

## Zen and libraries

Sent to Diana Rylatt, of the DHHCS Brisbane library following a visit from Peter Duncan

zen and libraries  
i sit each day with books  
stacked one on one; me alone with the books  
and i just be.  
sometime the phone ring, its for me,  
another seeker of truth.  
i light their candle but i can not walk their road.  
each ones journey is separate  
and united with all.  
each page another step along the road  
never sure when a corner marks the way.  
i be here with the books  
and the world shares my space.  
i like here, the journey is always different.  
the books be me  
and i be somewhere else to-day. ■

## Library Associations in the CIS

**Natalya Igumnova, the Deputy Director of the Russian State Library, describes a scene of feverish activity**

In a paper prepared recently for the IFLA Executive Board, Mme Igumnova has given great detail about the formation or revival of library associations in most states of the former USSR. Exceptions, she writes, 'are the countries with a very acute political situation (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia)'.

Library associations now exist in the Baltic states, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Moldova, the Ukraine and Russia. In the latter country a federation of library associations unites some fifty-four bodies in various cities, zones, territories and republics. There are also separate associations of scientific and technical libraries, of academic libraries and of trade union libraries, and bodies not hitherto seen in the USSR are being created for sponsorship or as 'Friends', to give support and draw attention to libraries.

A further development has been the creation of the Eurasian Consultative Committee of Library Associations. This attempts to amalgamate the libraries in the territory of the former USSR within the framework of the Eurasian Forum of Humanitarian Forces (EFHF), with the support and participation of the United Nations Information Centre. It responds to worries about 'the growth of animosity and confrontation, transgression of human rights, the depreciation of human life, the unpredictable consequences of the slackening of the traditional links between nations, the spreading of hot spots, and

social and interregional tensions'.

The first meeting of the EFHF in Moscow last June had the theme 'Through libraries towards accord among peoples'. 68 representatives of library associations, societies and libraries from Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Estonia were present. Public figures, scientists, journalists and sociologists also took part. The program included discussion on The international library community at the service of mutual understanding and progress; Fundamentals of the reciprocal action of national libraries; Libraries through the eyes of the readers; the unified information space and libraries; Books, the way to the readers; and Competence, culture and humanism of a librarian.

A statement was endorsed to the effect that 'Having united in a firm and developing community, the librarians of the continent will be able to successfully solve common problems and lend real assistance to the humanisation of society'. Three further events are planned: the Consultative Committee will meet in November; a seminar on 'Management of Library Associations' will be held in Moscow next February, chaired by Russell Bowden (first Vice-President of IFLA and Chairman of its Round Table for the Management of Library Associations); and a conference on library legislation will be held in Washington in December 1993. ■

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