

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK IN BULGARIA

National Library Week in Dobrich

By Penka Hristova

On May 15, 2006, at 10 a.m., in the foyer of the Dora Gabe Library, the National Library Week was formally initiated under the patronage of Mr. Georgi Pirinski, chairman of the 40th Parliamentary National Assembly. The director of the library, Mrs. Penka Hristova, made a speech "About the Book and the Library" and opened the exhibition "Valuable Publications from the Book-stock of the Dora Gabe Library". An honorary diploma was awarded to Mr. Ventseslav Petkov, who made a donation of over 15,000 volumes and furniture equipment to the library. In connection with the launched campaign "Grant a Book", on behalf of Mrs. D.Nikolova, mayor of Dobrich, were donated books to three school libraries.

On May 17, the director of the library and the chairman of the community center "Yordan Yovkov" met with the mayor of Dobrich to discuss matters concerning the place of public libraries as partners of local authorities; the possibilities for engaging libraries in the strategies, programs and projects for development of the town; ideas about building up a regional library information network; enriching the book-stock and information resources; and technology modernization in the libraries. Later in the video-room of the library was carried out a "Library Salon" meeting of artists and writers of different generations, members of the Writers' Association of Dobrich, the literature and journalist clubs, and representatives of publishing houses.

On May 18, students from the Dobrich branch of Shumen University participated in the "Librarian for One Day" initiative in the library. On May 19, a regional office of the union of library workers was set up in Dobrich. The week was under the slogan "Days of Open Doors", and several activities for encouraging readers were carried out, including a survey of the readers' preferences and the library services. The final event of the week was a meeting with the Member of Parliament from the Dobrich region- Mr. Yassen Penchev.

National Library Week in Plovdiv

By Nely Petrova

Bulgarian libraries had their first National Library Week and the teamwork and high spirits in the library community, and the general excitement and commitment to the library cause were really impressive. The experience was very rewarding and reassuring. Libraries in Bulgaria managed to get organized and draw the attention of the public and of the national and local governments to their activities and new services provided, their new role in society and the problems they have to cope with.

Ivan Vazov Public Library in Plovdiv had planned a variety of events for the National Library Week and carried them out with great success: four exhibitions, a multimedia presentation, a musical and poetic spectacle, meetings with writers, two book premieres, a poetic evening, a Children Reading day, etc. We had Open House during the week, with no fines for overdue books and free registration and reference services. All events had large audiences and proper media coverage by the local TV and radio stations and newspapers. The library made an important step

forward in its relations with the local government through the meeting of the library management with several of its representatives and an MP during the week. Concrete forms of partnership were discussed that will help the library in its mission.

During another major event in Plovdiv – “Plovdiv Reading” /June 7th-11th/, in which the library was a co-organizer alongside with the National Book Centre, Plovdiv Municipality, the International Fair – Plovdiv and the local media, there was a presentation of the books donated by



our American partner, Rangeview Library District. It is a big and excellent selection of books for the English Study in the Children’s Department. The presentation itself was made by several girls (library patrons) with a good command of English who had worked for a couple of weeks before that with the donated books. They did a wonderful job and after their presentation all their friends and classmates checked out one or two books each. The donated books will surely be in active circulation. Almost all the children wished to have pen friends in Colorado, so I

am sending their e-mail addresses to the Rangeview Library District.

National Library Week in Sofia City Library

By Diana Velkova and Kamelia Koneva

The National Library Week program of our library was mainly community oriented. We believe that library advocacy, on the all levels of the authority, depends mainly of the role and significance to the community that they have. If citizens needs and use libraries, the governors could be supporting them.

During The National Library Week our Library, for the first time, announced the chance of getting a free library card. On 18th of May, proclaimed as a “Open Doors Day”, the Sofia City Library issued 139 free library cards. For comparison – The Library makes on the average 60 registrations of new patrons daily. The initiative was approved by the people and librarians. The program was so successful, we have proposed that this be done before the major holidays such as Christmas, Easter and Alphabet day. We will advertise this through the Media and in appropriate places like senior homes, orphanages, unemployed bureaus, and schools.

During National Library Week we offered a special entertainment program for children on unequal social terms. They visited us on 18th of May. At first they had a tour in the Library, than watched video film and participated, together with other children, in meeting with Bulgarian writer. After two days they came again for a street performance. We are in a process of setting up programs for those children and the National Library Week was a very good opportunity to start. We had talks with the children and their teachers. Some of the children like to draw, to paint and to make sculptures. Their teachers complained that they have no trained staff to teach them this subject.

Maybe the children, who are most interested, will visit our Saturday meeting at the Children's Department where one of the subjects is drawing and sculpture. Another possibility is to organize exhibitions with their work here, at the library. At the American Studies Library there are a lot of materials for self-training and the children liked them.

On 21st of May we had a street performance. Students from a Theatre collage played in front of the Library. The goals of the street performance were publicizing the National Library Week, the Bulgarian librarians' message to the governors and to the community and promoting The Library Information Center. We hung in the National Library Week Poster in a visible place. We also used the ULISO documents: "Some Facts About Bulgarian's Libraries", "Public Libraries – Partners of The Local Governments and to The Community" and "ULISO Address" to publicize our activities. During the performance we gave out about 100 promotion lists about Sofia City Library Information Center.

The National Library Week was also a good reason to try to make our work more popular. We sent the materials to a journalist from The National Radio program "Hristo Botev", and she came and interviewed Diana Velkova.

We are proud that our library participated in National Library Week and gave a contribution to the changing role of the Bulgarian libraries. It was pleasure for us work together with our colleagues from the country as we saw our American colleagues doing so on our visit to the US.

National Library Week in Silistra

By Neli Stoilova and Krasi Njaglova

The Regional Library "Partenii Pavlovich" in Silistra celebrated National Library Week with many activities. All events were devoted to the Anniversary of 1900 years of the establishing of the town of Silistra. On May 15th, Library Director Neli Stoilova and staff member Krasi Njaglova attended the exhibition at the National Parliament in Sofia of the "Modern Bulgarian Library" and the subsequent meeting with the Chairman of the Parliament where Director Stoilova described the needs of public libraries in Bulgaria. At the same time, an exhibition was opened at the Silistra library, called "Regional Library 'Partenii Pavlovich' – traditions and present."

The next day was the day of "open doors" with the following events:

- Free library services
- 525 new patrons registered in just one day
- Advertising – young library volunteers circulated and gave to the citizens bookmarks and other materials for the library
- Tour in the library – 18 different groups got a tour in the library and learned about the library and library services
- Reading outside of the library – in front of the building
- "Evening library" for the young adults
- Establishing NGO "Diogen" – president of the NGO is Neli Stoilova, Library Director. The main goal of NGO "Diogen" is to support the library, culture and education.
- Monthly meeting in the library of two City Council standing committees – Standing committee of Culture and Standing committee of culture-historical heritage. Two deputy mayors attended. The only themes of the meeting were library activities and problems.

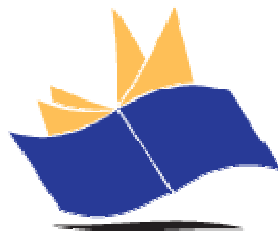
On May 17th, library representatives met with the Governor of the Silistra region and talked about the importance of the library in the community. That evening, a presentation was made to the Silistra City Council. On May 18th, there was a holiday party for patrons, librarians, and friends for to celebrate 25 years of the naming of the library. On May 19th, there were meetings with authors. Professor Rositca Yordanova discussed “Europe: culture and reality.” Young poets read their poems at the archeological ruins. Finally Ruminana Lebedova discussed the work of famous Bulgarian author Stoyan Mihalovsky.

To publicize the activities, the library printed new bookmarks, published a newsletter “Durostotrum – Durstar – Silistra” (recognizing the various names of the town), and published a bibliography “Partenii Pavlovich” during National Library Week. There were 27 publications of the Library in local newspapers and 4 participations in radio transmissions.



Silistra Library employees prepare to visit the Silistra City Council, carrying items showing the library's new logo.

Library teen volunteers distribute literature in front of the library.



**НАЦИОНАЛНА БИБЛИОТЕЧНА
СЕДМИЦА**
15-21 май 2006

OTHER PARTNER LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Regional Library in Stara Zagora - Bemis Public Library, Littleton, Colorado

The Regional Library of Stara Zagora "Zaharii Kniazheski," which has the partnership to Bemis Public Library, Littleton, CO organized an exhibition about July 4th - The Day of Independence of USA. It was for two weeks on the second floor in the library and presented materials and books about the history of Declaration of Independence before 230 years in the USA. There were materials about the history of USA, the geography and special information about the city of Littleton like sights, the nature of Colorado and Littleton region, Indian history. It was held in collaboration with the library-partner in Littleton and with intention to establish one good tradition between the libraries. We will celebrate together the important national holidays of Bulgaria in Bemis Public Library and of USA in the Regional library of Stara Zagora "Zaharii Kniazheski". The interest in the exhibition was so big from our patrons that we decided to present exhibitions on other countries too.



Aurora Public Library, Colorado - Biblioteka Partenii Pavlovich Library in Silistra *Reported by Patti Bateman, Aurora Public Library*

Email correspondence continues between Aurora Public and the Partenii Pavlovich Regional Library in Silistra, sharing library activities, programs and ideas. The librarians in Silistra continue to be amazingly energetic, persistent and creative in their efforts to inform the populace and their government officials on the educational benefits of a strong library program that provides support for the schools, for literacy, and for the ongoing efforts of adults to improve their knowledge base and skills.

Kirk Bateman just returned from a brief visit in Silistra, and personally dropped off a box of popular fiction donated by the Aurora Public Library for adult readers and toured the building. The library building has undergone quite a few improvements and changes in the last year, thanks to the efforts of staff and their leader since Fall 2005 – new Director, Neli Stoylova, whose office is now located on the main floor near the entrance (big sign identifying it as the Director's office) to keep her in the mainstream of activities and make her more accessible to customers. Many new programs have been implemented, cooperation with the local government seems to be very good these days, and the library appears to have taken a major leap forward in its efforts to be a key

player at the center of the community. The library has very nice bookmarks to promote the library's services with photos of the library at the top.

The Reading Marathon that occurred in May drew in many participants, to include students of all ages and even the Mayor. Also during May, the library and friends established a citizen association called "Diogen", which will work for the development library experiences, culture and education.

The Pavlovich Library just won financing for the project "19 keys to Silistra's past," celebration of the anniversary of 1900 years since the establishment of Silistra. The goal is to promote the most interesting objects of culture and history and the heritage of Silistra. They hope to interest and encourage youth to visit and learn more about these objects and that time in history. Soon to come will be 19 young adult expeditions, and the printing a promotional poster and the 19 post cards of Silistra. On November 1st the Library staff will officially deliver to 19 of Silstra's citizens the 19 anniversary keys of the town.



Entrance to the library with its new logo.

Library Director Neli Stoylova with the Mayor of Silistra



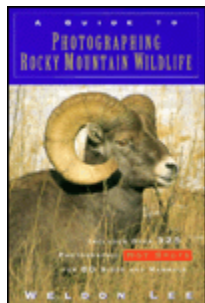
Sioux City Public Library donates encyclopedias to Pazardjik

Reported by Jeanette Bobeen, Sioux City Public Library

The Sioux City Public Library was able to send a 2002 edition of World Book Encyclopedia to the Pazardjik Library to replace their 1989 set. By all reports they very glad to have it and the Director sent us a nice thank you letter. The set left Sioux City March 2 and arrived in Pazardjik April 28.

Westcliffe Publishers donates books to Bulgarian libraries

Reported by Bonnie McCune, Colorado State Library



Rick Wicke, General Manager of Westcliffe Publishers, Englewood, Colorado donated 25 copies of *Photographing Rocky Mountain Wildlife*. ABLE Project Director, Nancy Bolt, carried the books to Bulgaria in a very heavy backpack (!) and distributed them at the ABLE conference. They were gone in a flash. Thank you WESTCLIFFE!

Sofia Central Library continues English language activities

Reported by Diana Velkova, Sofia Central Library

The Sofia Central Library finished their English language program at the end of June and are beginning a summer program. A friend of the Library is the author of "Choral Speak: A Choral Reading Program for Students". One of the books consists of 50 poems and the second is Teacher's Manual. There is a CD as well, with a recorded reading of each poem in the masculine or feminine voice. In August the library is not open for the public and the English-speaking group will meet every week for an hour and read aloud. It will be a good way to practice English pronunciation and to learn more about the great poets in the English language. In the fall they hope to establish a key pal club with the American partner, the Jefferson County Public Library. They hope to use the key-pals to exchange cultural information and improve the English of the Bulgarian partners.

News from the State Institute of Library Studies and Information Technologies

Reported by Dobrinka Stoykova

We were pleased to have Nancy Bolt, former State Librarian in Colorado and ABLE Project Director in the US come to our Institute and teach two workshops. Both of the workshops were on the role of the library in a modern society and included advocacy, marketing, and branding. One of the workshops was for librarians and one was for students. At the ULISO conference I saw some of the librarian participants in the workshop and they said they had already used some of the ideas.

I have worked more with a librarian from the Montana Library and we have developed together a questionnaire about which information the citizens in Montana would like in the CIC. We made a model of a CIC for the library to initiate.

I have also worked more with a librarian who is a Master's candidate with the Institute and who works in the children's department in Sofia City Library. We have developed together a model for CIC for the children, teenagers, and parents. I hope too that sooner or later this will be done

We are also pleased to announce that we have issued our first PhD to Irena Petewa, who visited the U.S. last year.

News from the Iowa State Library

Reported by Barbara Corson

The State Library hosted three visiting Bulgarian librarians from April 5-9, 2006. Anelia Ivanova from Montana, Iliana Ivanova from Dimitrovgrad, and Irina Koleva from Shumen met with civic and library leaders, visited several libraries in central Iowa, and also enjoyed shopping and touring while in Des Moines. The three were finishing up a six-week visit to the United States and had been hosted by Iowa libraries in Bettendorf, Dubuque and Marion.