BOOK REVIEWS

Kooperation in der Klassifikation. Proceedings der 2. Fachtagung der Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Frankfurt-Höchst, 6.–7. April 1978. Frankfurt am Main: Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, 1978. 2 v. (Studien zur Klassifikation, Bd. 2 & 3)

For more than a century most theoretical and practical writings on classification used to flow from the pens of English-speaking authors, primarily in England, to a more limited extend in the United States, and, since Ranganathan's appearance on the scene in the 1930's, also in India. Most of these books and articles were devoted to the application of classification in libraries, whereas the philosophical foundations of classification and its use in fields outside of librarianship were only occasionally touched upon. This situation changed considerably during the past decade, when a number of international and national conferences and meetings devoted to classification in all its ramifications and its application to a wide range of activities took place, and the language of contributions to these events was no longer exclusively English.

The *Proceedings* of the 2nd annual meeting of the German Gesellschaft für Klassifikation (whose members have been instrumental in bringing about such changes) are the most recent contribution of this kind. The theme of the conference was „Cooperation in classification" and it produced 26 papers (only two of which were delivered in English). Although inevitably the papers are of uneven length and quality, and some of them are of a more or less local character, pertaining to specifically German issues (both in the linguistic sense and in their limited regional applicability), the majority deal with general problems. Many of these might benefit from a translation into English to ensure them a wider audience. This is especially true of section 1, „Philosophical and linguistic fundamentals of classification", in which 3 papers deal with epistemological issues, the dynamics of scientific concept formation, and the classification of semantically complex forms. Section 2, „Cooperation in national and international information retrieval", is of a more technical nature. The papers report on the newly designed Broad System of Ordering (BSO), sponsored by Unesco and FID, and its intended use as a switching language; the International Patent Classification; European cooperation in the design and construction of technical thesauri; the present status of information and documentation in the Federal Republic of Germany; and the importance and limits of classification in international information systems. Section 3, somewhat oddly named „Applications of numerical taxonomy" is devoted to automatic classification. The first paper (in English) deals with „Fast document classification in automatic information retrieval"; other contributions are concerned with the evaluation and comparison of classification results in automatic systems and with the automatic system FAKYR, which is based on graph-theoretical methods and can be used to compare not only two

classification systems but also those in which terms are written in two languages; the last paper in this section reports on automatic classification used for subject analysis of legal documents, also based on graph-theoretical methods.

Section 4 is perhaps the most „traditional" one and deals with library classification. The first paper reviews the PRECIS indexing system (which is *not* a classification system at all, and therefore somewhat out of context here) and its translingual aspects. The next paper reports on progress in the automation of UDC, the future of which is seen as a switching language between various thesauri and thus as a computer-internal part of the retrieval mechanism, while users would approach retrieval systems in natural language. The last paper in this section compares the various classification systems available to and used by the legal profession. Section 5 is devoted to commodity classification. Five papers consider both their theoretical basis and their practical applications for the identification and definition of commodities as well as the design of commodity dictionaries in several languages; the example of various kinds of hammers, used to demonstrate the kind of entry envisaged for such a dictionary carries subdivision and corresponding definition to absurd lengths. The last section, „Methodical aids for classification" would probably have been labeled by yesterday's classificationists „Miscellaneous", as it is a mixed bag of 5 papers on terminological standardization, problems of definition, and presentations of a special and a general classification scheme by their respective designers.

The two volumes are handsomely produced from camera-ready typescript, a method which no doubt made it possible to publish the *Proceedings* only a few months after the event. A very useful feature are the brief summaries of all papers presented in an introductory part after the table of contents (which has been translated into English). One would wish that other conference proceedings would follow this example. On the other hand, there is no index, which is somewhat inexplicable, since classificationists, of all people, should know that every classification system needs an alphabetical index — and so do proceedings of a conference on the topic.

Hans H. Wellisch

WEINBERGER, Ota; WEINBERGER, Christiane: **Logik, Semantik, Hermeneutik.** München: C. H. Beck 1979. 231 S.

1. Mit dem Buch „Logik, Semantik, Hermeneutik" der beiden Grazer Philosophen *Christiane Weinberger*[1] und *Ota Weinberger*[2] soll eine „elementare und problemerklärende Darlegung der Grundzüge der modernen Logik (inkl. Normenlogik), der Sprachtheorie und der Hermeneutik" (S. 14) gegeben werden. Die Autoren wollen insbesondere „die Beziehungen zur Rechtstheorie und zur juristischen Methodologie" (ebd.) betrachten. Da die behandelten Probleme allerdings mitnichten nur auf die Rechtstheorie und Jurisprudenz anzuwenden sind und auch die Ausführungen im vorliegenden Werk selbst speziell juristische Fragen nur am Rande abhandeln, scheint mir der Ansatz gerechtfertigt, das Werk auch in Richtung auf eine allgemeine wissenschaftliche Methodenlehre hin anzusehen.

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