

rial meeting of the Cataloguing and Indexing Group, which was held at the Library Association Headquarters in Ridgmount Street in London on Thursday 25th January 1973. (Ranganathan having died at the age of 80 in Bangalore on 27th September 1972). To this has been added a chronology, compiled originally by Kate Wood and updated by M.P. Satija and introduction written by M.P. Satija.

The value to library historians is twofold. Firstly, Ranganathan's influence of library and information science is so great both for his own direct contribution and for his influence on others. Secondly, these six authors are six of the most famous names in British librarianship whose subsequent influence has been very great.

I worked with Edward Dudley from 1967 until 1972 at the Polytechnic of North London Library School and so I had moved to another library school by the date of this Memorial meeting. Dudley's influence as the editor of the "Library Association Record" and as the Head of one of the largest and most famous library schools in the world at that time is well known. Each of these six authors matched his eminence within their own fields. I can remember talking to Bernard Palmer at the Library Association during the mid-1960's when I was considering writing a history or compiling a bibliography of Ranganathan for a fellowship thesis - in fact similar work was already being undertaken in India. Palmer was largely responsible for introducing the idea of Ranganathan to the West having known him personally (and very closely) whilst serving in India. In fact, Ranganathan's own association with British librarianship goes back much further to the time when he first became a university librarian in India with a requirement that the incumbent undertake a period of study in Britain. So Ranganathan presented himself as a student in 1924 at University College, London and was fortunate enough to have contact with one of the great British librarians and writers of classification textbooks, W.C. Berwick Sayers. Thus began Ranganathan's illustrious vocation in librarianship which lasted until his death almost fifty years later, when he was still involved in research. Bernard Palmer was asked to teach classification in 1940 and he used Ranganathan's epic work "Prolegomena to Library Classification" as one of his first starting points. He met Ranganathan two years later in Madras, where Ranganathan was the University Librarian, and a close association developed during the following year and more distant contact the next thirty years (almost). So Bernard Palmer was well qualified to present the paper on "Ranganathan as a Person".

"Ranganathan's Professionalism" was presented by D.J. Foskett, who also knew Ranganathan well. (I can remember lectures from D.J. Foskett on my Masters Degree course at University College, London in 1967 - possibly in the same room as Ranganathan studied forty years earlier). I think that the Institute of Education faceted classification, devised by D.J. Foskett, is one of the premier examples of Ranganathan's very practical influence on British librarianship. Perhaps the example that rivals it in impor-

tance is his influence on the British National Bibliography and its classification. Hardly surprising that the founding editor of British National Bibliography, A.J. Wells, presents a paper on "Ranganathan's influence on bibliographical services". H. Coblan presents "Ranganathan in the International Scene" and he was very important in the work of IFLA, UNESCO, F.I.D. and I.S.O.

D.W. Langridge has the difficult task of interpreting "Ranganathan and Mysticism" to the Western reader, but I can think of no one better capable of doing so. I worked with Derek Langridge at the Polytechnic of North London from 1967 until 1972 and was constantly baffled by talks on "trans-rational phenomena", the interpretation of dreams, the occult (and jazz) - all topics on which Derek was an expert. Indeed it was the team of Langridge, Jack Mills, Chris Needham and Anthony Croghan who introduced the "Composite" subject which was known as "The Universe of Knowledge" which was a part of my introduction to teaching library science. And all classification students started by learning the Colon Classification of Ranganathan before they were allowed to move on to analyse the Dewey Decimal Classification and other such schemes.

Finally, the force behind this Indian reprint, M.P. Satija is himself a well known authority on library classification and on Ranganathan. A very specialist publication but also a very special one and a truly memorable experience to read these deep incites and appreciations of a truly great man (and mind).

I recommend it to all students of library history who wish to know the real Ranganathan.

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Helmut F. SPINNER: **Die Wissensordnung. Ein Leitkonzept für die dritte Grundordnung des Informationszeitalters** (Knowledge Order. A Guiding Concept for the Third Basic Order of the Information Age). Opladen, Germany: Leske + Budrich 1994. 273 p., Studien zur Wissensordnung (Studies on Knowledge Ordering) Vol. 1.

Helmut F. Spinner has been trying for some time to gain acceptance for his view (or for the fact) that besides the legal and the economic orders *Knowledge Order* constitutes the third basic order of highly industrialized societies. Intended by him as a forum for this idea, the book series now being published by him starts out, not logically, with a monograph by the father of the above idea on which he, as it were, spells it out. So far, the concept for the series provides also for a second volume, likewise by the publisher of the series, so that one may assume that the idea as such has found only relatively few adherents so far. The book should therefore be read also from the point of view of whether it can help remedy this matter.

Right at the beginning the first difficulty presents itself, namely that of the basic concepts used: "Knowledge" is to be understood as broadly as possible, whereas the proposition paradigm proposed deserves to be criticized - as we know today - particularly because of its narrowness. The matter becomes problematical when, as cognitive core of knowledge, the "assumed information content" is called upon. Information is regarded as a selection from the alternative quantity of a possibility space. All that is somewhat imprecise, in line with Spinner's habit of giving initial thought to many things rather than formulating them through. Likewise in line with all this, he is most indiscriminate in his selection and use of literature, generally elegantly passing by the real sources of a thought or the standard works. Thus - as becomes clear already on the very first pages - this book is not to be taken seriously in its details, rather one should ask whether, instead, the overall train of thought contains something new.

New, indeed, might well be his understanding of Knowledge Order. While in the context of information science and documentation Knowledge Ordering was primarily the (physical) ordering of documents or the (virtual) ordering of data for retrieval purposes, Spinner expands this concept to the entirety of the quantity of ordering measures in the field of knowledge which regulate and control the possession of knowledge and its relationship to specific interests, actions and powers. Here, new developments are taking place at present which characterize the transition from "classic" to "modern" knowledge ordering. (1) New knowledge technologies give rise to the formation of a "Cognitive-Technological Complex" which also produces new questions for the research into the consequences of technology. (2) In the "information age" there arise new "knowledge states", new differentiations of varieties of knowledge and new functions of knowledge. (3) Academic knowledge ordering is changing under the conditions of modern knowledge freedoms, giving rise in particular to a number of separations.

The new knowledge order crystallizing out is composed of at least eight different knowledge ordering ways in specific fields: the academic world, that of archives and libraries, the realm of constitutional law, the economy, technology, bureaucracy and the military and police domain as well as the national/international information organization. All these are indicated schematically rather than systematically, sometimes being only hinted at by means of enumerations of selected questions and developments. Spinner concludes from this that today there no longer is any "overall ordering of knowledge", but rather a pluralism of orderings in which knowledge quality zones, knowledge protection zones and knowledge dissemination zones play a part.

The book does not really close with a final conclusion, but rather with the realization that a systematic treatment of the phenomenon is not possible and that, instead, many questions remain open which are of an interdisciplinary nature or, at least, require contributions from many disciplines for being answered. On some 60 pages, a pertinent

appeal is addressed to some 15-20 disciplines and research fields. Besides indexes of persons and subjects, the book furthermore contains some 50 pages of annotated bibliography, which likewise bear out the fact that in his utilization of literature the author has been quite indiscriminate, sometimes even far removing himself from current affairs.

The author's background is certainly of an interdisciplinary nature, although this book is dominated somewhat by the field of legal philosophy. But this, again, is justifiable, as the author draws his concept of order chiefly from the context of policies of order. The phenomenon that, through technological as well as other developments, knowledge has come into a new situation in our time has undoubtedly been the starting point, and this starting point was correctly perceived. That, as is claimed, the proper understanding of a revolutionary situation requires some historic reflection surpassing the rather primitive opposition of classic and modern knowledge ordering is not yet generally accepted, nor that in the discussion we are meanwhile already in the post-modern age, defined among other things by the knowledge problem according to Lyotard (not quoted in Spinner's book, however). The understanding of knowledge techniques and their effects also remains largely unexplained, even though Spinner's approach hails partly from the field of technology assessment.

The book may perhaps be considered a quarry of ideas intended to call attention to the fact that something is happening to knowledge in our time. The "knowledge order" approach undoubtedly does not yet furnish the ideal access, nor does Spinner succeed in endowing his book with sufficient precision, order, compelling train of thought and persuasive power to make us hope for a breakthrough - most readers will be left standing somewhat helpless before this quarry. Nevertheless it is one of the more important books for the problems of knowledge because it at least calls attention to them, without becoming addicted right away to the extravagant over-statements of the Postman's or Moravec's c.s.

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1 Lyotard, Jean-Francois: *Das Postmoderne Wissen*. Wien: Graz 1986

2 Moravec, H.: *Mind children*. Cambridge, MA: 1989

3 Postman, Neil: *Wir amüsieren uns zu Tode*. Frankfurt/M 1985.

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The Alcohol and Other Drug Thesaurus: A Guide to Concepts and Terminology in Substance Abuse and Addiction. Published by the USA Department of Health and Human Services. First edition 1993, \$ 25.-, obtainable from the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information, P.O. Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20847-2345, USA