

ute to catalog code revision by a careful consideration of the practical problems which arise in everyday work.

Swank's paper, while not so directly related to the theme of the Conference, is an excellent statement of the factors involved in the cost of cataloging and of bibliography generally, and ends with a plea for no skimping on the author code, which he sees as the "very heart of the library service."

The papers by Chaplin and Osborn are among the most stimulating and provocative in the volume, and it is to be hoped that they will be widely read by American catalogers and librarians, since they present ideas and viewpoints which we tend to ignore in our deliberations. Osborn reports on the growing use in Germany of "mechanical" or "natural" word order in filing title entries, in place of the traditional grammatical word order, and mentions the introduction of corporate entries in the public catalog of the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek. Chaplin outlines the major problems which must be overcome to achieve an international code and comments hopefully on the activities of the IFLA working group on the international coordination of cataloging principles, which has optimistically attacked the chief obstacles to international agreement—corporate authorship and title entry for anonymous books.

Wright summarizes in some detail the current progress on code revision in the United States, identifying the principles and objectives which have been accepted for the new code, including the provision of alternative practices for specialized and popular libraries. Lubetzky, fittingly, has the last word, commenting on several points made during the Conference. He emphasizes the magnitude of the problem of assembling works of an author and editions of a work and affirms the professional nature of the problem of constructing a catalog code, asserting that the authors of a code cannot be too much concerned with possible misapplication of the code by practicing catalogers or with constructing a code which attempts to meet the "needs" and "approach" of the library's patrons.

In summary, these papers provide a good background for, and review of, the main

problems involved in catalog code revision (particularly for the library school student and teacher), as given by recognized experts, although one looks in vain for a detailed consideration of the basic problems involved in the "finding list vs. reference tool" dilemma, a question which still has not been thoroughly discussed. It is interesting to note that several participants minimize the value of studies of readers' use of the catalog—a far cry from the literature of the forties on the catalog and catalog codes, which virtually always concluded with a plea for such studies. To this reviewer, the most important question raised relates to the possibility of an international code. On the basis of the evidence presented here, it would seem that this is no longer in the realm of unattainable ideals. American catalogers and librarians have a serious obligation to examine closely our basic concept of main entry for works produced by corporate bodies. In view of the liberal use of added entries in American catalogs and bibliographies, can we consider a wider use of title as main entry for such works? Would this really violate our concept of "authorship" and, if so, what are the consequences? Certainly, these are questions which the Catalog Code Revision Committee should consider carefully as it works on the new code.—Wesley Simonton, *Library School, University of Minnesota.*

Russian Biography

Russkie biograficheskie i bio-bibliograficheskie slovari. By I. M. Kaufman. Moscow: Gosudarstvennoe izdatel'stvo kul'turno-prosvetitel'noi literatur'i, 1955. 751p. 31R 40K.

This new, revised edition of *Russian Biographical and Bio-bibliographical Dictionaries*, compiled by I. M. Kaufman, has added reference works which were published in the years 1950-1954. Published in an edition of 12,000 copies, it is obviously a work that is finding a home in nearly all Soviet reference collections.

It is divided into the following sections: (1) all biographical dictionaries and collections of biographies of general character,

published in the last 250 years (pp.5-68); (2) all works containing biographies and bibliographies of Russian scholars and scientists in the fields of mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, geology, biology, history, and geography (pp.69-183); (3) works which list members of the Soviet Academy of Science (pp.184-96); (4) works on individual members of Russian Academy (Czarist and Soviet) and their publications (pp.197-200); (5) works which list professors, lecturers, and students of the Universities, institutes and other higher institutions (alphabetically by places; Warsaw, Riga, and Dorpat are also included in this list, perhaps because these cities belonged to Czarist Russia, before Poland, Estonia, and Latvia won their independence after 1918) (pp.201-76); (6) a short list of works on both pre-Revolutionary Russian and Soviet learned and literary societies (pp.276-78); (7) a special list of works with biographies of scholars and scientists before and after the Revolution, apparently selected at random for this section by Kaufman (pp.279-82); (8) a list of biographical dictionaries of Russian and Soviet belletristic authors from the eighteenth century on (pp.282-335); (9) bibliographies of works

on physicians (pp.336-73); (10) engineers (divided according to the type of engineering) (pp.374-406); (11) agronomists (pp.407-15); (12) teachers (pp.416-19); (13) librarians (including printers and booksellers) (pp.420-27); (14) artists (pp.428-85); (15) architects (pp.486-92); (16) musicians (pp.493-502); and (17) actors (pp.503-13); (18) a list of dictionaries and collections of biographies published in various Soviet cities, not including those listed under universities and schools (pp.514-56); (19) dictionaries of pseudonyms (pp.557-60); (20) works listing obituaries (pp.561-62).

There is also a supplement of works omitted from their proper places (pp.563-76), and alphabetical lists of names (pp.579-740), titles (pp.741-48) and series (pp.748-49). Under each entry there is a commentary on the scope and purpose of each title in the bibliography. The arrangement is chronological in each section.

Kaufman's work is the best source for information on Russian biographical and bibliographical dictionaries, and it has a place alongside similar guides to biographical reference works in other jurisdictions.—*Milimir Drazic, Northwestern University Library.*

“Then There Are Librarians”

Then there are librarians. I think there must be a special dispensation in Valhalla for all librarians, and especially for those of the Woman's College Library [Greensboro, North Carolina]—under the direction of Mr. Charles Adams—which naturally contained much of the specialized information which this record required. Miss Marjorie Hood, with whom I worked most closely, is the library staff member who has earned my very special and limitless gratitude. Others who have been helpful include personnel of the excellent Ferguson Library of Stamford, Connecticut, the incomparable New York Public Library, and the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore, the National Archives, Washington, and the State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh. I have found only courtesy and helpfulness in libraries. Indeed I have a higher opinion of the whole human race than when I began research on this volume four years ago.—Rose Howell Holder, in “Acknowledgments,” in her *McIver of North Carolina* (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1957).