

II^e SECTION.
16^e question.

REGISTRATION OF LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTIONS

by THORVALD SOLBERG

*Register of Copyrights
Washington, D. C.*

Three questions are submitted in connection with the Brussels Conference of Librarians, as follows :

a) How is the catalogue of literary and scientific productions in each country made, and are the deposited copies secured through purchase, obligatory legal deposit, or deposit for copyright registration ; and what department is charged with collecting materials for the catalogue and editing and publishing the latter ?

b) Should the editing and publishing of such catalogue be entrusted to the library in which are deposited the works collected by this means ?

c) With a view to avoiding the regrettable gaps occurring in almost every country, whatever the system employed, would it not be well to recommend an absolute obligation of deposit and to render this more acceptable and more efficacious by payment on a fixed basis for the articles deposited ?

As regards the United States,

There is no press law or other legislation requiring the

deposit of copies except that which is included in the copyright law.

Under the previous copyright laws and under the present law, the deposit of copies is required to be made in the Copyright Office, a department of the Library of Congress, in the case of all articles which are published with a claim of copyright, and in the case of some articles not reproduced for sale.

The copyright law further requires that all such articles shall be catalogued and the catalogue published. The catalogue includes not only the titles of all books which are deposited, but descriptions of original works of art and the titles of periodicals, newspapers, dramas, music, maps, drawings, prints and engravings, oral lectures and addresses, and photographs.

Of all books of importance, the titles are prepared by the Catalogue Division of the Library of Congress. Included are all books for which the Library of Congress furnishes to other libraries in the United States printed title cards. Other books and pamphlets, and periodical contributions, which are also recorded under the legal designation « book », are prepared for the catalogue, in the Copyright Office.

The staff of the Copyright Office also undertakes the editing of the catalogue and the supervision of its printing. The work is printed by the Government Printing Office, the official printing bureau of the United States, and the part containing the catalogue of books is printed in the branch of the Government Printing Office located in the Library of Congress building.

The catalogue as printed is divided into four leading parts.

Part I contains *books, dramas and maps*, and is divided into two divisions : the first group contains important books and books for which printed title cards are supplied by the Library of Congress ; the second contains pamphlets, leaflets, dramatic compositions and maps.

Part II contains *periodicals* deposited with a claim of copyright.

Part III contains all *musical compositions* deposited with claim of copyright.

Part IV contains the miscellaneous deposits, including original works of arts, prints, photographs, *engravings*, chromos and lithographs.

The requirement of the deposit of copies under the copyright law of the United States is practically obligatory. It is intended to accomplish two purposes : first, to secure the registration of all articles claiming copyright in order to establish a *primâ facie* claim to copyright protection ; second, to secure for the Library of Congress, the National Library of the United States, copies of all the literary, dramatic, musical and artistic productions of the United States.

I have purposely refrained from going at length into the question of paying for copies which are required to be deposited under the copyright law. It is obvious that the obligatory deposit under that law imposes an unequal burden upon copyright proprietors, some books being of much greater value than others, and the cheaper and more popular books being often the much more valuable copyright property.

