

Monke Joins Committee to Revise Standards

Arthur Monke, librarian at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, has been appointed to the ACRL Committee to Revise the 1959 *Standards for College Libraries*. Mr. Monke replaces Barbara G. LaMont, who has recently resigned from the committee for personal reasons.

The committee, chaired by Johnnie Givens, librarian at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee, has prepared a set of background/working papers which are available from the Executive Secretary, ACRL, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Miss Givens has discussed the progress of the committee at a recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Library Association and

at the Midwest Academic Librarians Conference in Milwaukee.

At the ALA New York Conference in July, the committee will hold a series of hearings. Interested persons are invited to present their comments on the revision of the standards at any time during the following scheduled hours: Wednesday, July 10, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., and Thursday, July 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

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Inside Washington

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Like some wayward streetcar, copyright law revision continues to grind along, passengers grumbling, stops bypassed, schedule lost, destination forgotten. Exhausted riders still shout directions: "that way to Fair Use," "turn at Manufacturing Clause," "when do we get to Cable Television?" Among themselves, some have resorted to epithets, calling each other "record pirates" or "systematic copiers."

Observing the faltering progress of this ten-year odyssey, passenger Barbara Ringer, the Register of Copyrights, announced last month that "at some point you have to say this streetcar's at the end of the line and it's time to get another one." The copyright revision omnibus, S.1361, was breaking down. There was now "no chance" it would reach its destination this Congress. "In my opinion, it's had it."

Instead, Ringer urged fellow passengers to abandon their seats and resort to other means of transport taking them to their own separate destinations. Russian authors this way, expiring copyrights there, sound recordings that way, photocopying there.

Ringer's announcement came only days after the latest version of the copyright bill, a committee print of Senator John McClellan's Subcommittee on Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights, was made public. Early in April, the

subcommittee's chief counsel, Thomas C. Brennan, told librarians and publishers over lunch that he too saw "absolutely no chance" of the bill's passage during this Congress.

As a result, said Brennan, there would be interim legislation aimed at specific immediate problems, including library photocopying. Something must be done to get the various parties back speaking together and on the road to a solution.

Brennan suggested that Congress might enact Title II of the bill, which establishes a national commission on new technological uses of copyrighted works, and give the commission eighteen months to come up with a solution to the photocopying problems.

Ringer told the meeting of federal librarians that she expected Congress and the publishing interests to press for establishing the commission as part of the copyright office itself. Asked if she was requesting funds for such a project, she said, "No, but I think others will."

Although the principal stumbling block in revising copyright continues to be the endless dispute over cable television, the issue of photocopying is rapidly becoming, in Ringer's words, "the most dangerous, most difficult, and most urgent problem. . . ." Photocopying would be the commission's first order of business.