



The Association of American University Presses, Inc.

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AAUP ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 1976

Address by Robert G. Barnes, Director, Columbia University Press
and President (1975-1976) of
The Association of American University Presses

Ladies, gentlemen, guests, and fellow members of this Association, I shall reverse the customary pattern of talks by Lame Duck Presidents. Rather than conclude with my thanks to the many to whom I am indebted, I prefer to commence on that note. I shall then report briefly on my recent trip to Asia, and conclude with a few comments and suggestions on the future of this Association.

First, my sincere thanks to you, my misguided associates, for electing me to this office. It has been fun all the way: Board meetings, regional meetings, committee meetings, the rare privilege of being your representative in Kyoto and now this splendid Yale meeting. I owe this all to you and I am most grateful to serve.

Second, my thanks to the members of the Board, Chairmen of the committees, and committee members. You were all magnificent. You have served all of us efficiently, effectively, and unstintingly. Your reports merit reading, rereading, and also heeding. We are indebted to you all.

Third, thanks to Carol Franz and Jerry Lewis, to Larry Fees and Florence Cohn, to Alice Baer and Ellen Noble and all others at the Central Office who have coped with my inexperience and with my idiosyncracies with grace and competence. In varying degrees, past and future presidents, have, and will be dependent upon you. You are a great gang and may Will Lockwood and Weldon Kefauver have the good fortune to have all of you serve with them.

Jack Putnam, I have saved my thanks to you till last. When we commenced last June I sensed that yours was a most difficult position. You serve as our spokesman and observer, in industry, government, and academia. You serve, and at the same time lead, 67 masters with energy, consideration, wisdom, and diplomacy. All of us are grateful, but none more than I. I hope you will serve many future Presidents. Thank you, Jack.

Now let me say a few words about my trip to Asia, made possible by a grant from the Asia Foundation supplemented by this Association.

I went expecting to accomplish too much. I returned feeling that I had accomplished too little. The greatest benefit of these International meetings is the opportunity to meet publishers from around the

world, and to share ideas with them, and then hope that tangible benefits will develop. I believe this may happen.

Our first stop on this month-long journey was Kyoto, the cultural center and former capital of Japan. There I attended the meeting of the International Association of Publishers and a concurrent meeting of the International Association of Scholarly Publishers. You have read, or will read, fuller accounts than I shall give of those meetings in Publishers Weekly; or if you wish, you may read the detailed and voluminous proceedings given to all who attended the I.A.P. But let me say I was struck by the similarity of the topics covered there, with the current concerns of this Association. The topics covered sound like a list of the activities of our committees:

- Censorship and the Freedom to Read
- Copyright and the Reprographic Problem
- Cost of and Delays in Obtaining Translation Rights
- Training in Publishing
- The Need for Support of Publishing in Developing Countries
- Transport of Books by Air, Land, and Sea
- Trade Barriers to Books
- The Need to Strengthen Trade & Professional Organizations

I recite this list, not only to report to you, but to urge your continued interest in these subjects and to urge intensified efforts in some.

As an example, let me cite one item from Sandy Thatcher's Copyright Committee report. That report suggested that this committee be used as "a central clearing house for information from individual presses about copyright violations." How many of us have observed instances of unlawful reprographic reproduction on our campuses? And how many of us have reported these instances? To the former question, the answer is "too many," and to the latter question, "too few."

The I.A.S.P. meeting was all too brief, with only 10 minutes allowed for the 15 countries represented to report on their country's concerns. At this meeting Marsh Jeanneret and Miriam Brokaw were elected President and Secretary, respectively. Under their leadership, I believe we shall hear more from I.A.S.P. than in the past.

So much for the two conventions. After leaving Japan, I commenced my assignment for the Asia Foundation visiting Taipei, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Singapore. In and around these four cities I visited 18 educational, research, or publishing organizations. All of these are involved with, or are planning some form of scholarly publishing. My contacts were with University Presidents, Deans, Publishing Committee Chairmen.

In such a short trip, full of language difficulties and culture shocks, one must guard against returning to pose as an Expert on Asian Scholarly Publishing. One obtains only superficial impressions. If one is lucky,