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WORKERS' CO-OPERATIVE
PRODUCTIVE
AND
ARTISANAL SOCIETIES

in

P R I N T I N G

and the

G R A P H I C A R T S

in

FRANCE

GREAT BRITAIN

ISRAEL

ITALY

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

Auxiliary Committee

of

*Workers' Co-operative Productive
and Artisanal Societies*

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FOREWORD

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It is a great pleasure to me to introduce the first of the reports initiated by the I.C.A. Auxiliary Committee of Workers' Co-operative Productive and Artisanal Societies.

This report groups together the outstanding accounts of the position of the Workers' Co-operative Productive and Artisanal Societies in printing and graphic Arts, which our Committee was given by the English, French, Israeli and Italian delegates, during its last meeting (Basle, September the 4th, 1955).

Owing to material reasons, the very interesting report given by our Czecho-Slovak friends is missing. We hope that they will excuse this blank, which will certainly be filled in at the very first opportunity.

And now, I must thank all those whose disinterested assistance allowed this first booklet to be carried out, mainly :

- the reporters, who performed useful work;
- the Auxiliary Committee Secretary, who managed to have these reports written out and collected together;
- the International Co-operative Alliance, which contributed the translating, the typing and the printing of these texts.

The bringing out of this booklet will prove, I think, a happy stage in our Committee's life. I believe that, owing to the spirit that is now breathing through this Committee and its members, and with the kindly help of the International Co-operative Alliance, this first success will not be a short lived one.

Antoine CHARIAL

Member of the Central Committee of the
International Co-operative Alliance

President of the Auxiliary Committee of
Workers' Co-operative Productive and Ar-
tisanal Societies.

P R E F A C E

It is an agreeable duty to me to join in President CHARIAL's thanks. He will, however, allow me to rectify two omissions :

- first, the very important personal share which he took in this attempt, the success of which to-day rejoices him;

- then, the French printing co-operative productive societies' contribution in the fine aspect of this booklet.

For the first time, reliable informations are made available for all those who wish to study the Workers' Co-operative Productive and Artisanal Societies activity in Printing and the Graphic Arts.

These informations are not yet complete, but their bringing out will, we feel, enable all the countries, members of the International Co-operative Alliance, and where Co-operative Societies are operating in this trade, to send us new informations, which we will publish in the same way.

But, of course, according to the conclusions which our Paris and Basle meetings arrived at, we do not intend to stop at this first attempt.

On our next meeting in Moscow (September the 3rd, 1956), we shall hear the reports on the Workers' Co-operative Productive and Artisanal Societies in the Building trades and public works. These reports will be, in their turn, published in the same aspect.

Thus shall we, bit by bit, gather documents of constantly increasing interest about Workers' Co-operative Productive and Artisanal Societies all around the world.

That was one of our Committee's main ends. This object, thanks to the International Co-operative Alliance, is now on a fair way to be attained.

Ermanno MONDINI

Secretary of the
Auxiliary Committee of Workers' Co-operative
Productive and Artisanal Societies

F R A N C E

Retrospect.

A report on Workers' Productive Societies in the Book Industries would be incomplete if it did not place them, from the very beginning, at the head of the fight of the French workers for economic emancipation, that is, in the position which they have occupied in the social history of our country.

Of all the French workers who fought in the past for greater freedom and better conditions, the workers of the book trade stand out by virtue of their enthusiasm and exceptional militant qualities. They were among the first to realise that, through the practice of an élite trade, they had a fighting weapon in their hands and that the printed thought could be a more effective means to their own freedom and that of others than a brutal revolt.

The history of the workers of the book trade is rich in learning. The co-operators of to-day, strong in the experience of the past and faithful to their forebears, may justly boast of this history. They are the direct descendants of those who, in political parties, in trade unions and in the Co-operative Movement, fought the good fight in the course of which were to be forged the high traditions which remain the glory of their trade.

Under these conditions, therefore, it is not surprising that our Book-Trade Co-operatives occupy a very special place in our Movement. They represent an element of stability and continuity not always found in other trades. They are inspired by an ever active ideal, a strong esprit de corps and a loyalty to principles which nothing has been able to touch. But they have also the care to jealously maintain their particular identity, their freedom of action and thought and their internal independence.

Most of the Co-operatives were founded at the time of social conflicts to fight against unemployment and exploitation by employers, but also as the result of a considered aim: to abolish wage earning and prove that the workers are capable of managing enterprises.

While some Societies were constituted in the years 1866 and 1869, the majority were constituted between 1901 and 1911, 1906 being the year when the Movement gained great impetus as a result of a long period of strike for a nine-hour day.

Since then they have had many ups and downs and have only been able to remain in existence and to prosper through continual sacrifices.

The first obstacle which they encountered was a financial one: the lack of money is to some extent the chronic sickness which afflicts Workers' Co-operative Societies in all trades. They threw themselves into their venture with such inadequate capital (a few hundred francs, for example, in 1906) that the lack of it was to be a great drawback in the years of development, those precarious years when the fate of the enterprise is in the balance.

Under these conditions, certain professional needs, particularly the purchase of expensive materials, gave rise to serious problems which had to be overcome whatever the cost. Every time the solution was found, a courageous solution which involved deferring the payment of wages, sometimes in stopping them altogether, in working longer hours without pay and even in asking the co-operators for extra contributions, drawn mostly from meagre savings or from an already greatly reduced family budget.

That is how our Book-Trade Societies have existed, under conditions of anxiety and instability, for many years, until finally the perseverance, faith, hard work and unselfishness of every member accomplished the awaited miracle.

To-day they owe their success wholly to themselves, and among those who now find themselves at the head of a prosperous enterprise, none forgets that this success has only been possible by the sacrifices and self-denial of their predecessors. It is in this way that working class virtues are conceived and perpetuated.

A Few Figures.

In comparison with the whole strength of our Movement, and particularly with the Building Societies, our Book-Trade Societies form a sound but small group. Our Federation of the Book Trade and Graphic Industries has only 52 member Societies, distributed as follows -

Typographic, lithographic and offset printing	41
Stapling, binding, packing, processing of paper ...	4
Publishing, journals	4
Colouring, distribution and miscellaneous	3

(We should point out in passing that these figures include a weekly paper and two important dailies which circulate in several departments, and as far as we know, they are the only papers in the whole French daily press produced co-operatively).

In 1954 -

Turnover was	2,412,188,000 Frs.
Profit was	95,761,000 Frs.
Wages paid to staff totalled	964,875,000 Frs.

Staff employed numbered 1,610 - 1,040 members and 570 others.

30% to 32% of the profits were distributed to labour.

Social capital for all Societies amounted to .. 140,148,000 Frs.

We would specially note that -

1. The turnover could be much greater if, in a number of Societies, paper, which in general represents 30% to 40% of the value of the order, were not supplied by the customer himself. That is to say that, in many cases, the essential part of the turnover consists of workers' wages.

2. The modest profit in relation to turnover shows that our Societies practise a fair price policy and that it is possible to manage an enterprise efficiently while trying to lower costs of labour and services.

3. The capital shown only represents amounts subscribed in shares. The value of materials and equipment has not been taken into account.

These figures speak for themselves and we can rejoice at the vitality of Societies which can present such a balance sheet in spite of the difficulties inherent in their juridical form and their social character.

If we examine the figures of the trade, that is, of the whole of the private enterprise book trade, we find that the number of French Printing Enterprises is estimated at about 7,655. Of this number, it can be said that 6,800 are artisanal in structure, since 5,500 employ less than 5 workers and 1,300 from 5 to 10 workers. Of the others - 400 have from 10 to 20 workers, 300 have from 20 to 50, 100 have from 50 to 100, 30 have from 100 to 200, 20 have from 200 to 500, and 5 have more than 500 workers.

The total number of workers employed in the trade is about 60,000.

First Fact Established: We find that this is an industry consisting very largely of small and medium enterprises, the annual turnover of which would be around 100 milliards.

Second Fact Established: While, in relation to other trades, the book-trade represents only a small sector, it must be recognised that our Co-operatives occupy a very modest place in that sector.

Why is this? We will answer this question, but our reply can only be incomplete. In fact, too many different elements are involved for us to be able, within the limits of this report, to give a detailed analysis of the situation.

For many years it has been practically impossible to create new Printing Co-operatives, not because the human elements are lacking, but because the constitution of such Societies requires capital which neither we nor the workers possess.

It must be realised that a modern printing machine costs to-day, according to make and type, from 2 to 13 million francs, a type-setting machine from 3 to 10 million, a massicot $1\frac{1}{2}$ million francs, a folding machine from 4 to 5 million. The price of type varies from 1,200 to 1,500 francs per kilo, according to the body. To these costs must be added electric motors, the complete equipment of the printing shop, the essential internal stocks.

A medium-sized Co-operative Printing Works, employing between 50 and 60 workers and having an annual turnover of about 120 million, would require a minimum capital of 200 million Frs.

This explains the weakness of our Societies, and so long as insufficient credits are allocated to Workers' Co-operation to meet the needs of its Societies, particularly those of the book trade, the situation will remain the same and we shall have to be content with only a small number of affiliates.

This state of things encourages our Federation to devote all its energies to maintaining and developing its existing enterprises, rather than throwing itself into the creation of new ones, the result of which for the moment could only be useless expenditure. Our Federation must not neglect the present, which never ceases to preoccupy us, having regard to the many problems which confront the trade and which we must solve for our Societies if we want them to continue to live and prosper.

The Essential Problem of To-day.

Our Societies, as we have shown, were for the most part constituted nearly fifty years ago. Some, at the cost of a great effort, have succeeded in equipping themselves according to their needs, and their material and installation rival those of many private enterprises. Others, on the other hand, often due to lack of means, have been overtaken and to-day find themselves using out-of-date machinery which no

longer fulfils the needs of a constantly developing trade. In these two cases we find work-shops which must continually be modernised, others which must acquire the machines which they lack. As far as the former are concerned, they must be allowed to expand and satisfy their ever growing clientèle, to lower their prices and to produce more in order to meet competition. As for the others, they are obliged to maintain themselves amid the discarding of methods of production which technical progress is causing to-day, or fall behind and perhaps perish.

That is the choice which faces our Societies.

What is the position in the private enterprise camp? Firstly, a host of artisanal enterprises whose ridiculously low selling prices upset transactions because they benefit from fiscal and social advantages - which our Societies do not enjoy - because they are protected by favourable legislation and because the work is done at home and without time limits. Hence they can offer terms with which even the large private enterprises cannot compete.

Secondly, there are the limited companies or private businesses. These enterprises, well equipped, well run, have resources and, although they may suffer from rather limited capital, they will find a way to meet the needs of the moment.

We should also mention the large private businesses (Insurance Companies, Banks, etc.) which, owing to the increase in office printing machines, do not need printers' services and, lastly, civil service departments, whose orders represented a considerable revenue for the trade and which tend to meet their own minor requirements.

So, as far as markets are concerned, our Societies, for a more or less long period, will be faced with circumstances which may seriously affect their activity.

That is the commercial aspect of the problem, but there is another, a technical aspect.

For several years we have assisted in a real revolution in a continuously changing trade. All the knowledge acquired is now out of date and, in every display, every exhibition, one sees machines of all kinds, of all formats and for all uses which replace the old ones to advantage and relegate to the distant past all those which, only a little while ago, could be considered as the last word in progress.

So our Societies have a double problem: to resist competition and to take swift action in the field of equipment so as not to be left behind.

Basically, these two problems are one. In order to satisfy the customer, production must be quick, good and cheap; to produce quickly, well and cheaply demands the machinery which the graphic industry puts on the market to-day and which is purchased by those who have the money.

We have said that our Societies have inadequate financial resources and their equipment is not only modest but often old-fashioned. This raises serious questions. Under these conditions, how will they be able to resist the impulse which is manifesting itself and which will be more accentuated to-morrow? How can they execute work at the same rhythm, the same price and of equal quality as those with modern machinery? How can they compete with national firms and perhaps, to-morrow, with foreign firms which are already operating in French markets?

That, we repeat, is problem number ONE, the vital question which preoccupies the leaders of our Movement more than any other.

Conclusion

As we come to the end of this too long and yet too short report, we would say:

We have introduced you to our Workers' Productive Societies of the Book Trade, grouped in their trade organisation. We have told you of their efforts, their achievements, the spirit which animates them, but we have not concealed their weaknesses and their problems. We hope that this information may be of some use in that the sister Societies will draw some lessons from it.

Without minimising their difficulties, but also without exaggerating them, our Societies examine them with their habitual calm and patience. Courage is not the least of the virtues of co-operative workers. In the past they have been through periods of extreme difficulty and, just when all seemed lost, recovery has been achieved. It will be the same this time, the only difference being that to-day they are armed for the fight and to help them they have devoted Central Organisations - the General Confederation and the Federation of the Book Trade.

Certainly the competing capitalist enterprises are powerful. But what they lack, and what is our strength and our pride, is human capital whose moral and professional quality makes up for material inadequacies. What they lack are our social achievement, our care for work well done and for the well-being of our workers, the ideal which animates our members, that devotion and unselfishness which made possible the birth of Co-operation and its development and which will lead to its triumph. For the co-operative formula is so deeply rooted, it fulfils so completely the demands of logic and social peace, of justice and brotherhood, that it will overcome the obstacles which confront it.

G R E A T B R I T A I N

Four Printing Societies are members of the Co-operative Productive Federation. The largest of these, Leicester Co-operative Printing Society, has a membership of 658 and employs 144 workers. In addition to all types of letter-press printing they have lithographic and box-making plant. The other three at Bristol, Derby and Nottingham, confine their activities to letter-press printing.

In total the statistics for these four societies are as follows:-

Membership	1076
Employees	226
Share Capital	£40,744
Reserve Funds	£33,041
Value of Output (1953)	£208,675
Bonus paid to Workers (1953) .	£2,316
Annual Surplus (1953)	£10,000

Value of work undertaken for Co-operative Societies was £125,000 or 60% of the total output. Sales to Government Departments and Local Authorities amounted to £3,620, less than 2% of the total. The remainder of the sales, rather more than 38% of the total, are largely composed of Trade Union and Labour Party work.

There are a number of Productive Societies engaged in the printing industry which are not members of the Federation. So far as we are aware ten such Societies are still operating the full principles of Co-operative Co-partnership. In size they range from Birmingham Printers with 101 employees to Long Eaton Printers with 4 employees only. Total statistics relating to these Societies are as follows:-

Members	968
Employees	676
Value of Output (1953)	£260,938

It will be seen that, in total, the Societies not in membership with the Federation undertake a larger volume of work than the four Societies which are members. Many of those at present outside the Federation were members until 1947 but ceased their association owing to a dispute over fees payable by members. Attempts made in 1952 to persuade them to rejoin, were not successful.

The Co-operative Printing Society, Ltd., which is no longer a Productive Society within the definition adopted by the Federation but still pays a bonus to employees, undertook printing work in 1953 to the value of £712,349. The two Wholesale Societies, during that same year, reported the output of printing departments as:-

C.W.S.	£2,475,359
S.C.W.S.	<u>£1,179,386</u>
	<u>£3,654,745</u>

In addition, the Co-operative Press, Ltd., undertakes some commercial printing but we have no information of the extent of this for it is not separated, in the published accounts, from their normal trading activities.

The position can, therefore, be summarised as follows:-

Value of production for year 1953:-

By Society-members of the C.P.F.	£208,675	4,25%
By Productive Societies not in C.P.F. .	260,938	5,35%
By Co-operative Printing Society	712,349	14,85%
By Wholesale Societies	3,654,745	75,55%
	<u>£4,836,707</u>	<u>100,00% *</u>

* Excluding work undertaken by Co-operative Press, Ltd.

I S R A E L

The Productive Co-operative Movement in Israel - Agricultural and Industrial - had its beginnings in 1908, four or five years after the first socialist-minded Zionist youth had come to this country, driven by the desire to create an independent Jewish State with a socialist and co-operative background.

In those days of Turkish rule this was a backward country, which had a small Jewish community of about 70,000, subsisting mainly on primitive farming, orange growing, trade, crafts and free professions. Thus the young pioneers had to lay the foundation for new forms of economic life, that is, for an autonomous labour co-operative economy, rural and urban. This, incidentally, was also the beginning of the Productive Co-operative Movement.

One of the survivals from those early days of trial in various branches of industrial co-operation is the "Ahduth" ("Unity") Printing Press, founded in 1910 in Jerusalem by a small group of workers.

"Ahduth" is thus considered the most senior member of the family of Productive Co-operatives in Israel. In the course of the years it weathered many crises, especially during World War I. It recovered, however, and tempered by adversity, continued on its way. At present it occupies a respected position in the Printers' Industry of the country, is housed in a four-storey building of its own, boasts modern equipment, and has a working membership of over 60; it publishes 19 periodicals (weeklies, bi-weeklies, monthlies), as well as books, catalogues and the usual printed matter. The majority of its members are deeply co-operative-minded; many take an active part in the workers' public life. Some devote their time to the activities of the Printers' Trade Union.

"Hapoel-Hatsa'ir" ("Young Worker"), another Co-operative Printing Press enjoying a high standing in the industry, was established in 1923. It is also accommodated in a spacious building of its own, is equipped with up-to-date machinery, and is fortunate in having a staff of first-class printing experts and an efficient administration. Publishes 22 periodicals. As printers of text books and books of reference it figures foremost in the trade. Working membership - 60. Members of this Society also occupy a position of esteem in the country's social and cultural life. One of them is a member of the Hebrew Language Academy.

In 1936 a Co-operative Printers', "Ot" ("Letter"), was established in Haifa. It is the largest plant of its kind in the district; its personnel - 50.

1937 witnessed the establishment of a Co-operative Printing Press in Jerusalem, "Ahva" ("Fraternity"). It has just over 20 workers; occupies its own building; is primarily engaged on Government orders and orders for the Zionist Organisation, institutions of the General Labour Federation, etc.

In 1947 a second Printers' Co-operative was set up in Jerusalem - the Ronald Printing Press. Originally a private undertaking, its owner, Mr. Ronald, joined with his hired workers, and, supported by the Co-operative Productive Societies Union, turned it into a co-operative enterprise. Its present working force - 14.

In 1950 the Israel Photoengravers' Co-operative Society was established in Tel Aviv. This, too, was originally a private enterprise - a partnership between several private owners. With this Union's assistance and support it was eventually turned into a Co-operative Society, the parties to the Society being its former owners and the workers. It is fitted out with modern equipment, and turns out intricate graphic work of high quality; does work for the press, publishers, the Government, Labour Co-operative Institutions, and others.

In 1949 a Co-operative by the name of "Hakorekh" ("Book-binder"), was founded in Holon, a suburb of Tel Aviv, with a slightly different set-up.

In this case, the Co-operative was originally started as a book-binding enterprise and a printing department added and expanded later on. It has a working force of over 50. Its members, all World War II invalids, arrived here after the war from different countries. They came from Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Tripolitania. This Society is a fine example of self-rehabilitation work, inasmuch as it enables war invalids to recover their general equilibrium in an atmosphere of co-operation in a productive enterprise of their own, which enjoys a good reputation, earned by its high-class workmanship, efficient service, and good management.

In 1950 a Co-operative of Printers, "Or" ("The Light") was set up in Jaffa. All its members come from Bulgaria; most of the printed material in Bulgarian as well as the daily issued for Bulgarian immigrants are handled by this Co-operative. Here are some figures:-

1. Members-Workers 301.
2. The Annual Gross Income in 1954 of the 8 existing Printing Co-operatives was I£1,150,000 (or \$650,000).
3. The Annual Payroll - I£700,000 (or \$400,000).

* * * *

Unlike most other branches of industry in the Productive Co-operative Movement, the Printing line underwent no trials of dissolution. The Printers' Co-operatives enumerated above are well established, well run, and are a source of inspiration and encouragement to us in moments of weakness and stress, when confronted with the usual problems facing the Movement, or when beset by doubts as to its ideological and economic stability. For, if the "Ahduth" Co-operative, which is now in its fifth decade, continues with unabated vigour, it is a compensation for many crises and disappointments that crop up from time to time in other branches of industrial co-operation.

At the same time one cannot overlook the fact that Co-operative Printing in Israel has not gained the aspired foothold, at any rate not quantitatively; our Printers' Co-operatives cover barely 15% of the total printing work done. There are two main reasons for it: One financial, the other technical.

When the Printing Co-operative was established first in Jerusalem in 1910, the capital investment required was very small indeed. A room for the plant, a small manual press, 250 kg. of type. While in those days this was a comparatively big venture, and one that called for much effort, it bears no comparison to what is needed at present to run an efficient business of this kind. For in this time of competition no undertaking can exist without well-appointed accommodation and modern equipment which involves considerable investment of hard currency. Workers candidates for membership in the Printing Co-operatives do not, of course, possess these funds.

The other difficulty is the lack of skilled workers. Post-war immigration, though on a large scale, consisted mainly of people from backward Oriental countries with, at best, very poor technical training.

A Printers' Training School was founded by our General Co-operative Federation two years ago, but it will take a few years before we will have additional printing experts to be entrusted with responsible jobs at big printing co-operatives.

The problems confronting the existing Printers' Co-operatives, as well as the Productive Co-operative Societies' Union in its effort to increase the number of undertakings in this line of co-operative industry, are:-

1. Vocational Training and Technical Know-how in various branches of Printing - a problem that could be solved either by our sending members abroad to study the trade, or by inviting foreign experts here to act as instructors;

2. Replacement of old and obsolete equipment, and the introduction of new methods, such as Rotogravure, etc. In this case the problem is mainly one of financing, either in the form of new investment, or by way of long-term credit facilities at low interest.

Lately there has arisen a question of co-operation between the Societies themselves in accepting and executing orders, fixing prices, exchanging information and experts, lending machinery, etc. A proposition has also been put forth for a holding company to be set up as an initial step towards eventual amalgamation of the Societies into one national Printers' Co-operative Society.

The opposition with which this proposal has met is due first to deeply rooted conservatism, and second to economic and social considerations, which frighten the co-operative managements into restraint. The Productive Co-operative Societies' Union for its part is favourably inclined towards the establishment of a holding company aiming at an ultimate amalgamation for the various Co-operatives into one Society.

I T A L Y

CONFEDERAZIONE COOPERATIVA ITALIANA

Workers' Co-operatives in Printing and the Graphic Arts in Italy are represented in Confederazione Cooperativa Italiana by fifteen Societies, most of which are concerned with publishing.

The oldest ones were constituted in 1885 and 1890; but some date from immediately after the war.

Geographically the Co-operatives exist in Sicily, Latium, Lombardy, Sardinia, Venezia, Tuscany, the Marches and Calabria. As will be seen, their distribution is rather uniform, although the most important and stable are the Societies in Rome and Milan.

Their origin is mainly the result of a union of specialised workers who, after the destruction during the war of the industrial establishments in which they worked, thought to unite in a Co-operative Organisation. In this they were assisted by the legislative measures introduced by the Government immediately after the war.

The older Societies were constituted by means of careful persuasion on the part of a particularly advanced group of workers, in the desire to contribute to national development, with which was joined the idea of the spiritual and fraternal unity of all workers.

The Publishing Co-operatives were constituted for the purpose of supplying their members with publications at a low price. They then widened their activity to include the true function of publishing, by publishing very important works in Italy and abroad. The principal Co-operatives of this type originated in Universities and were formed by students who carried on this work after concluding their studies and choosing a profession.

The "Cooperativa Farmaceutica", founded in 1890, developed and is still developing important publishing activities. Its first important publication, which dates back to 1908, was "The Practical Scientific Dictionary of all Ancient and Modern Medicaments, with general rules of pharmaceutical practice and special rules of sanitary art". This unique publication had a wide circulation and the first edition was soon out of print, so that several further editions had to be published.

At different times the Society has published an important "Medical Series", also a remarkable "Collection on Human Development".

The Co-operative Society "Editrice Studium", formed following a vote of the Siena Assembly of the F.U.C.I. on 1st May, 1927, has for its object to put publishing services at the disposal of students and, later on, of doctors and professional men. Its activity depends more on the quality of the work than on quantity. By a methodical effort, the Society succeeded in publishing a series of Collections which still meet with the approval of the most exacting readers and have earned it a well deserved reputation for high quality, reliable work. Some of its publications which merit special mention are the very recent "Universale", of high cultural content, in which the most celebrated scholars in Italy deal, in easy style, with subjects which educated men cannot ignore; the "Dictionaries" which facilitate the students' research in particular sectors; the series "Culture" for the intellectual examination and development of knowledge, which deal with present-day subjects; the "Examinations of Conscience" for the moral analysis of modern problems; "Theological Treatises for the Laity"; "Socio-Political Questions"; "Note-books on Professional Ethics"; "University Texts". The Co-operative also publishes the famous monthly review of life and culture "Studium", founded in 1904. As in the far off days of its university origins, it places side by side, in veritable rivalry, ideas, masters and disciples of higher education.

In an activity which is still limited to the University sector, it should be pointed out that the Co-operative "La Goliardica", which has developed important publishing activities, fixes limited publishing prices and has valuable capital and equipment.

Of a very special character is the Co-operative "Relieurs Appianesi" (Appian Binders), formed in a predominantly industrial province. How easy it is to understand that, in such a milieu, the task of constituting workers' co-operative organisations falls upon two categories of workers: the highly skilled artisanal categories or those consisting of workers who, by the re-organisation of production and economic recovery, find themselves in need. It was, in fact, the needs of the dependents of a great graphic industry which gave rise to the singular organisation of the Co-operative "Relieurs Appianesi". Its huge workshop, with many electric machines, presents a picture of enthusiastic activity. Here is carried out all the work of artistic binding, which, with the typographical art, constitutes a great Appian tradition. The Society also undertakes gold engraving and metal thread binding.

It is a pleasure to mention also the Society "E.C.O.", which is, if we can permit ourselves the expression, the official organisation of the Italian Co-operative Confederation in the trade. The "E.C.O." is the editor of the weekly "Italia Cooperativa", the organ of the Italian Co-operative Confederation. It also undertakes the publication of social registers for Societies in membership with the Confederation, publishes highly cultural works, also those dealing with the principal questions of interest to the Co-operative Movement.

On the whole, one can say that, among the Societies which belong to the Confederation, the publishing group has the most important activity, rather than the simply typographical group (this second group experiences great difficulties especially at the present time).

The main problems, as in all other countries, are finance and the purchase of modern machinery. It is essential to bring production methods up to date in order to survive, but this demands ever more modern machinery and large bank credits, unless activity is to be limited in one or two branches of the typographical industry.

Closer collaboration between the different Typographical and Publishing Co-operatives can only lead to an improvement in the present position, which will be in the best interests of the Workers' Co-operative Movement as a whole.

LEGA NAZIONALE DELLE COOPERATIVE

Workers' Co-operation in Printing and Graphic Arts in Italy has illustrious origins which go back to the period of the Renaissance.

The first Co-operative was founded in Milan in 1865 on the initiative of Luigi Luzzatti, the eminent politician and great Italian legislator, and consisted of "a few but selected artisans". The Cooperativa Tipografica Azzoguidi at Bologna, which is still active, followed. The Cooperativa Tipografica degli Operai, also still in existence, was constituted in Milan. Inspired by Paolo Galeati (worthy heir of the Traditions of Bodoni), the Cooperativa Tipografica Editrice was the next to be formed, which today lives up to its name and to which the Italian Government, in 1905, gave the task of printing the national edition of the already published or unpublished works of Giuseppe Mazzini. The same Society has also the credit for their re-publication, commenced recently in a massive work of 56 volumes containing a collection of letters, of 38 political volumes, of 6 literary volumes, also 6 others.

At present, Workers' Co-operation in Printing is represented by a group of enterprises which are inspired by solidarity between the workers in the graphic arts and by strict mutualist principles. They have machinery capable of carrying out any work and each year their output totals hundreds of millions of lire. Most of these enterprises are members of Lega Nazionale delle Cooperative. The following should have special mention -

Fonderia Tipografica Cooperativa, Milan, with 44 members;
Cooperativa Poligrafici Antonio Gramsci, Genoa, with 226 members;
Cooperativa Tipografica Patavina, Padua, with 36 members;
Cooperativa Società Tipografica Editrice Bolognese (STEB), Bologna, with 600 members;
Cooperativa Tipografica Azzoguidi, Bologna, with 69 members;
Cooperativa Tipografica Editrice Paolo Galeati, Imola, with 25 members;
Cooperativa Tipografi ed Affini, Modena, with 25 members;
Cooperativa Tipografici Operai, Reggio Emilia, with 34 members;
Società Tipografica Parmense, with 16 members;
Cooperativa Operaia Tipografi "L'Unità", Bologna, with 29 members;
Cooperativa Bresciana Tipografi, Brescia, with 26 members;
Cooperativa Poligrafica Romana, Rome, with 16 members.

Società Tipografica Editrice Bolognese (STEB) can justly be regarded as one of the strongest Italian printing enterprises.

The Society has at present 600 members, 160 of whom are permanently employed. The establishment, which is in the industrial district of Bologna and extends over about 7,000 square metres, of which 5,000 are

completely covered, is today valued at 200 million lire and has equipment and machinery valued at 400 million lire; its clientèle includes the most important Italian firms - Zanichelli, Cappelli, Sansoni, Vallardi, Le Monnier, Barbera, etc. It has a zinc-engraving department which can undertake graphic reproductions of all kinds, in addition to the usual printing department, a "roto-calco" and an "offset" department, equipped for work of all kinds. All its equipment is very modern. The mechanical type-setting department is equipped according to the most modern technical ideas (monotype, teletype). The make-up department can execute any kind of work of preparation for all types of editorial production, ordinary and luxury, as well as cartoons, small plates, etc.

Fonderia Tipografica Cooperativa, Milan, which won gold and silver medals at the Milan Exhibitions 1894-1906 and the Rome Exhibition in 1929, has a very highly developed department for the production of typographical equipment, as well as departments for the manufacture of type for mechanical and manual type-setting.

Cooperativa Poligrafici Antonio Gramsci, Genoa, Cooperativa Azzoguidi, Bologna, and Cooperativa Paolo Galeati, Imola, also have very highly perfected equipment, particularly for book publishing. The two latter Societies are now equipped with automatic machinery.

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The fundamental demands of these Co-operatives arise from the conditions of the market which, in Italy today, presents many difficulties owing to the economic crisis, brought about by a number of factors. For instance, the price of paper, which, as a result of the monopoly of the market held by certain paper enterprises, also the need to import the raw materials for manufacture, is dearer than in any other country, in spite of the fact that Italy is a great paper producer. Government action is completely inadequate: in fact, the Ente Nazionale Carta Cellulosa, which should guarantee supplies of paper at official prices (after having indemnified the paper-making concerns) cannot carry out its task because of the opposition of the paper monopoly; this is proved by the fact that, in order to get paper quickly and of the required quality, one must go to the free market and pay higher prices.

Then there are other heavy production costs (electricity, transport, etc.), the lack of working capital and, above all, the depression on the book market, which is so general that only very small editions can be printed which increases selling prices and reduces the efficiency of the printing works, which, as is well known, depends upon the full use of their machinery.

Another factor in the crisis is the excessive number of enterprises (medium, small and very small) in relation to the demand of the Italian

public; it follows that the competition between these small enterprises is relentless and that, frequently, work is carried out at a loss.

In spite of this, the Italian Printing Co-operatives have succeeded in building up their own clientèle, mainly from Co-operative Organisations.

In addition to the above-mentioned demands, which are made by all enterprises, without distinction, the Co-operatives demand the widening of financial legislative measures on the part of the State, in order to modernise and increase their equipment, as has been done in other industrial and agricultural sectors. This applies particularly to small Societies which, owing to inadequate equipment as a result of a shortage of capital, have to bear heavy production costs and, consequently, are seriously affected by the market crisis.