

## Russian State Library in 1996/1997

In 1996/1997 the activities of the Russian State Library (RSL) were keyed to the satisfaction of information needs of the society and to the rise of its role as a sociocultural and research institute, making for the development of librarianship, science, education, culture in Russia.

In terms of implementation of recommendations on the part of UNESCO experts and of the ministry of culture of Russia work was done in the following directions:

- \* improving the activities of the RSL aimed at carrying out its main tasks and functions of a national library;
- \* reconstruction and new construction Necessary documents tied up with the modernisation of the chief depository and the assurance of conditions of the preservation of stocks on the modern level have been drawn up and endorsed;
- \* introduction of new information technologies. A programme of the provision of this activity with financial, material, technical, manpower resources has been worked out and put into effect.

Preconditions are ready for inculcating an electronic catalogue of new accessions of Russian and foreign documents as of mid-1998. The library intends to assure the software together with the firm VTLS;

- \* research and publishing activities are being placed on an essentially new footing from the point of view of the description and interpretation of the holdings of the national library.

In spite of objective hard conditions of the year under review the staff of the library have been successful in solving the following tasks:

- \* maintaining the fullness of acquisition;
- \* establishing the service conditions more suitable for readers;
- \* widening the list of services rendered by the library;
- \* keeping on the study of the problems of the development of the RSL and other Russian libraries;
- \* starting the reorganisation of the managerial system of the RSL, directed towards the rise of the efficacy of the work of the library on the whole.

Last year an agreement was entered into about the continuation of the work of UNESCO experts in 1998 for the purpose of giving advice and lending practical assistance to the library on different directions of its activity.

## **2. Receipts and financing**

The sequestered volume of the financing of the RSL for 1997 was set to the amount of 122,6 billion roubles (prices of 1997). Actually the RSL was financed 37,8 per cent of the estimate in 1997. By way of comparison the RSL was financed 80 per cent of the estimate in 1995 and 40 per cent in 1996.

24,4 per cent were allocated for material expenditures.

In 1997, 20 per cent of budget allocations were earmarked for book acquisition.

In the course of the year the library received 1,8 billion roubles for additional services rendered to readers.

Opening of the financing of the RSL in 1996/1997 (comparative table in per cent)

items 1996 1997

1. remuneration of labour 95,7 100
2. extra charges 95,7 100
3. material expenditures 29 24,4
4. purchase of equipment 30 5,5
5. thorough repairs 15,2 22,9

## **3. Official status**

- Status of the RSL as national library has been laid down by the following documents.

Law of the Russian Federation "On librarianship" (of December 29, 1995 No 78 - F 3).

Ordinance on especially valuable objects of the cultural heritage of peoples of the Russian Federation (approved by the decree of the president of the Russian Federation of November 30, 1992 No 1487).

Ordinance on the Russian State Library (approved by the enactment of the council of ministers - government of the Russian Federation of August 2, 1993 No 740).

Ordinance on the ministry of culture of the Russian Federation (approved by the enactment of the government of the Russian Federation of June 6, 1997 No 670).

In 1997 work on draft new statute of the RSL was in progress.

## **4. Deposit copy**

- The federal law of the Russian Federation needs both alterations and perfection of the machinery of its implementation as well as compilation of some law enforcing acts, in particular "On the order of delivery of audiovisual documents", "On the order of

delivery of electronic publications" and others. The approved "Ordinance on the deposition of the legal copy of algorithms and programmes" (unpublished ones), worked out by the Russian scientific and technological information centre can be held up as an example.

In 1997, the RSL drew up the draft article "On the responsibility of manufactures of documents" and passed it on to the State Duma of the Russian Federation "On administrative transgressions of the law", further on it elaborated draft model law "On the deposit copy of documents of subjects of the Russian Federation" and "Ordinance on book monuments of the Russian Federation".

In the act of preparation are the draft decree of the government, confirming the order of delivery of a free deposit copy of various kinds of documents, coming in to stocks and a list of libraries, research and information institutions receiving these documents.

- The law "On the deposit copy of documents" has furthered the stability of the addition of the national repertory of publications to the stocks of the RSL. After its enforcement the total amount of documents coming in to the stocks has appreciably risen as compared to 1994. The annual increment makes up more than 18 per cent.

But the deposit copy, while retaining the status of the chief source of the acquisition of Russian literature comes in to the library as before with gaps, which are most tangible in the stream of authors' abstracts, audiovisual documents, descriptions of inventions, partly books. The library is assiduously applying itself to tiding them over.

## **5. Edifices and premises**

In the year under review the elaboration of the "Concept of the reconstruction, restoration, construction of the complex of buildings of the RSL" (agreed upon by the Ministry of culture of the Russian Federation and endorsed by the coordinating council of the cultural administrative district of Moscow under the guidance of the mayor) was completed, with new technological solutions being assumed as a basis.

The carrying out of the concept will allow to double the area of the library and increase it to 210 thousand square metres, the capacity of the depository will make up 53 million units instead of 26 million units at present. Be it noted that the availability of the stock makes up 42,3 million units. The accommodation for readers will roughly redouble.

In October of 1997 after practically two year intermission the financing of objects of reconstruction and construction of the RSL was resumed which has allowed the following:

- \* reactivating the objects of reconstruction - the ensemble of edifices "Pashkov mansion" and the building of the centre of Oriental literature;
- \* beginning to erect the engineering building whose putting into operation ahead of schedule is a prerequisite for the commissioning of the ensemble "Pashkov mansion" or of one of its stages and of the modernisation of the chief depository; the contract for the bringing about of it was entered into with the French firm CUNIN.

The modernisation of the depository to be carried out at the expense of the French loan exceeds the limits envisaged by the concept on the first lap of reconstruction and construction and is conducive to the enlargement of the work already in 1998. Main results of the activity in the direction under consideration create objective preconditions for intensifying work on reconstruction and construction of buildings of the RSL. However, the solution of the question of stable and sufficient financing is the chief impediment in the implementation of the project.

## **6. Acquisition**

Every year over five thousand titles of documents (audiovisual and electronic publications included) come in to the stocks of the library as gifts from authors, private persons, institutions, various societies and so on.

Unfortunately, on account of the scanty budget allocations literature is bought on a limited scale. Only publications on topical subjects (reference books, encyclopaedias, scientific literature) are acquired. The purchase of educational and methodological literature, literature of short run has been curtailed, the number of copies of publications acquired is in the process of being retrenched.

In subscribing for periodicals the requests of readers and borrowers of the RSL as a national library and of foreign partners were given more attention. The Russian government has provided the purposeful financing of the subscription with a view to build up the fullest repertory of periodicals of Russia and of countries of the Commonwealth of independent states.

In spite of slight allocations, the library has succeeded in acquiring over two thousand titles of documents in shops and from private persons for the retrospective stock. The unique collection of Ju.A.Ivanov can be classed with the most valuable gains. It contains about 500 remarkably precious books, reference works on music, over 15 thousand rare printed musics - works by Russian and foreign composers, musics from their personal collections and from

those of well-known musicians. Some of them are notable: publications with autographs, records, correcting by musicians brought out in their lifetime.

The manuscript department has procured some utterly precious Russian materials including two handwritten books of the 16th century: an oldbeliever's diary of the 18th century, materials of the Nilo-Stolbovskaya hermitage of the 17th century, rare archival documents bound up with the life and work of eminent figures of the Russian culture of the "silver age" K.A.Korovin, M.A.Wrobel, I.Ja.Bilibin, photographs of ballet-dancer Anna Pavlova.

20 publications of the Cyrillic script of the 18th to the 20th centuries, absent from the holdings of the RSL, have been acquired by the department of rare books, with the Psalter, 1788(12), put out in Kiev in the printing-house of Kievo-Pecherskaya lavra and unknown from bibliographies being the rarest one. On the whole the efforts made have allowed to secure the fulfilment of the plan of the acquisition of Russian literature by 99,03 per cent and an increase of additions in the way of deposit copies.

One has every reason to contend, that in spite of the difficulties with acquiring certain kinds of publications the RSL as ever remains the library and information institution, building the fullest repertory of Russian documents.

## **7. Conservation and preservation of stocks**

- The work on securing the preservation of stocks was carried forward on the basis of the programme of activity for 1997 to 2005. Two important directions-binding and restoring work and check-up of the stocks - were taken special control of. The elimination of substantial miscalculations and shortcomings of some years past in this domain lay ahead. The task was set of halting the trend of lowering the volume of the restoration of documents and of intensifying the work on restoring the physical state of decrepit and deteriorating documents in the stocks of the library. The research centre of conservation and restoration of documents was partially reorganised with a view to more actively develop the mass restoration of documents. As a result, in several departments (the main stack department, the department of rare books, the manuscript department and others) the plan of the leaf restoration was considerably exceeded which assured the general overfulfilment of the plan of extending the life of documents on paper warp by 5,5 per cent.

- In the year under review there was no microfilming for the purpose of ensuring the preservation on full scale, since the weak technical equipment does not permit to observe standard requirements concerning the shooting of microfilms and the RSL lacks a

depository, capable of assuring their preservation. For the purpose of remedying the state of affairs on that score a project has been framed of consolidating the units, concerned with microfilms namely storage, services and manufacturing in a single complex. A contract for fitting out the RSL with modern equipment for micro-filming has been concluded.

- There was no transfer of destroyed documents to the electronic form on full scale on account of the absence of the high technological scanning equipment.

- The RSL setting itself the task of doing away with the substantial shortcomings in the work on preserving the library stocks, a programme of developing the research centre of conservation and restoration of documents has been worked out and the re-organisation of its structure has set in. It is composed of the following.

1) Sector of research (in the main in the fields of chemistry and biology)

2) Sector of preventive conservation

3) Sector of restoring the library stocks

4) Information and methodological sector

All employees of the research sector have higher education and almost all have scientific degrees. 85 per cent of restorers have higher library education. The rest have secondary or secondary vocational education. The state of being provided with specialists is insufficient, because of low wages and the specific character of labour (protracted period of training for achieving mastery). The professional level of the staff is high.

- Last year repairs began on the premises of the centre. The heating system was replaced, the feed of hot water was carried out, new washing baths were installed, sanitary appliances were replaced too. On account of lack of financing the repairs paused.

## **8. Information technology and new technologies**

- A new wording of the "Programme of modernisation of the RSL" was drawn up relative to inculcating new information technologies in the RSL (by 2000) in the following directions:

\* creation of information and computing environment of the RSL;

\* retrospective conservation of catalogues;

\* introduction of an integrated automated system of the RSL.

- In 1997 at the expense of available budget means and non-budget financing the library managed to carry through the following work, aimed at developing and keeping up information technologies of the RSL:

- \* it brought about the optical fibre connection of the junction, situated in the computing centre of the RSL with the chief point of entry into the Internet for science and education, the class of the public access to the Internet was fitted out by the equipment procured earlier (operational testing since May of 1997), the question of payment for the channel forming equipment for the extension of the optical fibre network of the RSL was settled;

- \* it inculcated seven personal computers Pentium-130, one laser printer Jet6P, one flatbed scanner mus Jek 1200SP, other completing accessories, which allowed to lay down the foundation of a local network, assuring the compilation of bibliographic indices and the functioning of the subsystem of the selective dissemination of information of the automated information system "Informkultura", search of information in the field of culture and arts within the Internet system, solution of some other tasks;

- \* it acquired completing accessories for personal computers, carried forward routine repairs of the available machinery;

- \* it took up work (completed in February of 1998) on the creation of a network of electrical feeding for the local computing network of the RSL, ensuring the formation of the electronic catalogue in the act of processing new additions.

- The RSL commenced digitizing work in 1994, when it concluded a contract with the UNESCO for the issue of an experimental CD-ROM. Within the framework of the programme "Memory of Russia" being a part of the programme "Memory of the world" it issued a CD-ROM in 1995, containing the "Oktoikh" of 1491 and individual samples of materials from the stocks of the manuscript department and the department of art prints. In 1996 to 1997 it prepared and issued the CD-ROM "Miniature in handwritten books", embracing 1500 miniatures, developed new software, continued work on digitizing publications from the collection of books of the Cyrillic script, of materials from the manuscript department and the department of art prints.

- The accounts department inculcated the computing system "Sail", set going the diskette form of the book-keeping for the foundation of the medical insurance and the foundation of the state taxation inspection in connection with the creation of the personalized accounting.

The financial and economic department inculcated the compu-

ting system "Work-station of an employee of the financial and economic department", dealing with the accounting and monitoring of various categories of financial and economic documents of the department.

All systems were developed on the platform Windows in the system Excel 7.0 in the Visual Basic language.

## **9. Services to readers**

- Main services are as ever free of charge.
- The activity of the RSL was geared to expanding and improving the range of paid services, rendered to institutions, collective borrowers, readers while sticking to the free character of main traditional forms of library services.

The principle of meeting peculiar, frequently non-traditional requests tied up with rendering additional services or with additional expenditures of efforts and means remains as ever the point of departure while fixing paid services.

In 1997, the list of paid services in the automated mode was considerably lengthened, new kinds of services were introduced: advice concerning the search in automated data bases and the Internet network, search and selection of information from automated data bases according to subject requests from users, the scanning of documents, despatch and receipt of correspondence by E-mail.

- In September the class of the public access to the Internet, fitted out by six computers was inaugurated for users.

The home page of the RSL in the Internet was compiled, with regularly updated information being available for users in the Web server of the RSL (<http://www.rsl.ru>).

The rise of the quality of the processes of bibliographic reference services to readers was in evidence: a personal computer with some data bases of the RSL was installed directly in the zone of branch points of the reference services, the number of references in the automated mode rose.

The bibliographic reference division served the readers of the RSL with electronic documents on CD-ROM (in 1997 its stock made up 181 titles of abstract and reference data bases).

A project of special access to electronic documents was conceived, foreseeing the assurance of the work of the readers of the RSL with the data bases of the library and with the CD-ROM procured by it.

Additional points of xerocopying were opened.

- Since 1993 the access to the RSL has been standing open for all comers at the age from 18 years.
- From 1993 to 1997 314679 readers were subscribed to the RSL.



Every year from 55 to 57 thousand new readers are subscribed. Last year 9839411 publications, unpublished documents and their copies were given out, whereof:  
issue of publications and of their copies to the reading rooms - 9199870;  
interlibrary loan - 35494;  
copies of unpublished documents from the reference and information stock - 22507 pages;  
copies manufactured and passed on to external customers - 583540 accounting units  
- Owing to the insufficient financing of the library the indices of services to users of the interlibrary loan went down: the number of borrowers made up only 63,7 per cent and the issue made up 89,9 per cent as compared to 1996.  
number circulation of books  
services to personal borrowers 257 6689 units  
services to libraries and other institutions including foreign 1526 35494 units  
ones  
- In 1997 new "Rules of the use of the RSL" were framed and put in force.

**10.** Being one of the means of revealing and popularising the holdings of the RSL, the **exhibition activity** was marked by jubilees - the 850th anniversary of Moscow and the 135th anniversary of the library.

Some expositions dedicated to Moscow: "Moscow in the collections of the RSL", "Orthodox churches of Moscow", "Festive Moscow" and others were staged in the exhibition grounds of the RSL and of the Russian exhibition centre, whereas the exhibition "Commemorating the 135th anniversary of the foundation of the RSL. Moscow and the Rumyantsev museum" set forth the history of the library in the context of the history of Moscow.

Over 20 subject exhibitions for specialists in different branches of knowledge came off in the exhibition grounds of the library, including those held in conjunction with Russian and foreign partners. In the wake of the exhibitions the library was given over 1300 books in Russian, Ukrainian, Spanish, French, English as presents. Used were also the most variegated forms of mass activity: organisation and holding of large presentations, combination of exhibitions with scientific seminars, get-togethers and round-table conversations, press-conferences, television "Meetings

in the Vozdvizhenka street", concerts.

**11. Publishing activity** of the RSL is considered as one of the most important means of the reflexion of its scientific activity and of the further interpretation of its remarkably rich holdings.

In the course of the year such bibliographic publications as the union catalogue of the Russian book (volume No 1), descriptions of handwritten collections of the RSL, books of the Russian emigration in the stocks of the library appeared, subject scientific auxiliary bibliography (for instance, three issues of the index "Modern society: economics, policy, sociology") was in preparation, information publications including those put out by the "Informkultura" were out as before, new kinds of recommended (instructive) aids were mastered, anthologies, monographs, bibliographic encyclopaedias, among them the book "Eternal Moscow" by V.M.Meshkov (awarded a diploma by the government of Moscow) and the second book of the series "Cultural heritage of Moscow. From the holdings of the RSL" under the title "Image of Moscow in the 18th century: a man and a city" were prepared for the press. The following momentous decisions were arrived at:

- \* on setting up the publishing house of the RSL "Pashkov mansion";
- \* on broadening the titles of the journals of the RSL "Russian reviewer", "Journal of the Russian State Library about books", "Russian province", "Russian culture without boundaries" (journal of the RSL for Russians in the countries of the Commonwealth of independent states and all over the world);
- \* on resuming the publication of yearbooks of the RSL "Proceedings" and "Account".

The RSL received about 1.8 million roubles (\$300 thousand) from its publishing activity, there were no profits.

## **12. Cataloguing and other technological processes**

The documents, coming in to the stocks of the RSL in the year under review were processed on full scale, they numbered 140 thousand titles, that is 114,5 per cent as compared to the previous year.

The cataloguing of the chief bulk of documents was brought about on the basis of traditional technologies, that is in the typewritten manner.

The automated processing was practiced on a local scale namely:

- author's abstracts 12 thousand entries,
- printed musics 520 entries.

The library worked on the technical, software, technological assurance of the module of the automated cataloguing of documents, inculcated within the framework of the automated information bibliographic system in 1998.

- The bibliographic description of all kinds of documents was carried out in conformity with the national "Rules of compilation of bibliographical description", proceeding from the recommendations of the IFLA. The systematization of documents was backed by the national "Library bibliographic classification".

By way of developing the national cataloguing rules and for the purpose of their further approximation to the international practice the following was prepared:

- Methodological recommendations "Bibliographic description of electronic resources".
- Alterations of the Gost 7.1-84 "Bibliographic description" relative to the form and structure of the title of a bibliographic description (an individual author).
- Work continued on forming the authority file of names of authors of a special category, whose volume makes up three thousand entries.

### **13. Library cooperation**

- The international cooperation of the RSL was carried on with a view to build und mutually use library resources. The following could be related to leading directions of the international cooperation, implemented in different forms in 1997:

- \* elaboration of standards and other standard documents;
- \* international book exchange and interlibrary loan;
- \* creation and materialization of international programmes and projects;
- \* mutual use of data bases and banks in the network mode;
- \* improvement of skills of librarians, exchange of experience.

In this respect the RSL entered into treaties on cooperation, long term programmes, protocols on joint activity with many libraries and institutions of the world.

In 1997 new agreements were signed in addition to the available ones. It was the agreement on cooperation between the RSL and the Library of Congress of the USA, with one of its parts being aimed at inculcating new technologies. The decision was made to set up the Russo-American information and analytical centre. Treaties on cooperation with the Albanian national library and the Shanghai library were framed.

The RSL is a member of and takes part in the work of many international professional organisations and associations such as IFLA, IAML, ISO, LIBER, CDNL, CENL, ABDOS, IBBY and others. The library is engaged in busy cooperation with the UNESCO within the framework of the programme of the modernisation of the RSL and in the international project "Memory of the world", having presented six collections from its stocks for its register.

Last year the library attended 30 international conferences, symposia, seminars, held both in Russia and abroad, it displayed its publishing produce at international exhibitions and fairs in Leipzig, Prague, Frankfurt.

Materials from the stocks of the RSL were shown at touring exhibitions in Germany, the USA, France, in the residence of the American ambassador in Russia, at exhibitions, held in Russia and arranged along with foreign partners: Goethe-Institut, embassies of France, Rumania, the bookselling firm "Martinus Nijhoff" and others.

110 employees of embassies and representations of international organisations attended the reception on the occasion of the 135th anniversary of the library.

- National cooperation.

Being a member of the Russian library association, the RSL is engaged in bustling work in many a section; it performs the functions of the secretariat of the Russian IFLA committee and puts out every year four issues of the "Newsletter of the Russian IFLA committee". The secretariat of the interdepartmental cataloguing is located in the RSL.

The agreement on cooperation between the RSL and the RNB, two national libraries of Russia, concluded in 1996 and envisaging various directions of mutual activities is the most important one on the bilateral level.

- Regional cooperation.

The RSL accommodates the secretariat of the library assembly of Eurasia, bringing together library associations, libraries and librarians. It was called into being in 1992 at the suggestion of librarians of Azerbaijan, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Moldova, Russia, the Ukraine for the purpose of preserving and developing the common cultural, library, information space, working out the coordinated library policy, drawing up joint scientific and cultural programmes, exchanging the experience, improving the skills and training the personnel. According to data of 1996 the library assembly of Eurasia has 40 corporate and 38 individual members from countries of the Commonwealth of independent states. Since 1993 the assembly has been a member of the IFLA and since 1995 a member of the standing commission on culture, science, education, information of the interparliamentary assembly of the Com-

monwealth of independent states.

The main directions of activities of the assembly are as follows:

- 1) Model library code of the Commonwealth of independent states, legislative acts of recommendation.
- 2) Memory of a nation.
- 3) Integrated system of acquiring literature for libraries.
- 4) Integrated automated data base on culture and arts.
- 5) Library personnel.
- 6) Cultural reciprocal action (exhibitions, conferences, days of culture and others).

The structure of the assembly is compounded of sections and commissions. The general meeting of the members of the assembly is the supreme instance. The coordinating board, headed by the chief coordinator elected for the term of four years, is the executive body. The newsletter of the library assembly of Eurasia, appearing twice a year, is the printed organ.

#### **14. Personnel issues**

On the 1st of January 1998 the staff of the RSL made up three thousand, 2200 being occupied. There were 800 vacancies.

As compared to 1996 the number of regular appointments reduced by 14 as a result of putting the structure of the library in order, first of all of the managerial staff and owing to the transformation of small rates of wages into large ones.

The educational level of the staff is as follows in per cent:

- 66,7 - higher education
- 2,3 - incomplete higher education
- 9 - secondary vocational education
- 19 - secondary education (11 forms)
- 3 - incomplete secondary education (yard-keepers, office-cleaners)

Furthermore, the library possesses a rather high research potential. It employs eight doctors of sciences (including three professors) and 155 candidates of sciences.

The youth have the possibility of obtaining the higher library education in a group of the Moscow state university of culture expressly for the staff.

The length of service in the library in per cent:

9 - less than one year

23 - 1 to 5 years

14 - 6 to 10 years

12 - 11 to 15 years

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13 - 16 to 20 years

10 - 21 to 25 years

18 - more than 25 years

The large number of vacancies is the chief impediment in the work, with low wages, lack of the requisite amount of means of automation and mechanization of processes being the cause.

- In the year under review the refinement of the managerial system of the RSL went on, decisions of the ministry of culture of Russia and recommendations of the UNESCO commission of experts being the foundation.

Problems of the managerial activity in the RSL were solved in the following main directions:

- \* perfection of the organisation and functional structure of the library;
- \* document assurance of the managerial processes;
- \* formation and realisation of the personnel policy;
- \* social development of the staff.

The refinement of the managerial system of the library was carried on likewise with the help of experts of the well-known firm "Andersen consulting", which took up collaboration with the RSL in September 1997 on sponsor lines.

- Both the administration and the trade-union committee of the RSL settled problems of the social development of the staff in the main within the framework of the collective agreement. This document is one of the mechanisms of the managerial system, which makes it incumbent on the leadership to pay constant attention to working conditions, problems of remuneration of labour, refinement of the system of various compensations and additional payments, protection of health and organisation of rest of employees.

- The system of training and improvement of skills of the staff carried on. Improving the skills of employees in the domain of application of computer technologies was given major attention

- the seminar for new librarians with higher and secondary education (163 persons), subject seminars in departments, aimed at training in the computer literacy (150 persons).

52 employees graduated from the higher library courses, 24

employees attended the special purpose group at the Moscow state university of culture. 145 employees finished the courses of foreign languages.

Last year the educational department procured three complete sets of modern projection equipment which ameliorated teaching conditions and made for the rise of the efficacy of training.

### **15. Main festive occasions, jubilees, significant events**

1997 was a jubilee year for the library. It was 135 years from the foundation of the first public library in Moscow on the basis of the immensely rich collection of the state chancellor count N.P.Rumyantsev. The programme of celebration consisted of the scientific discussion "The library at the turn of centuries: social and philosophical aspects", a grand session, a concert, meeting of the leadership of the library with heads and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

1997 was likewise a jubilee year for two departments of the library - the department of foreign librarianship and international library relations and the research department "Informkultura". They celebrated their 25th anniversary.

The higher library courses at the RSL celebrated their 50th anniversary. They have made and are continuing to make a big contribution to the training of library personnel.

In 1997 the following scientific arrangements took place in the RSL:

- \* discussion "At the turn of centuries: social and philosophical aspects";
- \* annual scientific and practical conference "Rumyantsev readings-97";
- \* competition of research works of specialists of the RSL devoted to the 850th anniversary of Moscow and the 135th anniversary of the library;
- \* seminar "Conservation of documents - assuring the preservation of documents by means of storage conditions, stabilisation and restoration";
- \* session of the coordinating board of the library assembly of Eurasia;
- \* 5th session of the library assembly of Eurasia;
- \* session of the round table with the theme "N.A.Rubakin: traditions and the present";
- \* seminar "Bibliographic activity of Russian libraries for the purpose of revealing the theological literature";
- \* scientific and practical conference "Role of Russian national libraries within the information and library infrastructure of

the country";

\* session of the council of cooperation of the RSL and the RNL.

**16. Brief statistical dope on the RSL in 1997 (state of January 1, 1998).**

Total volume of the stocks 42,3 million account units

there of active ones 40,7

including foreign publications 12,0

book stock for exchange 1,6

composition of the active stocks

according to the kinds of publications

books 15,7 million copies

journals 12,7 million copies

serials 1,3 million copies

newspapers 620,4 thousand yearly sets

maps 147,8 thousand copies

musics 355,3 thousand copies

theses 713,8 thousand copies

art prints 1,5 million copies

textual broadsheets 1,3 million copies

standard technical and 2,2 million copies

technical documents

microforms 3,6 million account units

audiovisual documents 30,1 thousand account units

archival and handwritten

materials 478,3 thousand copies

unpublished materials on

culture and arts 16,5 thousand copies

showing of one day (on an average)

enrolment of readers 196 persons

attendance of the reading

rooms 4,3 thousand persons

issue of literature (in the rea-

ding rooms, in the interlibrary loan

and others) 33,8 thousand account units

additions of books 1,3 thousand copies