

Polish Books in America and the Farmington Plan

A sample of books published in Poland was studied to see how effectively they were being acquired into American libraries. The results were compared with the acquisition rate by American libraries of books from countries covered by the Farmington Plan. More than one-fourth of the Polish books sampled had been acquired, a figure which compares favorably with those obtained from Farmington Plan nations. Polish book importations will doubtless increase.

THE MAIN PURPOSE of this paper is to answer the following question: "What is the extent to which titles from a country not included under the Farmington Plan are represented in United States libraries?" Or, in other words, does the exclusion from the Farmington Plan or similar cooperative ventures negate the adequate coverage accomplished through the uncoordinated efforts of individual libraries? To answer this question this paper will attempt to:

1. determine and analyze the American acquisition of titles from a "non-Farmington" country;
2. compare the findings with the Farmington Plan reports;
3. draw conclusions.

Since it would be an insurmountable and actually meaningless task to check the holdings of all "non-Farmington" countries' books in United States libraries, it is necessary to limit this study to one country only and pursue a depth study encompassing all titles published in that country during a particular period. Poland was selected for this investigation. The value of Polish publica-

tions to the United States audience is not merely to record the achievement of Polish scholarship in the fields of philosophy and mathematics, historical, classical, and philological studies; other considerations include the extensive Polish reading public in the United States, the special interest in East Europe generated by the current political situation, and the growing concern for Slavic studies in many universities and research institutions.¹

Among the sixty major countries of the world, Poland ranks eleventh as a book producing country. Its total book production for the year 1952 was 6,632 titles; only ninety-six titles less than its closest competitor—the Netherlands—and 5,208 titles less than the United States, which produced 11,840 titles during the period. It is worth noting that in 1952 Poland produced 265 titles per million inhabitants, the Netherlands 673, and the United States seventy-four titles. In per capita book production Poland ranked twelfth in the world for 1952.² In 1955 Poland produced 7,199 titles, of which 5,823 were first editions. In the same year the United States produced

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¹ André Nitecki, *The Acquisition of Polish books in America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1963).

² R. E. Barker, *Books for All* (Paris: UNESCO, 1956), p. 18-21.

12,589 titles, of which 10,226 were first editions.³

METHOD

The major concern of this paper is with two related problems: (1) What observations can be made about the actual acquisition of Polish books by individual libraries? (2) What kind of coverage of recent Polish publications is exhibited by the entire United States? Answering one question without the other means either overlooking the importance of specific collections or ignoring the larger question of accessibility of Polish materials by United States readers and researchers.

As phrased above, however, these questions do not immediately point to feasible approaches which can elicit meaningful answers. Rather than deal with an over-all estimate of holdings, actual holdings will be checked against total titles published. It is hoped that such information will not only facilitate dealing with chief concerns, but also contribute to the answers to such further questions as the following:

1. Are holdings of Polish books in the United States adequate as far as the total output and value of Polish publications is concerned?
2. Insofar as the interest or demand for Polish publications will vary from area to area and from institution to institution, does actual acquisition follow the ups and downs of demand?
3. Since acquisition of books in Polish may create problems and difficulties, are there libraries whose holdings indicate that they have apparently resolved such problems?

In selecting a period for study, trends in Polish publishing suggested the more flourishing years beginning in 1957. Concurrently, the period could not be so recent that sufficient time would not have

³ United Nations, *Statistical Yearbook, 1956* (New York: 1956), p. 603.

elapsed from the publication dates to allow individual libraries opportunity for acquiring and cataloging such materials. The combination of these two concerns led to the selection of the period beginning April 15, 1957, and ending August 17 of that year.

In order to insure that the most complete list of titles published during the above period be used, investigation of the various sources of titles was undertaken. Poland is currently producing eighteen major book trade catalogs, of which six are of general nature and twelve are limited to specific fields such as medicine, literature, etc.

Of the six general catalogs three are still somewhat selective: *Kwartalnik wydawniczy*⁴ specializes in juvenile literature; *Nowe książki*⁵ selects monographic works only, excluding all serials and "minor" publications; *Nowości wydawnictw Polskich*⁶ limits itself to new books issued by the export booksellers.

The remaining three general book trade catalogs are:

1. *Kartkowy katalog nowości* (card catalog of new books).
2. *Przewodnik bibliograficzny* (bibliographical guide).
3. *Zapowiedzi wydawnicze* (publication announcement), which has been published weekly since February 4, 1952, by Dom Książki in Warsaw. It is an official organ of Centralny Zarząd Księgarstwa (Central Board of the Book Trade). It, like *Kartkowy katalog*, is published on one side of a leaf only; it gives complete bibliographic description, series notes, and it is annotated with indication of the level of reading and suggests possible readers by educational standards.

⁴ *Kwartalnik wydawniczy* (Publishing Quarterly) issued quarterly since May 1955 by Nasza Księgarnia (Our Bookstore) in Warsaw.

⁵ *Nowe książki* (New Books) issued semimonthly since October 1949 by Polskie Wydawnictwo Gospodarcze in Warsaw.

⁶ *Nowości wydawnictw Polskich* (New Polish Publications) issued monthly since 1953 by Prasa i Książka in Warsaw.

TABLE 1. HOLDINGS OF POLISH TITLES HELD IN FIRST EDITIONS IN UNITED STATES' LIBRARIES

Libraries	Pure Sciences	Social Sciences	Applied Sciences	Humanities	Miscellany	Total
MiDW		28	3	73		104
MH	1	33		64		98
DLC	5	31	8	19	3	66
NN	3	16	3	23		45
IC				38		38
CU		7		26		33
DNLM		1	28			29
MiU		1		24		25
ICU	5	3		11		19
WU		7		10		17
CtY		2		10		12
MH-L		12				12
DS		9	1			10
NIC		7		2		9
InU		1		5		6
DI	5					5
MiD		1		4		5
CSt-H		3				3
DA	1		1			2
IU	1			1		2
MH-PZ		2				2
NCD				2		2
NNC		1		1		2
OCI				2		2
CaBVaU		1				1
CLU				1		1
ICF	1					1
MB				1		1
MH-SD				1		1
NcU				1		1
NNM	1					1
PP				1		1
WaU				1		1
Total	23	167	44	320	3	557

List of Abbreviations of Thirty-Three Libraries Used in the Study

CaBVaU	University of British Columbia, Vancouver	InU	Indiana University
CLU	University of California at Los Angeles	IU	University of Illinois
CST-H	Stanford College library; Hoover Institution on War Revolution and Peace	MB	Boston Public library
CtY	Yale University	MH	Harvard University, Cambridge
CU	University of California, Berkeley	MH-L	Harvard University—law school library
DA	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture library	MH-P	Harvard University—Peabody museum library
DI	U.S. Dept. of the Interior library	MH-SD	Harvard University—graduate school of design
DLC	U.S. Library of Congress	MiD	Detroit public library
DNLM	U.S. National Library of Medicine	MiDW	Wayne State University
DS	U.S. Dept. of State library	MiU	University of Michigan
IC	Chicago public library	McD	Duke University
ICF	Chicago natural history museum	NcU	University of North Carolina
ICU	University of Chicago	NIC	Cornell University
		NN	New York public library
		NNC	Columbia University
		NNM	American museum of natural history
		OCI	Cleveland public library
		PP	Free library of Philadelphia
		WaU	University of Washington
		WU	University of Wisconsin

Zapowiedzi wydawnicze seemed to be the most suitable catalog published in Poland during the time of the study and was therefore used as the final source of titles to be checked against the holdings of United States libraries.

In the period under study Poland produced the total of 1,309 titles. These can be divided into: 1,110 monographic titles; 141 music titles; and 58 children's literature titles. The monographic titles include 228 reprints and textbooks.

It was assumed that United States libraries would not give priority to children's literature, reprints, translations from one modern language into another, nor to precollege textbooks from foreign countries. It was also believed that music (sheet music and songs) and sheet maps would be too specialized for a general library to acquire. Therefore, all titles in children's literature, music, textbooks, translations, and reprints were eliminated, allowing concentration on the resulting list of 882 titles. This list, referred to as "First Edition Titles," was then checked against the National Union Catalog, 1958-1962. The resulting data were organized with respect to individual libraries, specific areas of study, or other meaningful categories, to permit a relatively exact estimate to be made of the over-all acquisition of Polish books by United States libraries.

POLISH HOLDINGS IN AMERICA

According to the National Union Catalog only thirty-three libraries possess any of the titles on the list (see Table 1). These range from nine libraries which have one volume each, to Harvard and Wayne State, which have approximately one hundred titles apiece. In all, 332 out of 882 titles are represented in United States libraries, in other words, 37½ per cent of the total number of first editions published in Poland during the aforementioned period. In addition, duplications of these titles account for an added 225 volumes, bring-

ing the total number of volumes to 557 (see Table 2).

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF POLISH TITLES HELD IN ONE OR MORE UNITED STATES' LIBRARIES

Titles	Duplications	Total Copies
209	No duplications	209
68	2 of each	136
30	3 of each	90
13	4 of each	52
6	5 of each	30
4	6 of each	24
2	8 of each	16
332		557

1. *General Distribution.* Excluding the miscellaneous category (Sports and Travel), only two libraries have coverage in all four major divisions: the Library of Congress and the New York public library. Harvard's coverage is incomplete, with heavier concentration in the social sciences and humanities, only one title in the pure sciences, and none in applied sciences. The University of Chicago and Wayne State have coverage in three of the four major areas. Twelve libraries have coverage in two major areas, while sixteen libraries have one or more titles in one category only.

Generally speaking, the strongest and most widespread coverage is in the humanities, represented in twenty-three libraries by 320 volumes. Next are the social sciences represented in nineteen libraries by 167 volumes. Following this are the pure sciences with 23 volumes scattered among nine libraries, then the applied sciences with 44 volumes divided (quite unequally) among only six libraries.

2. *Specific Holdings.* Table 3 contains the specific holdings, broken down into subjects, of each of the thirty-three libraries. None of the titles on the original list in the fields of archaeology, psychology, sociology, maps, technology, dictionaries, librarianship, and sports are represented in the United States libraries. The Library of Congress ac-

TABLE 3. HOLDINGS OF POLISH BOOKS PUBLISHED DURING PERIOD OF STUDY:
BY SUBJECT MATTER AND PER CENT OF TOTAL PUBLISHED

	Total Published	Titles Held in U.S. Libraries	Per Cent Held	Volumes Held in U.S. Libraries
<i>Pure Sciences:</i>				
Biology	7	1	14	1
Botany	16	1	6	1
Chemistry	12	1	8	1
Geology	24	5	21	5
Mathematics	10	5	50	5
Physics	24	1	4	1
Zoology	49	9	18	9
Total	142	23	.....	23
<i>Social Sciences:</i>				
Anthropology	3	2	67	4
Archeology	7	0	0	0
Business, Finance	11	3	27	3
Education	20	6	30	8
Economics	12	5	41	8
General	6	2	33	2
History	88	47	53	111
Home Economics	2	1	50	1
Law	22	12	54	20
Politics	9	6	67	8
Psychology	3	0	0	0
Sociology	2	0	0	0
Total	185	85	.....	165
<i>Applied Sciences:</i>				
Agriculture	57	2	4	2
Industry	52	5	4	5
Maps	5	0	0	0
Medicine	51	27	53	33
Technology	51	0	0	0
Transportation	20	3	15	3
Total	236	37	.....	43
<i>Humanities:</i>				
Art, Architecture	32	14	42	24
Dictionaries	2	0	0	0
Essays, Journalism	7	2	30	4
Fiction	185	142	77	217
Librarianship	6	0	0	0
Music	5	1	20	1
Philology	18	9	50	45
Philosophy	1	1	100	1
Poetry (Collection)	14	5	36	15
Religion	1	1	100	1
Theatre, Film	16	9	54	14
Total	287	184	.....	322
<i>Miscellaneous:</i>				
Travel	16	3	18	3
Sports	16	0	0	0
Total	32	3	.....	3
Pure Sciences	142	23	16	23
Social Sciences	185	85	46	165
Applied Sciences	236	37	16	44
Humanities	287	184	64	322
Miscellaneous	32	3	9	3
Total	882	332	.....	557

counts for the total United States holdings in botany, chemistry, business finance, general social sciences, industry, transportation, and travel. Fiction, history, and philology books, the best represented, are held in twenty, seventeen, and ten libraries respectively, while the bulk of the medical books (28 out of 34 in the entire country) are held by the National Library of Medicine.

A further estimate of the coverage may be obtained by examining title holdings of the United States as a whole (see Table 3) in relationship to the total Polish output during the period. For example, not only is the United States fiction holding large (217 volumes) but these also represent 142 different titles or 77 per cent of the total number published. Similarly, the meager holdings in philosophy and religion actually exhaust the titles published during this period.

It would be dangerous to generalize in such cases where only a few titles were actually published. However, in fields like law, medicine, history, and philology, holdings include 50 per cent or better of a much larger total number. The earlier statement that the United States has no titles in several areas is more significant with regard to such fields as technology, where 51 titles were actually published, than in the cases of psychology, sociology, maps, and librarianship wherein fewer than ten titles each were published. Other holdings of interest are in art and architecture, where the United States has 42 per cent of the thirty-two titles published; in theater and films, where 54 per cent of sixteen titles are held; and economics with 41 per cent of twelve titles.

Because of budgetary limitations,⁷ libraries can seldom acquire every book justified by general principles. In one sense, each book acquired must be able

⁷ "The ultimate aim of all book selection is to make the most effective use of the allotted book fund. The ideal of sufficient funds to buy every book felt to be justified is rarely encountered. . . ." Thomas Landau, *Encyclopaedia of Librarianship* (London: Bowes & Bowes, 1958) p. 48.

to stand the test of affording an affirmative answer to the question, "Is this book more valuable than some other book not in the collection?" This is not at all a simple question since the value of a book is often, to a greater or lesser degree, a function of the total collection — e.g., is a twenty-volume encyclopedia more valuable than the sum of the twenty volumes considered separately, or is a masterpiece of historiography on twelfth-century Poland wasted in a library which has little other material on Polish history?

Thus libraries must and do develop detailed acquisitions policies.⁸ Ruggles and Mostecky summarize one such formulation with respect to Russian materials. The library (unnamed) collects: (1) material directly related to the courses offered by the college; (2) classics of Russian literature and materials connected with their historical, social, philosophical, and religious background; (3) basic bibliographies, reference aids, and language tools; (4) basic materials for fundamental studies in the fields of social science and humanities, not for extended research; and (5) materials supplementing the existing special collections.⁹ However, the authors' investigation suggests that this example is almost unique with reference to East European collections.

Few libraries have clear acquisition policies, let alone detailed sets of criteria for selection. Many improvise or follow the line of least resistance, buying what is readily available, i.e., offered by their dealers. The lack of policy and system in the selection process was particularly evident among university libraries, possibly because of the broad and often unpredictable interests of faculty and graduate students.¹⁰

⁸ An extremely fine example of a detailed acquisition policy is John Crerar Library, *Acquisitions Policy* (Chicago: 1953).

⁹ According to Melville J. Ruggles and Vaclav Mostecky: *Russian and East European Publications in the Libraries of the United States* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1960) p. 16.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

RELIABILITY OF FINDINGS

A general question must be asked concerning the reliability of these findings with particular concern for the small number of libraries which have reported holdings of titles published in first editions during the period of the study. In all, 2,422 libraries in Canada and the United States are expected to report to the National Union Catalog.¹¹ This study discovered only thirty-three libraries with books in Polish. While it is possible that these thirty-three exhaust the libraries which currently acquire Polish books, some effort had to be made to check it. Such an effort could not be overly systematic without enlarging the scope of the paper. However, certain steps were taken which should prove adequate.

Our line of thought was as follows: are these thirty-three libraries, in fact, the only ones acquiring Polish books? Do others acquire them without reporting, or is it simply accidental that the study concentrated upon one period during which other libraries happened not to have made acquisitions from Poland? This lead to the question as to which libraries of the 2,389 remaining might have been missed in the study.

A list of those libraries having over a million volumes in 1953-1954¹² shows that, while these thirty-three libraries include eleven with over a million volumes each, there were eight which our study ignored. An attempt was made to discover if those libraries holding more than one million volumes in 1953/54, but not among the thirty-three mentioned above, have reported any holdings whatsoever of Polish books.¹³ Of these li-

braries, only two were found which reported each holding one Polish title (Princeton and Northwestern) and three smaller libraries with one each (University of Southern California, University of Virginia, and the Army War College). titles but that the number involved is not large. In addition, three of the largest libraries (Johns Hopkins, New York University, and University of Pennsylvania) This led to the belief that other libraries do, in fact, acquire and report Polish plus eight smaller ones have reported holding one or another of the Polish Academy of Science serial publications. Thus, while there may be some laxity in the extent of reporting holdings to the National Union Catalog, no blanket failure to report is evident, and the findings for the thirty-three libraries can well serve to speak for the United States coverage. If the holdings of all libraries are not recorded, it is probably partly due to the time lag between the time of cataloging and the date of the actual printing of the National Union Catalog. It is likely, also, that some of the remaining volumes not reported were acquired after the title already appeared in the NUC and are, therefore, duplications.

A further opportunity for judging the reliability of the findings emerges out of the data compiled by Ruggles and Mostecky. Their information about the holdings of Polish titles is derived from estimates given by the libraries themselves and is specific as to over-all holdings independent of publishing or acquisition dates. In fact, they include 122 libraries beyond those located by the present study, which have some Polish holdings. (See Table 4.) However, only twenty of these have over five hundred

¹¹ Library of Congress, Processing Department, *Symbols Used in the National Union Catalog of the Library of Congress* (Washington, 1959).

¹² Louis Round Wilson and Maurice Falcolm Tauber, *The University Library* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1956), p. 86-87.

¹³ The method used is somewhat arbitrary and makes no claim of being thorough. Beginning with the authors of books which are held by three or more libraries in the United States, we checked to see if other books by these authors were held in libraries

besides our thirty-three. Since Polish names are uniquely spelled, locating any one author in the NUC brings to the investigator's attention numerous other Polish authors so that several hundred Polish titles currently held in United States libraries can be quickly checked for symbols of libraries other than the thirty-three. By and large the same thirty-three libraries continually recurred with only occasional new ones.

TABLE 4. NUMBER OF LIBRARIES HOLDING POLISH TITLES—COMPARED

ESTIMATED HOLDINGS*	THOSE LOCATED BY OUR STUDY	NOT LOCATED BY OUR STUDY
Less than 100	2	64
100-500	2	38
500-1,000	5	12
1,000-2,500	4	5
2,000-5,000	3	2
5,000-10,000	6	1
20,000-25,000	3	0
25,000-50,000	1	0
Not listed	4	0
Totals	30†	122

* As reported to and quoted in Ruggles and Mostecky.

† This total differs from the earlier quoted 33 libraries since all the Harvard libraries are considered here as one library.

volumes. A good many are large public library systems, which, only doubtfully, could alter significantly the conclusions of this study. Although beyond the scope of this paper, contact was made with that library in this category having the largest holdings, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York. The librarian could not confirm the exact reliability of the five thousand to ten thousand volumes which Ruggles and Mostecky report as being held there, but other facts make it seem likely. The library was begun in the 1930's to collect all material (in all fields regardless of level) which deal with problems of Jewry. Such materials in Polish have been purchased quite consistently from Poland, with an estimated seventy volumes added during the past year. (Books in Yiddish published in Poland are deposited free of charge).

In considering the phenomenon of such highly specialized research libraries as YIVO, it may be theorized that their awareness of and responsibility to the

national library scene may not be as strong as those of general research libraries. As a library, the YIVO no doubt feels that it has most, if not all, of the materials with which it is concerned, and it is quite likely that this is true. However, insofar as it does not make known its holdings through the usual means (*i.e.*, the National Union Catalog), the value of the collection is diminished. But this statement must probably be further qualified: although researchers in indirectly related fields (*e.g.*, the Polish labor movement) may never quite discover the usefulness of this library; although those seeking a particular book held solely by this library may never find it; nonetheless serious researchers in such topics as Jewish history, culture, etc. may be counted upon to reach its catalog and stacks without the help of the National Union Catalog.

This leads to a final question: if there are Polish titles which a number of libraries apparently agree are valuable, why do not more libraries have them? A main reason may be the problems of acquiring and cataloging books in a language as unfamiliar to most Americans as Polish. Certainly, however, the degree to which such difficulties are overcome is directly related to the extent of the interest or demand for such materials. Therefore, it might be predicted that, with today's growing interest in Slavic studies (taking this field out of its previous specialized realm into the sphere of near-necessity for any large research library), there will be an improvement in library facilities to handle the acquisition of Polish books.

FARMINGTON PLAN

What degree of assurance then exists that all valuable Polish books have been acquired by some United States library?

Such a concern would not be primary if Poland were included under the Farmington Plan.

The Farmington Plan is an experiment in specialization by voluntary agreement among American research libraries. Its objective is to make sure that at least one copy of each new foreign book and pamphlet that might reasonably be expected to interest a research worker in the United States will be acquired by an American library, promptly listed in the Union Catalog at the Library of Congress, and made available by interlibrary loan or photographic reproduction.¹⁴

The plan was originally drafted in 1944 and began to go into operation for France, Sweden, and Switzerland, beginning with 1948 publications.¹⁵ By the end of 1953 the plan included ninety-nine countries, having gone beyond its original scope of dealing only with publications in the Latin alphabet, with sixty American libraries participating.¹⁶ The plan has arrangements for its continued extension to new areas, subject to ratification by the Association of Research Libraries.

Volumes costing more than \$25 are not automatically supplied; in addition, publications in certain areas are excluded, namely: books primarily of interest for format, juvenile literature, newspapers, precollege textbooks, reprints, off-prints, sheet maps, sheet music, translations, and government documents. The participating libraries are required to send to the National Union Catalog at the Library of Congress a preliminary catalog card within one month of the receipt of each volume.

Neither Poland nor any other East European country is included in the

plan. However, volumes from included countries on the history of Poland have been assigned to the University of Virginia libraries, and materials in various languages (other than Polish) on Polish languages and literature having been assigned to the Harvard College library.¹⁷

It is significant to see to what extent the features of the Farmington Plan exist with respect to Polish publications despite their not being included within the plan.

With respect to over-all coverage, there are only limited figures on the number of titles acquired under the Farmington Plan to compare with the findings of this study of Polish holdings. Making use of what figures are available,¹⁸ it is found that in 1951, 350 titles were acquired from Norway solely through the operation of the Farmington Plan. Total published titles during the year were 2,773. In 1952, 265 out of 2,704 titles were similarly acquired. In other words, 12.6 per cent during the first year and 9.8 per cent during the second were acquired as a result of the Farmington Plan. For Belgium we know the number of titles acquired during the years 1949-52, but we have only total publication data for 1953-55. By using the highest number of titles acquired during any known year and the lowest known number of titles published during the succeeding period, we still only get 11.6 per cent purchased from Belgium under the plan. During the period of the present study, 332 titles were acquired out of the total number of 1,309 published in Poland—25.1 per cent of the total titles are held somewhere in the United States. Thirty-seven and six-tenths per cent of all the titles issued in first edition are held, including 64.11 per cent of humanities and 45.94 per

¹⁴ Edwin E. Williams *Farmington Plan Handbook*, ([Bloomington, Ind.] Association of Research Libraries, 1953), p. 3.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 23.

¹⁶ Robert L. Talmadge, "The Farmington Plan Survey: An Interim Report," *CRL*, XIX (September 1958), 377.

¹⁷ Edwin E. Williams *op. cit.*, p. 79.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 61.

cent of the social science titles. Only the pure sciences are not up to this remarkable level.

While the percentages for Polish titles are not exactly comparable with the percentages pertaining to Norway and Belgium, since the latter do not include the additional titles acquired through means other than the plan, Polish holdings are relatively—and when considered by themselves, quite—substantial.

The advantage, resulting from being included within the Farmington Plan, of knowing immediately where books in any field are held, is absent in the case of Polish books, except to the extent that titles in certain areas tend to locate themselves naturally in certain libraries. For example, all the medical titles can be found at the National Library of Medicine (although six titles can also be found at other places). Such "natural" distribution cannot completely compete with a planned distribution. It may, however, be further pointed out that of the thirty-three libraries herein studied five are governmental libraries (all but the Library of Congress being quite specialized), and two are museum libraries and therefore also specialized, yet all provide a start toward finding a book in Polish (or any other language) in a particular field.

The greatest failing pointed up by these findings is the time lag before, or complete absence of, reporting Polish titles to the National Union Catalog. Whether imperatives, as incorporated into the Farmington Plan, to report holdings would or would not eliminate this situation is difficult to say. Ruggles and Mostecky also note this failing with respect to the entire body of East European literature, and provide some of the reasons behind it.

In some cases librarians were too self-conscious of the peculiarities of their rules and practices; sometimes there has been a fail-

ure in communication between the chief librarian and his cataloging staff. Or often, as was freely admitted to the investigators in several instances, a library deliberately withheld reports on its holdings because if they appeared in the National Union Catalog, the library would be flooded with interlibrary loan requests.¹⁹

While these findings demonstrate that considerable duplication exists (225 volumes out of 557 held in the United States are duplicates—see Table 2), this may not have been "unnecessary" duplication. For example, exactly one-third of the duplicate copies (75 out of the 225 mentioned above) are fiction titles, purchased by large university libraries and large public library systems. There are no duplications in the pure sciences.

Thus, looking at the larger picture, Polish publications fare rather well in the United States. Ruggles and Mostecky assert that most librarians take

... a very negative view toward the suggestion that the Farmington Plan concept be extended to include Russian and other East European materials. The reason most commonly adduced was that there are so few libraries engaged in extensive acquisitions programs in East European publications that the responsibility for collecting comprehensively in assigned subject fields would impose excessive burdens on each of the participants.²⁰

This argument, by itself, is difficult to accept since the Farmington Plan already includes Cambodia, Korea, Laos, Pakistan, Siam, and Vietnam,²¹ countries of undoubtedly more specialized interest. Ruggles and Mostecky themselves feel that if the present need is not sufficient to warrant some such cooperative scheme, future needs will make it neces-

¹⁹ Melville J. Ruggles and Vaclav Mostecky *op. cit.*, p. 119.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 27.

²¹ Edwin E. Williams, *op. cit.*, p. 65-67.

sary.²² The assertion made earlier in this paper that interest in this area is increasing (and the subsequent data demonstrating the beginnings of that increase) add backing to their position.

Channels for book importation from Poland are good. At present there are thirty-four Polish institutions participating in exchange programs with United

States institutions.²³ In addition, physical difficulties of importing book purchases from Poland are almost nonexistent.²⁴ There appears to be little doubt but that this commerce will increase. ■■

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 66-68.

²⁴ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Department of Mass Communication, Division of Free Flow of Information, *Trade Barriers to Knowledge; A Manual of Regulations Affecting Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials*. New and revised edition (Paris: UNESCO, 1955).

²² Melville J. Ruggles and Vaclav Mostecky *op. cit.*, p. 27-28.

