



The Farmington Plan after three years

Citation

Wilson, Edwin G. 1951. The Farmington Plan after three years. Harvard Library Bulletin V (1), Winter 1951: 122-125.

Permanent link

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sake of one line, and in it he defined something real to himself and to the whole romantic generation. 'The feel of not to feel it' may never fully be told in rhyme, and yet Keats has

named it in simple words of incomparable beauty and characteristic art. The line is at once the glory, blemish, and riddle of the poem.

ALVIN WHITLEY

The Farmington Plan after Three Years

AN article outlining the background and objectives of the Farmington Plan appeared in this BULLETIN during 1948, the first year of the plan's operation, when publications were being received from only three countries, France, Sweden, and Switzerland.¹ Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Norway were added for 1949, and Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru have been included since 1 January 1950. From the beginning, Keyes D. Metcalf has served as chairman of the Farmington Plan Committee of the Association of Research Libraries, which has sponsored the undertaking.

During June and July 1950, Mr Metcalf was able to visit all of the agents in Europe who are supplying publications under the plan, to discuss problems with them and with the librarian-advisers who have been appointed in some countries as consultants, and to call on dealers and librarians in Austria, western Germany, Great Britain, and Ireland. The European agents are:

Belgium—Office International de Librairie (M Léon Gillot, Administrateur-Gérant, 164 rue de l'Hôtel des Monnaies, Brussels; adviser, Mme Andrée

¹Keyes D. Metcalf, 'The Farmington Plan,' HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN, II (1948), 296-308.

Anciaux, Librarian, U. S. Information Library

Denmark—Andr. Fred. Høst & Søn (Mr Ellis F. Lohse), Bredgade 35, Copenhagen; adviser, Hr. Rigebibliotekar Svend Dahl, Royal Library

France—Service des Echanges Internationaux, Bibliothèque Nationale (Dr Julien Cain, Directeur), 58 rue de Richelieu, Paris II^e

Italy—Casa Editrice Libreria Ulrico Hoepli (Dr Maurizio Kreuzmann in charge of Export Department), Via G. Mameli 13, Milan; adviser, Dott. Maria Buonanno Schellembri, Direttrice, Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense

Netherlands—Martinus Nijhoff, N.V. (Mr Wouret Nijhoff), Lange Voorhout 9, The Hague

Norway—Johan Grundt Tanum (Mr Knut Lie), Karl Johans Gate 43, Oslo

Sweden—Sandbergs Bokhandel (Mr Carl Olof Josephson), Sturegatan 8, Stockholm; adviser, Dr Olof von Feilitzen, Assistant Librarian, Uppsala University

Switzerland—Buchhandlung Herbert Lang & C^{ie} (Mr Herbert Lang), Ecke Münzgraben/Amthausgasse, Bern; adviser, Dr Pierre Bourgeois, Directeur, Bibliothèque Nationale Suisse.²

The classes of material excluded from the plan are books in non-Latin

²The dealers for countries outside of Europe are: Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru—Libreria Internacional del Peru (Mr Erich Klein), Casilla Lima, 1417, Lima; Mexico—E. R. Goodridge, Avenida Malintzin 10, Coyocacan, D. F.

alphabets, those costing more than \$25, juvenile literature, music scores, privately printed works and others not in the trade, public documents, reprints, theses and numbered series issued by societies and academic institutions, numbered series of any kind that began before the plan went into effect, sheet maps, textbooks of lower than college level, translations from other modern languages, and periodicals. With these exceptions, a dealer is expected to supply one copy of each book published in his country. If possible, he classifies each volume and sends it directly to whichever one of the 54 participating libraries has accepted responsibility for the subject with which it deals; if he cannot classify it, he may send it to the New York office of the Association of Research Libraries for classification there.

It is obvious that many complications can develop in an undertaking of this size, but Mr Metcalf's report to the Association of Research Libraries on his trip indicates that present arrangements are working reasonably well. Perhaps the greatest difficulties are encountered in France, where the exchange department of the National Library supplies books from the copies that come to it by statutory deposit. Many delays are encountered, and the library sends all books in the smaller subject fields to New York for classification; it is believed, however, that no dealer could cover provincial publications nearly so well as the Bibliothèque Nationale does.

There are other variations in the service that is being given, but this is inevitable because the book trade and current bibliographical tools are not

of the same quality in every country. Mr Metcalf concludes that the agents were well chosen and that no changes need be recommended, though there are other agents in each country (with the possible exception of France) who would also be satisfactory. Harvard's regular agent is the same as the Farmington Plan's in only two countries; Mr Metcalf believes that Harvard need not change either.

Coverage, he notes, will always be a basic problem; some libraries have complained that they are not receiving as many publications as ought to come to them, while others object to the quantity of worthless material they receive. The original proposal simply stated that the plan would include everything that might reasonably be expected to interest a research worker in America; it is not surprising that the librarian who thinks only good books worth keeping should interpret this very differently from one of his colleagues who would like to see almost everything preserved somewhere. European libraries have generally been more selective than American; European agents and advisers have tended to supply fewer publications than most American research libraries would prefer to have. After discussion of the problem with all those whom he saw in Europe, Mr Metcalf believes that there is still more danger of over-selectivity than the reverse, though he was shown great quantities of ephemeral material that is deposited by law in some of the national libraries. Most of this consisted of items not in the book trade, and these, theoretically at least, are excluded from the plan. Mr Metcalf adds, however, that he urged all agents to send such material when-

ever it seems to be important. While it is unlikely that all concerned will ever be completely satisfied by Farmington Plan coverage, continued checking of receipts should help, at least, to clarify the question. A preliminary study has been made at the University of Pennsylvania,⁸ and it is hoped that other surveys can be made at Harvard and elsewhere during the coming year.

Classification is difficult for the dealers, and they have been urged to send to the New York office any volume that they feel unable to classify. It is doubtful, however, that the New York Public Library can continue to do this classification work, which may have to be transferred to Harvard or the Library of Congress. Some questions of interpretation and definition will always remain, but changes in allocations can be negotiated at any time if a library is receiving books that it does not want.

Payment of bills has gone reasonably well. It is important that libraries follow instructions supplied by the agents, and expenses of handling foreign remittances are so high that dealers would prefer to have bills amounting to less than \$2.50 held up for as long as three months in order that several may be paid at once.

Delays in the receipt of books cause trouble because each library must supply important works promptly to its patrons—particularly to faculty members—and, if Farmington Plan delivery is slow, it sometimes seems necessary to order an item. In such cases, duplication may be avoided by

⁸Charles W. David and Rudolf Hirsch, 'Importations of Foreign Monographs under the Early Influence of the Farmington Plan,' *College and Research Libraries*, XI (1950), 101-105.

ordering from the Farmington agent and instructing him not to duplicate under the plan. Unfortunately this cannot be done for books from France, where delays have seemed to be numerous because some books are slow in reaching the exchange department of the Bibliothèque Nationale, because the staff there is small, and because most volumes must be re-shipped after classification in New York. Mr Metcalf stands ready to do whatever he can to speed up the service when delays are called to his attention.

Monographic series account for a large percentage of the worth-while books published in many countries, and it is important that they be made available for American scholars. However, when they are supplied under the Farmington Plan, it often turns out that the library receiving a volume already has a standing order for the series with another agent. Consequently series that began before the plan went into effect have been excluded. It is desirable for participating libraries to enter standing orders for new series, but complications sometimes arise when a series covers more than a single subject. Mr Metcalf urged agents to consult the American library in question before sending volumes of series about which there seems to be any question; he also pointed out that it is entirely proper for agents to call to the attention of libraries any items not covered by the plan that may be of interest.

Periodicals were excluded from the plan because they appeared to constitute a problem that could best be handled separately, but they have been kept in mind from the begin-

ning, and Farmington agents have been supplying sample copies of the first issue of each new periodical. As a start toward consideration of periodical coverage, the Farmington Plan Committee hopes to have several national lists of periodicals checked and to find libraries willing to subscribe for titles not now coming to this country. A list has already been obtained from the Swedish agent. Mr Metcalf recommends that the Association of Research Libraries sponsor the duplication and distribution of these lists as they become available.

Extension of the plan to additional countries is under consideration. It has been decided not to include Great Britain, because British publications appear to be adequately covered already,⁴ and Mr Metcalf believes that Ireland need not be brought in because Harvard is at present obtaining almost all Irish publications. By the time this issue appears, the Association will presumably have acted on

⁴Edwin E. Williams, 'Research Library Acquisitions from Great Britain,' *Library Quarterly*, XX (1950), 187-194.

Austria and Germany, investigated by Mr Metcalf, and also on Brazil, Portugal, and Spain, which were recently visited by Mr Lewis Hanke of the Library of Congress. Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa have also been under consideration, and Mr Metcalf has suggested that some attention be given to the problem of French-Canadian publications.

Dealers evidently welcomed the opportunity to discuss the plan with Mr Metcalf during his visit, and it is hoped that the answers he was able to give to their questions will result in a clearer understanding of the project and increasingly satisfactory service. His report on the trip corroborates the recent statement that the plan 'will certainly require continued study and discussion; but the difficulties and problems encountered . . . were expected, and participating libraries seem to have found the net results encouraging.'⁵

⁵Keyes D. Metcalf and Edwin E. Williams, 'Notes on the Farmington Plan,' *Libri*, I (1950), 13-19.

Edward Moxon and the First Two Editions of Milnes's Biography of Keats

THE historic first edition of Richard Monckton Milnes's *Life, Letters, and Literary Remains, of John Keats* was published in two volumes by Edward Moxon in 1848. Among the eight copies of this work now in the Harvard Keats Collection is one containing revisions by Moxon himself and extensively used

in the preparation of the second edition of 1867. The annotations are confined solely to the first volume, inside the front cover of which are tipped in two manuscript letters copied from Tom Taylor's *Life of Benjamin Robert Haydon* (1853) and two publisher's memoranda. The second volume bears only an inscrip-

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