IFLA in Istanbul was certainly a terrific contrast to Havana: not just in the obvious ways, such as Caribbean vs. European-Asian, Spanish vs. Turkish, new world vs. ancient civilization — but the streets of Istanbul are crowded with cars, buses, taxis, merchants beckoning passersby into tiny shops crammed with goods, street vendors urging their wares, little children hawking postcards, shoe shines ... anything to make a dollar.

In Istanbul, driving is a macho sport: each one tries to go faster and farther than everyone else before having to slam on the brakes. But if you're on foot, beware! No pity for pedestrians and since there are not always sidewalks (or else cars are parked there) or crosswalks, the poor pedestrian had better be

fleet of foot and have 360-degree vision! This is "defensive pedestrianism" at its most demanding.

The people are polite, friendly and hospitable, welcoming visitors to their shops and restaurants. Practically everyone speaks some English, or makes the attempt to communi-

cate in some European language, recognizing that few visitors will know any Turkish. They don't seem annoyed at the endless hordes of tourists that come to begin or end their tour of the Eastern Mediterranean. This is the birthplace of Western Civilization and the evidence is all around, everywhere you go. From here you can travel to Iznik, Gallipoli and Troy, Anatolia, Cappadocia, the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea. The historical strategic importance of the Bosphorus — a narrow strait that separates the continents of Europe and Asia — is striking the moment one sees the Asian shore of Istanbul in the near distance.

As a tourist in the old part of the city, you can also get swept up among the crowds that come off the cruise ships as big as a small city that stop for a few hours to let the passengers get a brief dose of shopping. As a conference participant, one also shares the experience of being herded onto buses, on rigid itineraries and timetables, trying to see all the sights that were promised — sometimes without explanations or someone to answer questions.

As is true in many cities, smoking is prevalent and it is hard to get away from "second-hand smoke" in restaurants, hotels, tourist spots, etc. Added to this, the pollution and the dirt in the air accumulate on the stones and cement of the beautiful buildings (also on the fur of the numerous cats that walk around like they own the city), causing burning eyes and allergies to flare up.

Food is made with tasty fresh ingredients, lots of fruits and vegetables (wonderful yogurt) and not overly spiced. It was easy to enjoy lamb, chicken, even a vegetarian diet — including lots of feta cheese. The drink of choice, after bottled water, is generally tea, but I did try the Turkish coffee in spite of all the advice to stay away from it. This is a demitasse of strong, black coffee, with a little sugar added, and is only half consumable since the other half is full of loose grounds — this small taste rather leaves you wishing for real espresso (like in Havana). If you ask for coffee in a restaurant or hotel, you are likely to get "Nescafé": hot water and a small container of instant coffee crystals that you mix to taste in your cup. In fact, I was advised by a colleague who traveled to Istanbul last Spring that a "real" cup of brewed coffee, American style, could be bought at

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MacDonald's! (There are several of these and at least one Burger King that I observed in the city.)

The conference drew participants from 103 countries, which was a notable increase from past meetings; the numbers included 625 registrants from Turkey. This created a wonderful opportunity to meet a large number of Turkish colleagues and since many of them speak excellent English, there were no excuses for not communicating. In addition, there were many student volunteers, both library science students and others who were assisting the travel agency which was responsible for transportation, lodging, tours, and registration details. Their total numbers seemed almost to equal the Turkish delegation.

In addition to the receptions, concerts and folk dances in lovely settings such as opulent palaces and open-air theatres, many local libraries were open for visits. Rare books and manuscripts were exhibited for this occasion, and visitors were welcomed to see them and the beautiful reading rooms that housed them. Although the computer resources and book collections are not on the scale of American libraries, there are still lots of resources available and the students can gain access to the information they need to write papers and do research. Their special collections do predominate however; one library I visited had a display of maps, postcards, photographs, stamps and even fairly recent bank notes documenting the rapid inflation of their currency. The exchange rate in August was a phenomenal 47,360 (more or less) Turkish Lira to one U.S. dollar! I was able to enjoy having "millions" even if just briefly!

Professor **Talat S. Halman** was the Plenary Speaker and treated the audience to a marvelously entertaining "tongue-in-cheek" exposition, giving back to us all the acronyms and techno-talk that we are so fond of using, in his presentation on the new directions of scholarly information. I'm not sure how well his paper could be translated into the other official languages of IFLA (but I understand that he did have special help in putting it into Turkish).

The Program theme this year was "Libraries of the Future" and the papers having to do with the Internet, virtual libraries and electronic information predominated. Participants were curious about all these topics and soaked up the information at the sessions as well as during the many opportunities for networking that came up between meetings, at the exhibits and during receptions. The IFLA booth was mobbed with people particularly curious to see the demonstrations of the IFLA homepage on the World Wide Web (check it out at URL: <<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/ifla/>>). I have been very interested to see this develop beyond the IFLA-1 listserv, which was started in early 1994, before the Havana

conference by the Cuban librarians so that they could communicate all the details prior to the conference most easily, cheaply, and widely. Now, the file has grown to include many of the papers delivered in Istanbul, as well as other IFLA documents, press releases, library standards, and much more. I was able to make extra room in my suitcases by leaving behind most of the papers, since I knew I could find them on the Web.

After a full week of conference programs, receptions, library visits and the almost compulsory visits to the great mosques, museums gardens, the covered bazaar and the boat trip along the Bosphorus, I steeled myself for the killer return trip. Another sardine can experience for more hours than I care to remember, nameless airports offering the same "duty free" items and interminable delays — but all the discomfort did not diminish the enthusiasm and excitement I felt from this conference and the warm reception I felt in Istanbul.

It was a wonderful, exotic, entertaining and educational experience that doesn't fail to remind me that we have more in common than we realize, starting with our intellectual curiosity and our philosophy of access to information for all. Now that I have recovered from the jet lag and forgotten the temporary stress of long trips halfway around the world, I look forward with eager anticipation to the 62nd IFLA meeting in Beijing.

Basch Associates Seminar on Marksmanship

Report by **Barry Lee**

Basch Associates' half-day seminar, *Marksmanship: Targeting the Library Market* attracted a strong group of publishing professionals in New York on December 18, 1995. **Susan Di Mattia** and **Buzzy Basch** discussed the characteristics, needs, and expectations of different market segments — public libraries, school libraries, college and academic libraries, medical, law, and corporate libraries, government libraries, and not-for-profit libraries — and mapped the "decision to purchase" process within different types of libraries. Basch and De Mattia reviewed staffing patterns and responsibilities within libraries, and explored proven tools and strategies for bringing materials to the attention of library decision makers.

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