

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΘΕΝ ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΥ ΤΥΠΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΩΝ

Αρ.6

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Συμπόσιο για τις Βιβλιοθήκες στην Κύπρο

Πραγματοποιήθηκε σήμερα στο ξενοδοχείο Φιλοξένια συμπόσιο με θέμα «Βιβλιοθήκες και Βιβλιοθηκονομία στην Κύπρο σήμερα», που οργάνωσε η Κυπριακή Ένωση Επαγγελματιών Βιβλιοθηκονόμων.

Την έναρξη των εργασιών του συμποσίου κήρυξε εκ μέρους του Υπουργού Παιδείας ο εποπτεύων της Μορφωτικής Υπηρεσίας, Μορφωτικός Λειτουργός κ. Γ. Κατσούρης. Το Συμπόσιο διηύθυνε ο κ. Α. Σοφοκλέους, Πρόεδρος του Κυπριακού Συνδέσμου Τεχνών - Επικοινωνιών.

Στο συμπόσιο έγιναν εισηγήσεις που κάλυψαν τόσο τη σημερινή λειτουργικότητα των βιβλιοθηκών στην Κύπρο όσο και τη μελλοντική τους ανάπτυξη, με ιδιαίτερη έμφαση στην ανάγκη για σωστή οργάνωση, στενή διασύνδεση μεταξύ τους και επάνδρωσή τους με εξειδικευμένο προσωπικό.

Σε προσφώνηση του, που διάβασε ο κ. Κατσούρης, ο Υπουργός Παιδείας κ. Χριστοφίδης αναφέρθηκε στα μέτρα που πήρε και παίρνει η Πολιτεία για την προώθηση και διάδοση του βιβλίου και την ανάπτυξη των βιβλιοθηκών στην Κύπρο και τόνισε ότι μέσα στα πλαίσια του νέου έκτακτου σχεδίου οικονομικής δράσεως 1987-1992, θα προωθηθεί περαιτέρω η ανάπτυξη των βιβλιοθηκών με αξιοποίηση εκθέσεων ειδικών ξένων εμπειρογνομώνων που ήδη μελετώνται.

Ο κ. Υπουργός αναφέρθηκε επίσης στην απόφαση του Υπουργικού Συμβουλίου για ίδρυση, ανέγερση και λειτουργία Πολιτιστικού Κέντρου, το οποίο μαζί με την Κρατική Πινακοθήκη και αίθουσα πολλαπλής χρήσεως θα περιλαμβάνει και την Κρατική Βιβλιοθήκη.

Η λειτουργία της βιβλιοθήκης αυτής, τόνισε ο κ. Υπουργός, που θα οργανωθεί με όλα τα δεδομένα και μέσα της σύγχρονης βιβλιοθηκονομίας, σε οργανική διασύνδεση και αλληλοσυμπλήρωση με τα άλλα προγράμματα και δραστηριότητες του πολιτιστικού αυτού κέντρου, θα υπηρετεί τους μόνιμους στόχους της πολιτιστικής μας αναπτύξεως και θα συμβάλει στη διατήρηση και ενίσχυση τόσο της εθνικής ταυτότητάς μας όσο και της κρατικής υποστάσεως της Κύπρου.

A SUMMARY OF THE SYMPOSIUM

Libraries and Librarianship in Cyprus To-Day

As the need for a swift circulation of information to all members of the community has increased in Cyprus, libraries are now being called upon to play an increasingly important role, both in providing the resource material and in educating patrons in their use. Two basic requirements needed to bring libraries up to their user's expectations are:

- 1) Staff should be able to manage the many and varied types of resource media.
- 2) Authorities should recognise the need for regarding the national library and information services as one integrated system.

The Cyprus Association of Professional Librarians held their first symposium on Saturday 21st of March, 1987. The topics covered related both to the present condition of library service in Cyprus and to its future development with special emphasis on the need for a proper organisation operated by professional staff in close co-operation with each other.

The symposium was directed by Mr. Andreas Sophocleous, President of the Cyprus Association of Communication Arts. The proceedings opened with a speech by the Minister of Education and was followed by a series of speeches made by members of Parliament and various literary societies. The second part of the symposium was subdivided into four units:

- 1) The need for library education.
- 2) Examples of current library development in Cyprus.
- 3) Problems concerning the employment of professional librarians.
- 4) Recent developments in libraries and librarianship in Cyprus.

The speakers were all professionals with experience in library organisation and staff training.

Mr. Nicolaos Georganos, head of the library school, T.E.I. in Athens, Greece, and Dr. John Harvey, head of Intercollege library in Nicosia and ex-head of the library school of the university of Teheran, spoke first on the need for library education. Both heavily stressed the need for properly trained and qualified librarians in order that an efficient and effective library service could be given to the users.

The professional librarian needs a good general education as well as possessing a degree in library science. Nowadays the librarian needs training in every aspect of librarianship - not only acquisitions, cataloguing and classification but also reference work, user education and they

need to have the ability to recognise and utilise the needs and wants of their community.

In the second unit Mr. Charles Glover, head of the Middle East Marketing Bureau library in Nicosia and Mrs. Jill Kakoullis, head of the Cyprus Development Bank library, Nicosia, spoke of the existing library situation in Cyprus with specific reference to their own libraries. They explained how their respective libraries came to be set up and the difficulties encountered in the first few years. Both Mr. Glover and Mrs. Kakoullis pointed out that an efficiently run information centre can make a significant contribution to the continuing profitability of the company.

The final unit of the symposium opened with a speech by Mr. Costas Georghiou, a librarian in the Ministry of Education, Nicosia, who gave his view on the current library situation in Cyprus. He spoke of the difficulties of maintaining an efficient library service when the libraries are not staffed by professionals with suitable qualifications. Even where there are professional librarians in the positions, they are unable to operate the library according to their professional skills, because they are constantly being supervised by people with no library experience. Yioula Moniati spoke of the problems facing the unemployed librarians in Cyprus. According to existing schemes of service within the government there are no specific librarian posts. Schools, etc. require people with either clerical or accounting experience to operate the library. As a consequence qualified librarians are unable to apply for any available library posts. Miss Moniati also illustrated the problem of the mixing of professions e.g. there are many teachers in the post of librarian, but very few real professional librarians.

In conclusion Mr. Savvas Petrides, President of the Association, brought the proceedings to a close with a talk on recent developments in Cyprus libraries.

The symposium received publicity both before and after the event, from radio and newspapers. Several of the speeches have been published in various newspapers and the Association is in the process of publishing the proceedings of the symposium.

As a result of the symposium "Libraries and Librarianship in Cyprus To-day", people in Cyprus, not only the government but the public too, are becoming more aware of the important role that libraries can play in the everyday life of a community. The government despatched a press release in which they stated that 1987 was the year of further progress for libraries, and plans for library expansion would be pushed forward. A state library is to be included in the building of the Cultural Centre, and the operation and organisation of the library will involve all the modern technology and advances available. These plans are just the beginning of a new re-vitalised library service in Cyprus.