
ISKO News 10

Ranganathan Jubilee Meeting in Moscow

On May 29, 1992, a Ranganathan Jubilee Meeting was held at the Russian State Library. Well prepared and organized by Dr. Eduard Sukiasyan more than 130 specialists, mostly from Moscow and St. Petersburg followed the invitation. The opening speech by E.R. SUKIASYAN was devoted to Ranganathan's life and activities and also to his visit to Moscow in 1959. After this, P.S. SAHAI, Deputy Chief of Mission, spoke on behalf of the Embassy of India. The scientific programme included papers by Prof. R.S. GILYAREVSKI, Prof. A.V. SOKOLOV, Dr. E.G. SUKHMANYOVA and other distinguished scholars, investigating different aspects of Ranganathan's activities.

Furthermore a Jubilee Exhibition was at display, consisting of two parts: S.R. Ranganathan's works, including those published in the USSR (originals and translations), and publications on Ranganathan's life and scientific contributions. Also exhibited were Ranganathan's personal inscription in the Book of Honorable Guests and photographs connected with his visit to the Library.



The picture shows the Conference Hall in the Russian State Library with Dr. Sukiasyan addressing the audience and the exhibition in the background.

First Joint FID/CR and ISKO Regional Meeting, Madrid, Oct. 1992

We would like to point out that the programme of our first joint meeting with FID/CR, to be held in Madrid, Oct. 20, 1992, prior to the FID/ET Seminar which precedes the FID Congress had been published in *Int. Classif.* 92-2, p.105. In addition a panel discussion will be held on the problems raised in the papers presented. The meeting is free of charge, everybody interested is welcome. Contact addresses are given in *Int. Classif.* 92-2, p.66.

Call for Papers: Knowledge Organization - Problems and Trends, Moscow, May 1993

A conference on this topic will be organized by the Russian Chapter of ISKO to take place in Moscow, May

10-14, 1993. Monday, May 10 will be registration day, Friday, May 14, departure day.

The conference organizer calls for a contribution of papers also from abroad concentrating on problems and aspects related to ISKO's areas of interest.

Contributors are requested to submit an abstract of 1-2 pages by January 1, 1993 to the address given below; name, occupation, organization, phone, fax, telex, country, correspondence address should be added.

Working languages to be used during the conference will be English and Russian. Papers should be presented in either one of these languages. Presentation time is 20 minutes, the final text should not exceed 8 pages.

Please contact: Dr. Eduard Sukiasyan, Russian State Library, Ul. Vozdvizhenka, 3, Moskva 101000, Russia. Fax 7095-200 2255; Telex 411167 gb1su.

2nd International ISKO Conference, Madras, Aug. 26-28, 1992

The theme of our conference, very well proposed by ISKO's Scientific Advisory Council: "Cognitive Paradigms in Knowledge Organization" had attracted not only colleagues from the information sciences but likewise from psychology, education, sociology, computer science and found application cases a.o. in medicine, environmental sciences, technology and even in music. A very interdisciplinary group therefore and a comparatively small group of only some 70 participants from 12 countries (USA, Germany, Italy, Canada, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg and of course India) had thus assembled to listen to and discuss in plenary sessions the papers presented; the scientific result of the conference was therefore very satisfying and rewarding. What made the event especially memorable were the many surprises the organizers had held in stock for us. They will be related in the following.

Surprise No.1: The place could not have been better chosen: The beautiful, historical, air-conditioned Hotel Connemara with two nicely arranged halls reserved for us - one for the conference and one for dining, each one staffed with plants and flowers and aptly designed flags naming our conference. Flowers, fruits and drinks (in refrigerators) were also provided in the well-fitted guest rooms of the fine hotel - complimentary!

Surprise No.2: At registration, everybody received the attractively wrapped and bound conference volume of 482 pages with the 38 papers to be presented and a well-formulated introduction by the editors (A. NEELAMEGHAN, M.A. GOPINATH, K.S. RAGHAVAN, and P. SANKARALINGAM); each paper newly type-set with its abstract and the address of the author(s). (For a survey on the titles of the papers see the section *Classification Literature*, Subject Group 06: Conference Reports, Proceedings. An extensive report on the conference will be published in the next issue of IC.) The volume is available at the price of US\$70 from INDEKS Verlag for the time being.

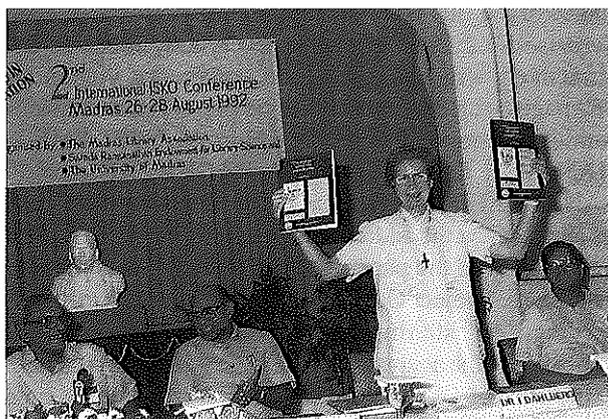
Surprise No.3: At the Inauguration Session on Wednes-

day evening, Aug.26, in a rather full hall with many invited guests a white-shining bust of S.R.Ranganathan was to be seen, lovingly "looking" upon the assembly and having only recently being finished for the Madras Library Association by a Madras artist (to be seen in the audience).

And *Surprise No.4*: Also present were Ranganathan's son, Mr.R.Yogeshwar and his family, his twin-sons Dr.Ranganathan and Dr.Pierre Yogeshwar as well as his daughter and daughter-in-law, the German wife of the latter son. It was really impressive to hear later on in the programme Mr.R.Yogeshwar, a resident of Luxembourg, what he wanted to relate to us about his father.

The Inauguration Session started with introductions by M.A. GOPINATH from the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment, Bangalore, I. DAHLBERG from the ISKO General Secretariat, and A. NEELAMEGHAN, the Chairman of the conference, and with two addresses by eminent Indian scientists: the neurosurgeon Dr. B. RAMAMURTHY, Madras, who spoke on "The affect of the information explosion on the human brain", concluding that logic and reason should not be considered our highest brain capacity; rather, one should rather go beyond this by training human consciousness! The computer scientist, Dr. R. NARASIMHAN, Bombay, took the necessity of networking, which still seems to be very lowly appreciated, as his topic. Both addresses are to be published in the proceedings volume, foreseen as a companion volume to the first one, which was - and here comes *Surprise No.5* - released by Prof. S. SATHIKH, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras followed by the equally solemn release of those two recent issues of "Library Science with a Slant to Documentation", the journal of Ranganathan's DRTC group, which were devoted with many contributions to its founder. This act I had been asked to perform.

While I am writing this (Sept.15), believe it or not, it is the truth: the mailman brought a letter from Dr.Suseela KUMAR with a series of very good photos taken during the conference, including the one with me showing the release of the two issues just reported on. Thus I decided as a *meta-surprise* to let you also have a look at this remarkable event and publish this picture!



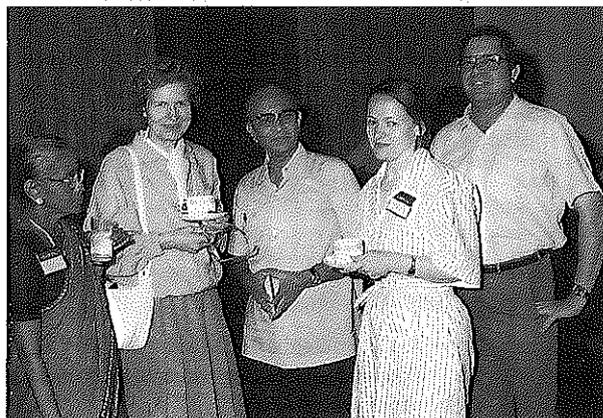
Left to right: A.Neelameghan, S.Sathikh, I.Dahlberg, M.A.Gopinath

In her concluding "Vote of Thanks", Suseela KUMAR announced that on Sunday, Aug.30, in the major Indian cities a 1-Rupee-stamp with the picture of S.R.Ranganathan (light-blue on white, background: the Madras University) was to be released. Fortunately some of us had the opportunity to experience this unusual release during the inauguration ceremonies of the 58th IFLA Conference in New Delhi.



Ranganathan Stamp with first day cover

A *further surprise* came right after the session: the invitation to enjoy a splendid dinner served for all the participants present, this being the first one of three of such meals, for which the menus were specially selected down to the smallest detail! In order to please, for instance, their guests from Germany, the organizers had selected as the last item of the last meal a piece of "Black Forest Cherry Cake" - imagine!



Left to right: Suseela Kumar, I.Dahlberg, Mr.S.N.Kumar, Ms.Anne Dayanandan, M.A.Gopinath

But this dinner did not conclude the first evening: *Surprise No.7* waited: - the Premiere of a *Ranganathan Movie*, displayed via video-recorder on a large-size screen so that we all could enjoy seeing his life depicted by various means: photos, documents, people speaking about him, scenes from the places where he lived and worked, etc. A truly educational film which should be made available to all library schools in the world!

After this splendid beginning two days of "hard" and very fruitful work for our small group passed. As the publication of the papers followed the programme, it was easy to follow the speakers, even if the pronunciation of the Indian, Finnish, German, Italian etc. types of English was

sometimes not so easy to understand. In the evening of the 27th we were taken with buses to a "Temple of Arts" to admire and enjoy most beautiful performances of classical South Indian Dances (from Tamil Nadu, the State from where Ranganathan came) at the Kalakshetra Auditorium in the outskirts of Madras.

Before we began our second conference day, we had an hour for our 3rd Membership Assembly. Its minutes will be sent to the membership soon; it may be added here that at this conference 12 new members joined ISKO, so ISKO is still growing!

At the end of the second day, Eric de GROLIER, our celebrated "conference synthesizer" (see IC 91-2) very ably summarized the results of the meeting, starting with the words: "Well, this was a very, very good conference!" Beginning with a statistical count he found that the 38 papers were almost evenly divided between 18 from India and 20 from "abroad". There were 6 from the US and Canada, 13 from Europe and 1 from Israel. He missed papers from Australia, China, South America and Africa. And there were no papers from England, nor from France! He grouped his findings concerning the contents of the papers as follows: 1) Introduction papers, 2) Descriptive/critical papers of existing schemes, 3) Proposals for new schemes, 4) "Analytic" studies and models, 5) Experi-

mental studies, and 6) Hypotheses. A few special domains were represented, medicine and education, law, art history, and music. De Grolier regretted to say that too few experimental studies had been undertaken - more should be done on this in the future as well as on hypermedia applications. Furthermore he noticed that in Ranganathan's "General Theory of Classification" not much progress had been made.

The conference was concluded with abundant thanks and beautiful silver plates with engravings given first to Prof. Elaine SVENONIUS, Los Angeles, who had delivered three lectures at the Madras University prior to the conference and secondly to Dr. Suseela KUMAR and her husband, who had so excellently seen to it that this 2nd International ISKO Conference became a most memorable event

- for our Indian members and colleagues,
- for all those "Westerners" who had the courage to visit India in these rather warm days and especially Madras in South India,
- and for the still very young but steadily growing "history" of ISKO.

In conclusion we may give thanks to our Lord: this our 2nd International Conference turned out to have been a very blessed one indeed!

I. Dahlberg



ALA-Resolution to Greet ISKO at Madras

The Council of the American Library Association adopted at its meeting in San Antonio, Texas, Jan.29, 1992 a resolution in the following wording:

Resolution in Honor of S.R.Ranganathan on his Centenary

WHEREAS, Ranganathan in formulating the Five Laws of Library Science gave the profession for the first time a set of fundamental laws to which every information problem could be related;

WHEREAS, Ranganathan in developing the Colon Classification gave the profession for the first time an integrated set of canons for classification design according to principles;

WHEREAS, Ranganathan in articulating the Five Fundamental Categories (PMEST) gave the profession for the first time, in the concept of facet analysis, a universal foundation for all modern indexing and classification theory;

WHEREAS, Ranganathan in initiating the Chain Procedure (precursor to PRECIS) gave the profession for the first time a rational basis for the derivation of permuted term indexes;

WHEREAS, Ranganathan in his commitment for the promotion and protection of librarianship throughout the

world gave the profession for the first time a worthy successor to the polymath library genius of our own Dewey;

WHEREAS, Ranganathan in achieving a degree of international recognition unparalleled in this century by any other librarian gave the profession for the first time a signal example of penetrating abstraction never divorced from profound spirituality;

WHEREAS, The ALA ALCTS CCS Subject Analysis Committee program of June 28, 1992, "Gearing Up for the Future" will commemorate the enduring contributions of Ranganathan in facet analysis as a father of the information professions;

WHEREAS, The international library community will honor his life and work at the ISKO 1992 Ranganathan Centenary Conference in the city of Madras; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association send its greetings to the international conference in Madras and on behalf of the entire American library community, join in affirming his enduring contribution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this greeting be conveyed by the ALA to the IFLA Section on Classification and Indexing.

It was through the kindness of Mrs. Dorothy McGARRY, Chair of the Section on Classification and Indexing of the International Federation of Library Associations that we received this ALA Resolution.

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COGNITIVE PARADIGMS IN KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

**Second International ISKO Conference
Madras 26-28 August 1992**

Edited by A. Neelameghan, M.A. Gopinath, K.S. Raghavan and P. Sankaralingam

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