

# Calcutta library



By Mrs. Purabi Pal

During my recent trip to India in January 1988 I decided to visit the National Library in Calcutta.

This library is one of the oldest libraries in India and it consists of more than one million books, several thousand maps, manuscripts and microforms. It was established in 1902 by the merger of the Calcutta Public Library and the Imperial Library. At present it is housed in the former Governor-General's residence at Calcutta. In 1954 it became the depository library of India.

In 1957, the National Library started publishing the Indian national bibliography comprising all the publications in all the languages in India. It also publishes retrospective bibliographies on various aspects of Indian culture. Other notable publications, to name a few, are the author catalogue of periodicals, newspapers and gazettes; Bibliography of Indology and A Bibliography of dictionaries and encyclopaedians in Indian Languages. From time to time, the National Library also publishes various other reports, newsletters and accession lists in different Indian languages.

The main collection of the National Library is still in Dewey. When discussing this matter with some of the Librarians, I had the impression that it is not going to be altered to the Library of Congress classification system in the near future. The main reason being that the Dewey classification appears to be adequate for the Indian library system.

The national library has two dictionary catalogues: a) author title and b) subject catalogue. It still has the card catalogue system. Items are

catalogued according to whatever language in which they are written. As a depository library, it receives copies of all the books published in Indian languages.

The Acquisition Dept. has separate divisions, divided by the languages under which the books are catalogued. The Processing Department is responsible for placing accession numbers, cards, pockets and labels on each item - books, microforms, manuscripts, etc.

The Central Reference library is located in a different building in the same city. Its collection is fully able to meet the needs of scholars and researchers. University professors and researchers (with proof of identity) are allowed to a limited number of books, but patrons are asked to use reference material in the Library and return them at a certain time. Unbound periodicals and journals are not lent out.

The Circulation system in the Calcutta National Library is still done manually. Automated circulation is not on its menu for another five to ten years. Books are lent free to anybody under eighteen years of age who are residents in any part of India. They must deposit, as security, a sum of money to cover the value of books. Regular borrowers may deposit a lump sum as security to avoid the necessity of changing that amount with every transaction. Every borrower gets a borrower's ticket and is responsible for all books borrowed on that ticket. The

ticket is not transferable.

In the case of students, recommendations of the principals for professors of their colleges are required to get them tickets. Borrowers are not allowed to take out more than six volumes at one time. Books lent are allowed to be kept for a period of two weeks and at that time may be extended at the request of the borrower. Nobody is permitted to have books more than one month at a stretch. Readers found in misconduct or violating any rules of the National Library must surrender their tickets.

The National Library in Calcutta is an example of a nation's center of knowledge attempting to furnish its people with the necessary materials and books for learning and research. It has to ensure the acquisition and preservation of, and access to, the published heritage of India to the people of India. It may not be considered a "modern" or automated library in the Western sense, however, it undertakes the great responsibility to educate the people of India regardless of religion, language, creed or belief. Recently it has begun to acquire some knowledge and skills required for automation, and the staff is becoming familiar with the new technologies. It will be sometime before the National Library in Indian becomes fully competent in automation, but it has made a head start on the project.



## Int'l students

OTTAWA -- Changes designed to help foster a positive environment for postsecondary international students in Canada have been

announced by Benoit Bouchard, Minister of Employment and Immigration.

International students in the following groups may be granted permission to accept work without the job needing validation or being subject to the availability of Canadians:

- students working on-campus
- spouses of students
- students working after graduation in education-related jobs for up to 12 months
- students in Canada under the auspices of the Canadian International Development Agency

This policy is effective immediately. For further information, call the Canada Immigration Centre at 452-3090.

### ELECTION NOTICE

#### Election of Students on the Fredericton Senate

**Positions:** Three, commencing March 1988 for 1 year terms.

**Eligibility:** any full-time undergraduate student who has completed registration, or any part-time student registered in a certificate or degree program on the Fredericton campus, and is in good academic standing (i.e. not on academic probation).

**Nomination:**

- candidates must be nominated by at least 20 eligible voters, and must give written consent;
- nomination forms from the University Secretary (Room 110, Old Arts Building), or from the Student Union Office (Room 118, SUB)
- forms must be filed at either of the above offices by 8:00 pm, Wednesday, 16 March 1988;
- nominees have two business days after closing in which to withdraw

**ELECTION DATE - 30 MARCH 1988**



Quotes from dictation of staff physicians at Memorial Hospital in Ashville, N.C.

"Discharge status: Alive but without permission"

"Patient stated that if she would lie down, within two of three minutes something would come across her abdomen and knock her up.

"Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

Medical Economics

#### Fifteenth time lucky?

(Moscow) A Soviet investigator finally tracked down a Soviet locksmith who had strangled 36 women - but only after 14 innocent people had been punished for his crimes.

Of the fourteen, one was executed, one spent 10 years in prison, one went blind after six years in prison, and a fourth tried to commit suicide.

According to reports, police forced confessions - out of the victims. One man's head was bashed against a safe, another was thrashed with his own boots, while a third was hit on the head with a copy of the criminal code.

The "real" criminal was recently executed.

Reuters

#### Seat Belts Save?

A motorist in Los Angeles who buckled up his teddy bear but forgot to fasten his own seat belt died after being thrown from his car in a crash.

Police said the 31-year old man was flung ten metres from the car and into a chain-link fence after his car hit a guard rail.

The driver was alone, but "had the teddy bear in the passenger seat with a belt on", said California Highway Patrol Officer Richard Perez.

The stuffed toy remained in the vehicle, Perry said.

Associated Press

#### Seedy Sex Counselor

Some male students at McMaster University were recently exposed to a woman posing as a sexual education counsellor. The woman called up at least three men and asked them for details about their penises.

According to Jana Roth, the co-ordinator for McMaster's Sexual Education Centre, the woman asked questions of an intimated sexual nature and in one instance even persuaded a man to meet her.

At the meeting, she measured the circumference and length of the man's penis and questioned him about the fantasies he masturbated to. She also requested and received a semen sample.

Canadian University Press

#### "Bitch, Bitch, Bitch"

Neala Schleuning, director of Mankato State University women's centre complained to U.S. West, a telecommunications company, about a sexist ad designed by their ad company, Fallon McElligot.

The ad for the T.V. show "Dynasty" featured photos of the three female stars with the headline "Bitch, Bitch, Bitch."

In response to the complaint, the ad agency sent Schleuning a photo of an African boy pressing his mouth against a cow's anus. The agency also suggested that Schleuning visit the Sudanese Dinka tribe to investigate the "barbaric ritual". The agency's founders also offered her a one-way ticket to Africa.