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If Rumors Were Horses

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Against the Grain

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If Rumors Were Horses

What a surprise! Effective May 14 Mike Markwith has been appointed Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Yankee Book Peddler, Contoocook, New Hampshire. His replacement at Faxon has not yet been named but the interim contact is Craig Flansburg.

According to a memorandum from the Association of Research Libraries dated May 30, 1990, “Richard Meserve of Covington & Burling, attorneys for the AIP/APS, has just telephoned to relate that today, in Frankfurt, West Germany, the Trial Court has entirely dismissed the Gordon & Breach lawsuit. The dismissal represents a very favourable development for the physical societies and Dr. Barschall, with positive implications for the American Mathematical Society. . . . The matter is still subject to appeal and we will be informed of future developments. Cases are still pending in Switzerland and France.”

And we were hoping to get Robert Maxwell to speak at the Acquisitions '90 Conference in St. Louis in May (report coming in our next issue) since he was to receive an honorary degree from Washington University at the same time. But no dice. Why? Because Mr. Maxwell was in East Berlin announcing his intention to buy a substantial stake in Berliner Verlag, a major publisher of newspapers and periodicals owned by the Former Communist Party of East Germany. Oh well . . .

And Sandy Paul (that's Sandra K.) has been elected Chairman of ANSI Information Systems Standards Board. This is the Board which coordinates the activities of all organizations accredited by ANSI to develop standards in the area of information systems and sciences.

Word is that Jolanda von Hagen, President and CEO of Springer-Verlag New York will be moving back to Springer-Verlag Germany this summer.

According to PW (April 6, 1990), Commerce Clearing House is selling Facts on File. FOF revenues for last year were approximately $20 million and it has a backlist of 950 reference books that sell primarily to libraries.

From a press release dated April, 19, 1990: “Starting 1 January 1991,
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Martinus Nijhoff, a subsidiary of Martinus Nijhoff International in The Hague, The Netherlands, will start the supply of scientific literature to the Soviet Union worth approximately 1.5 million Dutch guilders per year. The Dutch company will be supplying predominantly scientific journals to the library of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union in Leningrad.

And, after a year at Stanford University, Pam Cenzer will be returning to the University of Florida (Gainesville) this summer. Pam will be a bibliographer.

Do you all remember Clara-Mae Chitum who way back when worked as Acquisitions Librarian at MIT? Well, for those of you who do, Clara recently was married to Ruud F. Van der Velden and is living in The Netherlands.

EBSCO Subscription Services will host a reception honoring ALA President Pat Berger following the President’s Forum on Sunday, June 24, 3:30-5 at ALA Annual. The Forum features Clifford Stoll, an authority on computer security who uncovered an international network of spies selling computer secrets to the KGB. Stoll will speak on preserving library materials in an electronic age.

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months or a year later under another name in another state. And given the vicissitudes of determining absolutely whether the publisher in question is a rip-off artist or merely cantankerous, developing a list which is truly comprehensive, fair and accurate is difficult indeed.

Even so, the best defense against bogus publications and bogus publishers is a network of acquisitions librarians who are informed, suspicious, snooty, and willing to pick up the phone to check with... a colleague, a vendor, or the publisher himself.

(P.S. I would be very interested in hearing more on this topic from any of you. Are there other clear signals that the library should be wary of ordering from this publisher? Which tactics have you used to determine whether a publication has been bogus and which have been most successful? “Tricks of the trade” are what this column is all about. Your comments or suggestions would be most welcome in this space.)

And Baker & Taylor Books has announced the acquisition of a new IBM 3909 200J computer that will enable customers to send and receive electronic orders faster than ever. According to a recent press release, this system will reduce processing time, sending data at a rate of less than two seconds a line.