

A Remembrance

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materials, of school libraries, of medical libraries, of special libraries, of libraries the world over. He shared with each beginning class his extensive collection of library photographs he had taken during his travels. He taught his students library history and how the profession had developed in Turkey. He told them of his work abroad, of his positions at Middle East Technical University, at Ankara University, and as founding director of the medical

Ilhan took it upon himself to first interest these neophytes in his noble profession and then to excite them about its possibilities.

library and later secretary general (or chief operating officer) of Hacettepe University. It was while he was Hacettepe's secretary general that he convinced that university's founder, the indomitable Ihsan Dogramaci, to establish an Institute of Librarianship and Documentation, which was later to become a full-fledged department. It was there that he created a graduate program modeled after those in the United States.

Ilhan dreamed of having IFLA someday meet in Turkey. That dream was realized in 1995, three years after his retirement, when the organization convened its general conference in Istanbul. There his former colleagues,



students, and friends displayed for the world's librarians the richness of the country's culture and the dynamism of their profession. Ilhan Kum did much for Turkey's libraries, for librarianship, and for education. He died peacefully in his sleep on January 3, 2001 at the age of 73. *(Jordan Scepanski is executive director of the Triangle Research Libraries Network and Chair of*

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Message from the IRRT Chair

By Frederick C. Lynden

Last year the IRRT continued its promotion of programs and activities to further the international objectives of ALA and provide hospitality and information to visitors from abroad. In 2000/2001, a number of special programs were developed, the first being an effort by the Continuing Education Committee, led by Roman Kochan, to provide a program for the IFLA Fellows. Planning for this program is well underway. It is the intention of this committee to orient the Fellows who attend IFLA on grant support about IFLA and Boston as well as introduce them to American librarianship.

Two more IRRT activities related to IFLA are the membership drive and reporting in *International Leads*. This year the membership committee set a goal to increase membership significantly, and Karen Starr, Chair of the Membership Committee, plans on having IRRT membership forms and IRRT members at the ALA booth at IFLA. Executive Committee members at Midwinter voted funds to insure that Sha Li Zhang, *International Leads* Editor, will be able to attend IFLA and report to the *International Leads* audience.

A fourth program is the database to be generated from International Participation Forms, tentatively called "Global Reach", created by Michael Dowling, as a means of making available information to the State Department and ALA about experts on foreign libraries. The IRRT Executive Committee and Committee Chairs volunteered to test the participation forms that will create the database to be unveiled at the ALA annual meeting in San Francisco.

Three more activities will bear fruit at the summer meeting. The Reception Committee, headed by Monica Ertel, has planned a spectacular reception for international visitors. The Poster Committee, chaired by Nora Kondratiev, has a very full Poster Program to inform convention goers about international library activities. And with the aid of volunteers, the Hospitality Committee, chaired by Lucinda Covert-Vail and Jennifer Schwarz, will host visitors at the Hospitality area at the Moscone Convention Center.

In addition, Inga Filippo, as Chair of the Orientation Committee, took the initiative to obtain funding for the Orientation meeting in San Francisco and the Publication Subcommittee, led by Barbara Kile, has been working hard to update the web, not resting on their *International Leads* laurels. Finally, the Program Committee, headed by Artemis Kirk, has prepared a stimulating program on how librarians in some countries of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East provide information to users despite barriers to resources.

It has been my great pleasure to serve as Chair of the International Relations Round Table over the past year. Thanks to an excellent International Relations Office staff headed by Michael Dowling and assisted by Alisha White, much gets accomplished during the interim periods between the annual meeting and midwinter meetings. Congratulations must also go to Lucinda Covert-Vail, Mary Jean Pavelsek, Lea Wells, Mary Sherman, and Ed Valauskas who have all helped in numerous ways to make the year a very successful one for IRRT.

Photos from the International Librarians Reception at 2000 ALA Annual Conference

Below: librarians from Russia



Above: Librarians from India



Above: American librarians post with their international colleagues.

(Photos were provided by Sha Li Zhang, IL Editor, July 2000.)

ALA Annual Conference 2000: a Danish View

News and Announcements

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) librarians and friends will get together for lunch during the ALA Annual Conference on Saturday, June 16, 2001 at 12:45 p.m. at the Thirsty Bear Brewing Company, 661 Howard St., San Francisco. Phone: 415-974-0905 and website: <http://thirstybear.com/thirsty.second.html> The restaurant is within easy walking distance (just half a block east) of the Moscone Convention Center. As a group, reservation will be needed. Please contact Beth Sibley for reservations at esibley@library.berkeley.edu

The ACRL Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section would like to invite you to attend “Unicode: Representing the World’s Languages Online: Trends and Applications” to be held on Sunday, June 17, 2001, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Marriott Golden Gate A1. Come and explore how Unicode is revolutionizing accessibility and usability of languages in the online library world with our panel of experts from the Unicode Consortium (Mark Davis, Unicode Consortium President), OCLC (Lynn Kellar, OCLC Enterprise Database Technology Director), RLG (Walt Crawford, Research Libraries Group Information Architect), and VTLS, Inc. (Vinod Chachra, VTLS Inc. President). Our panel will guide you through these changes and how they are

