

## THE RUSSIAN STATE LIBRARY

The Russian State Library is the largest library in Europe. It was founded on 1st July 1862 as a section of the Rumyantsev Museum and was housed in Paskov House. The books and manuscripts of N P Rumyantsev formed the basis of the library's early collection.

A law of 1862 gave the library copyright status and the right to claim one free copy of all publications printed in Russia. However, the library received no funds from the Tsarist government to buy books and to expand its reading rooms and stacks until 1912.

Despite this, the library was used by many including Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Chekhov and Lenin, to name but a few of its famous, readers.

On 6th February 1925 the library was renamed the Lenin State Library of the USSR and was given the right to claim three copies of printed matter published in the USSR. In 1945 the library was awarded the Order of Lenin for its services to readers and its protection of books.

By 1962 the library had expanded to twenty-two reading rooms, seating 2,400 - a far cry from 1862 when the library had only one reading room for twenty people. The reading rooms include three for children and young people, and separate reading rooms for rare books, manuscripts, music literature, microforms and newspapers.

After the fall of the USSR, the library was renamed the Russian State Library. It is open to non-Russian nationals on the production of a passport, although

although readers tickets for a period longer than a few days also require a photograph.

### NEWSPAPER COLLECTIONS

#### RUSSIAN STATE LIBRARY

*previously  
the Lenin State Library*

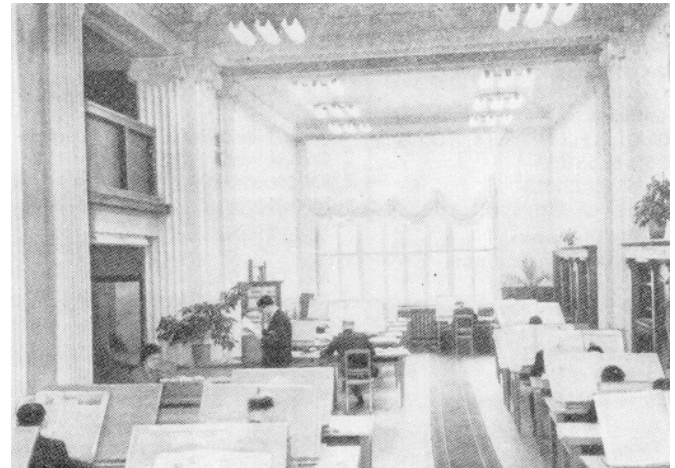
#### Introduction

Newspapers are not only a means of mass information but are also an important historical source. From the first issue, a newspaper reflects society and its views, and can therefore create a real atmosphere of each stage of societies development. The role that newspapers play in preserving social, political, historical and economic information cannot be underestimated.

In 1864, shortly after it was granted copyright status, the Library received 281 newspaper and magazine titles. By 1990, this figure had grown to 9997 titles. The newspaper department was established in 1973 and two years later the collection was moved to a newly built stack in the town of Khimki, just outside Moscow.

The Library's newspaper collection is unique in its composition and chronological scope. It includes over 50,000 titles, not only in the Russian language but also in foreign languages and the many languages of the non-Russian peoples of the former Soviet Union.

There are over 2,500 titles in the foreign newspaper collection. Eighteen of these titles, including *Oberdeutsche Allegmeine*,



*Newspaper Reading Room*

*Literature Zeitung* and *Salzburg*, were published in the eighteenth century and 224 titles were published in the nineteenth century. In addition, the collection includes 38 titles in Asian and African languages.

The Library boasts a pre-Revolutionary newspaper collection of over 4,000 titles. It includes almost every newspaper published in Moscow and St Petersburg, with the exception of a few newspapers published before 1862. The collection includes *Sankt Peterburgskie Vedomosti*, *Moskovskie Vedomosti*, *Senatorskie Vedomosti*, *Severnaya Pochta* and *Russky Invalid* and represent both the bourgeois-democratic press, such as *Nedelya* (1868-72) and *Ocherki* and the liberal-bourgeois press such as *Russkaya Mysl*, *Russkie Vedomosti*, *Strana* and *Severny Vestnik*.

Of special historical importance are the newspapers of the early post-revolutionary years and the 1920's. Some 5000 newspaper titles help to document the early

formative years of the Soviet state.

Recent work which has been done on co-operative newspapers, allows researchers to trace practically the entire development of the co-operative movement in Russia and the Soviet Union. This collection comprises 833 titles covering the period 1894-1989 and includes *Listok Vilnskogo Ekonomicheskogo Obshchestva* (1899-1911), *Listok Ekonomicheskogo Obshchestva Ofitserov Odesskogo Voyennogo Okruga* (1908-1909), *Muzhitskaya Pravda* (1913) and *Ranenburg Ryazanskoi Gubernii*.

Nevertheless, the Library's largest collection is made up of newspapers from the Soviet period, which are listed in the reference book 'Gazety SSSR 1917-1960 g.g.' (Newspapers of the USSR 1917-1960). Soviet newspapers can be divided into the following categories; national all-union newspapers such as *Pravda*, *Izvestia*, *Literaturnaya Gazeta* and *Lesnaya Promyshlennost* national republican,



## NEWS FROM THE ROUND TABLE

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newspapers in Russian, national republican newspapers in the languages of the Soviets republics, regional newspapers, city newspapers and the newspapers of factories and other such organisations.

In the early 1970's the number of Soviet newspapers increased rapidly as the newspaper became the most significant source of information. As a result the number of newspaper titles increased from 7886 in 1972 to 8285 in 1982 and the annual circulation rose from 33.9 million to 39.9 million. The Library continues to receive new titles each year, for example, in 1991 over 500 new titles were received.

With the onset of perestroika new types of newspaper were produced, and as a result the Library created several new categories of newspaper classification. This classification was based around subject area, such as religious newspapers, youth newspapers, ecological newspapers and commercial newspapers, rather than the geographical categories which had previously been used.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Before registering a new newspaper title in the readers' catalogue, its issues are first collected for a year. Newspapers are indexed by subject to assist readers to discover the subject matter of previous and future issues. Every year, over 60,000 cards are added to the Newspaper Department's card files.

The Newspaper Department has improved its services to readers by not only setting up a classified card file but by preparing printed catalogues of its stock. For example, in 1977 the Library published 'Russian pre-Revolutionary newspapers in the holdings of the Lenin State Library of the USSR' which contained over 4,200 newspaper titles, while in 1985

the Lenin State Library of the USSR' which contained over 4,200 newspaper titles, while in 1985 it published 'Newspapers in foreign European languages in the stocks of the Lenin State Library of the USSR'. From 1982-1989 the Newspaper Department joined with other Russian libraries to produce the catalogue 'Newspapers of the first years of Soviet power 1917-1922' which included newspaper titles in Russian, languages of the non-Russian peoples of the former Soviet Union and foreign languages.

This is not the only time that the Newspaper Department has worked with other Russian libraries. To satisfy the demands of its readers, the Library produced the index 'Foremost newspapers stocks of research libraries of the country' which gave details of the newspaper stocks of over a hundred Russian libraries. In addition, the Newspaper Department is in close contact with other Moscow libraries and this allows reference and information work to be carried out on a broader basis and at a higher standard.

An important task of the Newspaper Department is a library reference service to its readers and organisations ranging from secondary schools to parliament. In 1990 over 6000 such references were carried out.

The department began to microfilm its collection in the 1940's. From 1972-1991, 220 title of current newspapers were microfilmed as were some pre-Revolutionary newspapers and every issue of the twenty-five all-union newspapers.

**O A Yadykina**  
Head of the  
Newspaper Department

*Ed. Note*  
*Thanks to Lisa Davies NLW for  
her assistance with this article.*

**NEWSPAPER PRESERVATION MICROFILMING IN FRANCE**

**The case of ACRPP**

*(Association for Conservation and Photographic Reproduction of the Press)*

In 1958, the *Bibliothèque Nationale* decided to set up a programme on preservation and access to its periodical holdings. For many years the physical condition of such items had been a cause of much concern to the staff who tried to find a suitable solution on several levels:

- physical and material protection of newspapers
- access facilities for users
- preservation information for newspaper publishing companies concerning their own collection.

Being anxious to involve public and institutional partners and to get them to participate in newspaper preservation problems, the *Bibliothèque Nationale* decided to found an association which should have aptitude according to French law to develop safety programmes for the library's own holdings and thus facilitate the joining of public and private interests in one and the same structure. The association should also be free to operate, to invest and to engage staff -not always easy within a government body.

Because of its inability to act directly with a view to the preservation of its own holdings, the library committed such activities to the association which became a reality in May 1958 with a cast of French newspaper gatherings and companies, and so the *Association for Conservation and Photographic Reproduction of the Press (ACRPP)* was born. The Association aimed to preserve and to distribute newspapers and periodicals by microfilming them. Such ideas were in fact very new in 1958. As far as microfilming was concerned, the *Bibliothèque Nationale* had set up vast programmes of its precious collections before World War II

and especially since the 1950's. In 1958, the technical potential was quite limited: cameras, developing and duplicating machines, films too, did not reach the standard we know today. There were no standards for micrographics, processing and fabrication were not yet well settled. Everything had to be defined, set up or invented. **ACRPP** did it by adjusting the specific equipment needed, but especially by establishing a real method for newspaper microfilming when studying the requirements of the *Bibliothèque Nationale* as well as those of its users and of the newspaper companies. The experience gathered during all these years is now part of the almost universal technical heritage - in France and in all countries where microfilming is used.

Today, **ACRPP** works in two directions:

- microfilming the most important French current newspapers
- microfilming of retrospective newspaper holdings.

**ACRPP** has gained its own special know-how in this field.

Two workshops share the various tasks carried out:

one in *Marne-la-Vallée* (East of Paris) where **ACRPP**'s head office is located;

another in *Provins*, a hundred kilometres East of Paris, in the Newspaper Preservation Centre of the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France*.

**ACRPP**'s partners are the *Bibliothèque Nationale* de France and French Public libraries. Its

catalogue (last edition: 1995, no. 15) lists some 5600 title entries of periodicals on microfilm. It is a real union catalogue of French newsprint, unique in its way, a necessary tool for all research work on French newsprint and its history.

**ACRPP** is rightly proud of its forty-year long adventure, since spring 1958. While new techniques are developing rapidly, creating rivals to microfilming, and gradually reducing its importance as a means to conveying information. **ACRPP** continues to carry out its task of recording 60 million images on microfilm, whose future and survival will now be governed by digitisation.

But an age has gone. The technical environment has changed, and so has the political and institutional environment. The *Bibliothèque Nationale* has become the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France* which cares for new trends. **ACRPP** therefore faces the future with determination, anxious to pursue its initial aim which remains the same: to preserve newspapers whose fragility is as vast and worrying as during the worst decades of the late 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Before the paper disappears completely from our daily environment, many newspapers will have been published in paper format. They must be preserved in order to circulate the information they contain before they crumble into dust. If the god Mercury will give life to **ACRPP**, it will still have its day. If Mercury....

**Jean-Marie Arnoult**  
Inspeuceur général des bibliothèques

**Geoff Smith**, who was Head of the British Library Newspaper Library from 1994 has been promoted to a new post of the Head of the British Library's Modern Collections, with overall management responsibility for the Newspaper Library. We wish him well in this important post.

*Congratulations to John Byford on succeeding Geoff. John joined British National Bibliography in 1970. He worked in various areas of BL including Head of Cataloguing in what was BLBSD. His previous post was Head of Modern English and Reader Services. He represented BL on Joint Steering Committee for Revision of AACR, also the Governing Board of ISDS, was secretary for 4 years of IFLA Section on Serial Publications; secretary for 4 years of IFLA Coordinating Board for Collections Services. (At the time when the Round Table on Newspapers was created.) Co-edited "AACR, DDC, MARC and friends" and LA Publishing 1993.*

Eesti Teaduste Akadeemia  
Raamatukogu: Eestis  
ilmunud saksa-, veneja  
muukeelne perioodika  
1675-1940.  
*Toimetanud E. Annus.*

Tallinn 1993. 477pp.  
ISBN: 9985-50-028-8

This is an important volume of the Estonian retrospective national bibliography, and it covers periodicals in German, Russian and other languages in Estonia, 1675-1940.



The compiler is the excellent bibliographer E. Annus. As mentioned in the preface, the work took a number of years and was realised by the Library of the Estonian Academy of Sciences in co-operation with the National Library of Estonia Tallinn, the Library of the Literature Museum in Tartu, the University Library of Tartu, the Estonian Historical Archives (Tartu), the National Library of Latvia (Riga) and the Russian State Library (St. Petersburg.). Latvia is particularly important in this context because Riga was the capital of the province of Libonia which included Southern Estonia, until 1917. St. Petersburg has been included because its State Library received the Estonian legal deposits until 1917. The catalogue contains 384 German, 270 Russian, 19 English, 20 Yiddish, 7 Swedish, 5 Esperanto, and 6 French language periodicals. The main body of the book contains two alphabetical listings, one for the Roman, and one for the cyrillic alphabet. There are no indications given in the descriptions as to whether a serial was considered a newspaper or not. So it is left to the user to follow key-words like *Zeitung* etc., and the number of issues per year (if provided). There are quite a number of facsimiles of titles given, unfortunately not the complete mastheads. The individual volumes of a serial are listed, page numbers are given, sometimes even the print runs. There is also information on the publishers, and editors as far as they were known. Indexes by subject matter, chronology, editors, and issuing organisations as well as of places of publications are of particular value. The first newspapers were published in Estonia in the 17th century, like the *Ordinari Freytags (Donnerstags) Post-Zeitung* 1675-1678 and *Revalsche Post-Zeitung* 1689-1710. In the 18th

*Dhe Aviser* (Pärnu 1700) and *Narvische Post-Zeitungen* (1701-1702) and the *Dörptsche Zeitung* (1789-1875) are noteworthy. Smaller Estonian towns only got their newspapers during the 19th century. While some early Estonian books were apparently printed abroad and then brought into the country, newspapers depended on local printers. A printing shop was established in Tartu (Dorpat) in 1631, which worked from 1632 to 1656, 1690-1699, and another in Pärnu. (Pernau) from 1699 to 1709. In Talinn (Reval) printing started on a continuous basis in 1634. Riga was earlier - there a printing shop was already established in 1584. The records contain careful descriptions, and the holdings statements make much material available which so far had been considered inaccessible.

Hartmut Walravens

**Meeting held at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris. 14th May 1996**

Present: Robert Harriman (Chairman; Library of Congress); Geoff Smith (Secretary; British Library); Hans Bohrmann (Institut für Zeitungsforschung, Dortmund); Else Delaunay (Bibliothèque Nationale de France); Elena Garcia Puente (Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid); Beti Jones (National Library of Wales); Dora Secic (National and University Library, Zagreb); Henry Snyder (University of California, Riverside); Mary Jane Starr (National Library of Canada)

**Apologies for absence**  
Apologies had been received

from Andrew Phillips, Wilbert Ubbens, Majken Bremer-Laamanen, and Galina Kislovskaya.

Each member present described newspaper related developments pertaining to his or her institution or country.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Geoffrey Hamilton** has become a personal member of IFLA and is to remain a member of the Round Table.

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Proposal for membership had been received from Tunisia on behalf of **M. Mohamed Raouf Belhassen**. and from the Russian State Library on behalf of **Olga Yadkina**.

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**Ursula Schadlich** of the Biblioteca Nacional in Chile has become a member and attended one of the meetings in Istanbul.

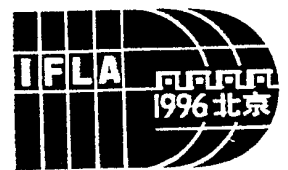
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There was discussion of the feasibility of extending membership in other parts of the world, including South Africa, Japan and China. It was agreed that membership proposals from institutions in these countries and others would be welcomed, with the understanding that the working language of the section was English.

**Financial Report**  
Geoff Smith tabled the report. This showed a healthy financial position. The annual report and formal financial statement to IFLA was submitted before the Beijing conference.

**Date and venue for next business meeting**

It was agreed that the end of April or May were suitable time for the meeting to allow preparation for the main conference. Bob Harriman suggested the 1997 meeting might be held in Washington to coincide again with the United States Newspaper Program meeting. (It was subsequently agreed that Henry Snyder would explore the possibility of the meeting being held in California).



**IFLA conferences BEIJING 1996**

The theme of the Open Meeting was *Asian newspapers*, and the workshop dealt with the preservation of newspapers through microfilming or digitisation. The workshop was organised jointly with the Conservation Section. The papers for the Open Meeting had been forwarded to IFLA HQ by the required date. As neither Bob Harriman nor Geoff Smith were able to attend the conference it was agreed that Hartmut Walravens and Else Delaunay, who was a speaker, would chair and act as Beijing liaison for the Open meeting and the Workshop respectively.

**FUTURE IFLA CONFERENCES**

- 1997 Copenhagen
- 1998 Amsterdam
- 1999 Thailand?
- 2000 Portugal
- 2001 Boston, USA or South Korea
- 2002 Edinburgh?
- 2003 St. Petersburg

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