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The Crimea 2000 Organizing Committee at a post-conference outing. (Photo: Lester Pourciau, June 2000)

Crimea Conferences

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locations has some historical significance and points of interest.

The Conference Formalities

The opening and closing ceremonies of the Crimea Conferences are unlike anything the vast majority of Americans has ever seen at conferences in the United States. The opening ceremony for Crimea 2000 was held in the Genoese fortress and castle mentioned above with various personalities dressed in attire appropriate to the site and on horseback. The closing ceremony was

in the Conference title and topic have been its mainstay from the beginning. As the official languages of the Crimea Conferences are Russian, English, and Ukrainian, papers in each of these languages are included in the published *Proceedings* with the majority in Russian. Additionally, each paper in the *Proceedings* is prefaced by abstracts in each of the three languages, regardless of the actual language in which the paper appears. At the Conference presentation of a paper, simultaneous translation is provided to participants in each of the two languages other than the language of presentation.

(Photo: Lester Pourciau, June 2000)

characterized by an elaborate awards ceremony and by song and dance. The closing banquet was out of doors in the early evening and was nothing less than a sumptuous event.

Crimea 2000

The formal title of the Crimea Conferences is Libraries and Associations in the Transient World: New Technologies and New Forms of Cooperation. The topic of focus for Crimea 2000 was Libraries, Publishers, Book Distribution, and Education in a Single Information and Sociocultural Environment. Papers focusing on the topics identified

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Message from the IRRT Chair

By Frederick C. Lynden

In my first column as Chair of the International Relations Round Table, first, I want to give credit to my predecessor for her programs over the past two years; second, to recap IRRT actions at ALA summer in Chicago, and finally, to outline my goals for this year.

First, I thank Lucinda Covert-Vail for her energy and hard work in strengthening the IRRT. Lucinda served two years as Chair. It was during her tenure that ALA agreed to support the reception; Sha Li Zhang, a new *International Leads* editor, was appointed; Michael Dowling, our excellent Director of the IRO, was also appointed; the Hospitality desk became a Hospitality booth; the more advanced programs of Continuing Education became a reality, and a new Sub-Committee for the Sister Libraries program was inaugurated. All of these actions have really increased service to the membership and foreign librarians who attend ALA. Serving these two groups and promoting ALA's role in international relations is the real purpose of IRRT.

Second, at the ALA summer meeting, several actions were reported on areas where IRRT can expand its programs. The most important of these is that the International Relations Committee Chair, Jordan Scepanski, and Michael Dowling, Director of International Relations Office, visited Mary Boone, Information Resources Team Leader, the State Department of the U.S., to speak about working on joint programs between ALA and the State Department. Programs of the past, such as the Library Fellows program, have been highly successful and productive. Another action, explored at ALA, was how IRRT could help in promoting IFLA 2001 in Boston. Nancy John, Past Chair of IRRT and IFLA Professional Board member, and Tovah Reis, IFLA Local Planning Committee, suggested ways that IRRT volunteers could help. Volunteers are needed most for meeting people at Logan Airport, manning the information desk, and helping with AV equipment. IRRT received a go-ahead from the National Organizing Committee for the Continuing Education Program to give a "State of U.S. Librarianship Program." It is hoped that the IRRT will encourage U.S. participation in the Poster Session program. Finally, it was suggested that IRRT members act as U. S. liaisons to IFLA divisions and sub-committees.

There was also an excellent program on the Sister Library program on Monday. Presentations by both American and foreign librarians explained how libraries can initiate and sustain sister library relationships. Another area where IRRT can take action is working with the Carnegie Corporation which has a new program to assist libraries in Africa. Gloria Primm Brown, Senior Program Officer, International

Development Program, of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, spoke to the IRRT Board about a new \$100 Million program which aims to increase the capacity of African higher education, by focusing on assisting public libraries in African countries, among them Botswana, Kenya and South Africa, through a five-ten year program to revitalize public library systems. Gloria suggested that IRRT invite major public library leaders from Africa to ALA to speak about issues facing libraries in Africa.

Third, there are a number of programs which I would like to promote during my year as Chair of IRRT. Among these are:

-- Using the Sister Library Sub-Committee to do matching of requests received at the International Relations Office for Sister Library relationships.

-- Encouraging closer contact with the International Relations Committee, including working with IRC on developing programs with the State Department, e.g., Library Fellows program.

-- Continuing to improve the *International Leads* with regular articles on IFLA 2001.

-- Expanding membership through advertising and outreach.

-- Continuing to improve the programs assisting foreign visitors such as Hospitality, Orientation; and Continuing Education.

I am pleased to begin my year as Chair of the International Relations Round Table and hope to meet as many of the members as possible during the Midwinter meeting. I encourage your comments and suggestions.

Congratulations To Winners

Robert Wedgeworth was presented the Humphrey/OCLC/Forrest Press Award and Penny Papangelis was a winner of the Bogle-Pratt Award. The presentations were made at the IRRT International Librarians Reception held at the Winter Garden of Chicago Public Library on July 10, 2000 during the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago.

This interview came about because I wanted to find people who had a great deal of international library experiences, but who had a non-North American perspective, and bring those experiences and perspectives to the attention of American librarians. Based on my own contacts at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I found three people who had lots of international library experience and were willing to be interviewed: **Janet Lees**, Managing Director of OCLC Europe, the Middle East & Africa; **Klaus Saur**, the head of K.G. Saur Publishing; and **Borge Sorensen**, Director of the Municipal Library of Copenhagen and an Executive Board member of IFLA. I hope you find their comments as interesting as I have.

Q: In your professional capacity, each of you has chosen a position that brings you into contact with librarians around the world. Was this by accident or design?

K. Saur: Until a few years ago, the situation in Germany

From ALA's International Desk By Michael Dowling

At the recent ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, we were able to get approval for a new mission statement for the office. With the funding of the office by ALA a year and a half ago it was felt that a new mission statement was needed to reflect our role within the organization. The mission statement affirms the role of the IRO in promoting and supporting international activities on behalf of ALA and the IRC and the IRRT. Here is the new mission statement.

“The mission of the International Relations Office (IRO) is to increase ALA’s presence in the global library community, to implement ALA policies concerning international librarianship, to promote greater understanding of international librarianship and international library issues within ALA, and to manage international library activities on behalf of the ALA. To accomplish its mission the IRO coordinates ALA activities in support of official ALA delegations to international events such as book fairs and congresses; promotes international library exchanges and partnerships; recruits international librarians to become members of ALA and attend ALA conferences; responds to international inquiries concerning library issues and activities in the United States; serves as a point of contact for international librarians in the United States; and serves as a liaison between the IRO and the international library community.”

IFLA 2001 Conference in Boston Update

By Michael Dowling and Fred Lynden

During the next four issues of *International Leads*, we will be providing updates for you on the plans for the IFLA 2001 Conference which will be held at the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center in Boston's Back Bay, Massachusetts, August 16-25, 2001. The theme of the conference is "Libraries and Librarians: Making a Difference in the Knowledge Age."

It has been 15 years since IFLA was held in the U.S. The IFLA Boston 2001 National Organizing Committee (NOC) is co-chaired by Gary E. Strong, Queens Borough Public Library and Duane Webster, Association of Research Libraries. Roger Parent, American Association of Law Libraries, is Secretary, and Carla J. Funk, Medical Library Association is Secretary.

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Report from the International Relations Committee

By Jordan M. Scepanski, Chair

Following discussion of the draft “International Relations Agenda for the American Library Association” at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio in January 2000, a second version of the document was prepared and placed on the International Relations Office web site for broader review and further comment. Reactions to the piece were received from a number of interested individuals. During the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, ALA members and membership groups provided additional comment. The changes suggested are being reviewed. The International Relations Committee will consider how the planning document will be used to guide its programs and priorities.

In April 2000, Michael Dowling, Director of the International Relations Office, and Jordan Scepanski, Chair of the International Relations Office, met in New York with ALA President-Elect Nancy Kranich, Executive Director William Gordon, and IRRT Chair Lucinda Covert-Vail, to review a range of international relations matters. Among items considered were the draft of the planning statement, how ALA might best respond to calls for action following international incidents, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference developments, international implications of Kanich’s presidential theme “Libraries: the Cornerstone of Democracy,” and programs at the upcoming annual conference. Later in the spring 2000, a meeting was held with information available for American librarians to work and consult abroad and to determine how ALA might assist the state department in identifying individuals with relevant functional, linguistic, and area expertise. ALA’s involvement

with the international visitors program and possibilities for new partnerships with the department also were discussed.

The International Relations Committee met twice at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. In addition to talking about the draft of the planning document, the committee heard reports on the IFLA conference to be held in Jerusalem, ALA’s Sister Libraries initiative, book fairs with which ALA has some involvement, planning for the second China-U.S. Library Conference, and the presence in Chicago of an impressive contingent of international librarians participating in the meetings. Rick Weingarten of the Office for Information Technology Policy briefed the committee on intellectual property and other issues of interest to the committee. Nancy John, IRC member and the IFLA first vice president, informed the IRC of current IFLA activities, including the work of its executive and professional board.

Michael Dowling brought to the committee revised mission statement for his office. The committee adopted the new statement which subsequently was approved by the ALA Committee on Organization. Reports were made by

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