

ucation, New York, NY 10025

Louis A. Jacob, University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, PA 19104

ACADEMIC STATUS

Dear Sir:

The ACRL was wise, in my opinion, to approve all elements of the standards for faculty status except for the educational requirement. Probably the best method of filling this gap would be to state that: "The determination of degrees to be regarded as terminal or appropriate should be vested with the library faculty, subject to the approval of the president." [Carl Hintz, "Criteria for Appointment to and Promotion in Academic Rank," *CRL* 29:346 (Sept. 1968).] Other associations do not try to set educational requirements for members of their professions employed in colleges and universities, leaving that task to individual faculties. Acceptance of this principle would also dovetail with the emphasis the standards place upon the library faculty. Finally, it could be argued that educational requirements should vary from institution to institution. A "two master's" principle would be much more appropriate for a university where most members of the teaching faculties have a Ph.D. than for a junior college where they will generally have one master's. This is a reasonable approach, although I am opposed to setting rigid educational standards for librarians at any level until the question has received much more serious and continued attention.

One of the problems of the literature on faculty status for librarians is its insularity. Most citations are to other articles in library publications, not to studies of the workings of academic faculties or of the appointment and promotion of college and university teachers in practice. Advocates of faculty status for librarians often adopt an idealized picture of professors. Their focus seems to be on the university where the Ph.D. is required in most departments and where publication is really expected. So far as I know, there have been no articles written which compare academic librarians with members of departments, such as music and architecture, where the master's degree is terminal.

Much can be written about the kinds of standards library faculties may formulate. Using the "two master's" standard is unfortunate. One of the long-standing problems in library personnel development has been the preponderance of people with subject backgrounds in the humanities and the shortage of persons with undergraduate and graduate degrees in the social, natural, and physical sciences. The "two master's" standard is likely to perpetuate or even accentuate this. Much in the literature on faculty status for librarians seems to imply that as we obtain it, we shall all become subject specialists. Since the need for administrators and those with some knowledge of computers is great, such articles may give many academic

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Ed. note: Four units did not submit slates in time for publication; these will be published in future issues. ■ ■

ACRL Membership

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librarians a nudge in the wrong direction, so far as obtaining additional education is concerned. For many librarians, a certificate program emphasizing library administration and/or the application of automation to library operations will be more useful than a subject master's degree. Yet, an MLS and a certificate are not literally two master's, and written standards tend to be interpreted rigidly.

Another consideration in setting educational requirements is the possible effects they may have on recruitment patterns. One of the richest sources of talent for libraries is the flow of middle-aged, married women returning to work. Generally, they earn an MLS in their

forties. Requiring still another degree may discourage some or even many of them from entering academic library work. This would be undesirable, for it is unlikely that younger men and women will replace them adequately.

In summation, I believe library faculties should make their own decisions on academic qualifications, that these faculties should keep their standards flexible, and that those writing such standards should try to determine the social consequences their decisions may have.

Benjamin R. Beede
Rutgers University

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News From the Field

ACQUISITIONS

• A small collection of rare scholarly books has been given to WHEATON COLLEGE by an anonymous donor, according to Paul Snezek, collection development librarian at the college. The sixteen volumes were purchased from the working library of James Lea Cate, emeritus professor of medieval history at the University of Chicago. They represent books to be found in a religiously oriented college library of the sixteenth to early eighteenth century.

The collection includes a rare edition of the Bible and volumes on church history of an early period, later church and secular history, biographies of Christian secular monarchs, canon law, church calendars, lives of the saints, a book of sermons, and a work on cosmogony. One manuscript in book form represents the Islamic religion, but is quite similar to Christian works. It contains long prayers by two well-known Islamic sufi, similar to a Catholic monk. The Turkish copyist of the Arabic text has made comments in the margin and at the end in his own tongue. Snezek calls the volume "A museum piece." The rarest of the western books, according to Snezek, is the *Biblia Sacra*, published in Lyon, France, in 1541. It is important historically because it was printed during the period Lyon was supplanting Paris as the chief city for publication of Bibles. The book is a later edition of the volume reported to be the First Latin Bible of Modern Times.

• The BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY library has recently acquired a significant collection of scarce books, pamphlets, newspapers, and photographs pertaining to the famous Dreyfus trial. The collection formerly belonged to Leon Lipschutz of Paris, France. Included in the collection are many association copies as well as letters by Emile Zola, Georges Clemenceau, Fer-

nand Labori, and other personages connected with the case. This acquisition was made possible through the beneficence of Mrs. Helen S. Slosberg in memory of her late uncle, Max Sagoff.

AWARDS AND GIFTS

• Geroid T. Robinson, founder of the Russian Institute at Columbia University who died March 31, 1971, has willed his \$240,000 estate to the COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY libraries to maintain and expand the libraries' Russian holdings. The bequest also includes Dr. Robinson's personal library of Russian language volumes and books on Russian history, culture, and politics.

A leading scholar on the Soviet Union, Professor Robinson was a pioneer in advocating Russian studies in the United States. The Russian Institute at Columbia, which he founded in 1945, was the first undertaking of its kind in this country on a graduate level. In the last quarter century, the institute has trained scores of specialists in Russian affairs, many of whom have become prominent in diplomacy, education, journalism, and international trade and finance.

• With the aid of grants totaling \$100,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Council on Library Resources, and College Entrance Examination Board, the DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY is beginning implementation this month of a two-year program designed to offer residents of the area the opportunity to gain up to two years of college credit without attending a formal classroom lecture.

The Dallas Public Library's "Independent Study Project" involves the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) developed by the College Entrance Examination Board. The Board and the Council on Library Resources