

FOREIGN SERVICE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



The Foreign Service Community Association is a volunteer group dedicated to the betterment of conditions for rotational foreign service personnel, their families, and others interested in the foreign service. It also offers information and support on a personalized basis. To communicate with the association, please write or call.

There is a vastly underutilized resource available in the FSCA office in the form of reading material. Our collection is not large, but we have four binders-full of articles, gleaned from many sources, and several books. The general topic of this material, is, of course, the effects of a mobile life-style on those who live with constant change, as we all do.

Some of the articles in our collection deal with broad topics such as cultural interaction, and intercultural communication. Others are more specific and more pragmatic, and deal with such topics, such as moving and travelling, health problems abroad, personal safety and security, and looking for work abroad. Some deal with the effects of a rotational life on families, and on children.

Two books in particular provide an overview of the whole process of moving abroad. The first is *In Another Dimension*, by Piet-Pilon and Hornby, published in 1985 by Intercultural Press, Inc. The authors direct this book particularly to accompanying women, and discuss the problems encountered from the first decision to go abroad, preparation for departure, settling in, culture shock and the required adjustments, moving with children looking for work, and staying healthy. Full of practical advice, they also express

very clearly the subtleties of the situations one must deal with, and several ways of coping with them (e.g. to have or not have servants, and how to deal with them if you do).

Moving Abroad, A Guide to International Living, by Virginia McKay, published by VLM Enterprises (1986), covers much the same material, but is strictly practical.

A completely different style of book is one held by the Posting Services Centre called, *On Being Foreign*, by Lewis and Jungman, published in 1986 by Intercultural Press, Inc. This book explores the fields of culture shock and cultural interactions through the medium of short fiction from all around the world. It is divided into sections with a foreword to each, and several pieces have been selected which portray, very sensitively, through individuals, the experiences of many.

We regret that we have so little material in French, and hope that any of you who have material that would enrich our library would pass it on to us.

FSCA NOTE:

I would like to note that the article in the February 1990 Liaison, entitled, "Marrying into the Foreign Service", was written as an article which should have been printed under the heading of the Foreign Service Community Association. It was written, not as my personal comment, but as an expression of opinion from the executive of the FSCA.

The article was described as a summary of the meeting, which it was not, nor was it intended to be such.

I would be grateful if you would publish this commentary, to clarify what was intended.

Dawn Jones, Office Co-ordinator, FSCA

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- Membership Application
- Fee: \$15.00 per year
\$20.00 per family

Name:

Postal address:

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Telephone No.: Home Office

Name of Spouse (if married):

Memberships are due in January of each year.

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