

REVIEWS

Journals of Co-operative Interest

by

STEPHEN DRODGE

On this occasion the reviews section deals entirely with journals devoted to, or with a strong interest in Co-operation. It goes without saying that an overview of this nature is highly selective, and this places an obligation on the reviewer to state briefly the principles of selection. These are: (1) only journals received by the Co-operative College Library are included (but I hope that covers the major titles in our field); (2) it is taken as superfluous to include such widely known and available journals as Co-operative News and Co-operative Marketing and Management; (3) only journals containing reasonably substantial articles have been included; (4) all titles covered are believed to be current.

A. ACADEMIC JOURNALS

Annals of Public and Co-operative Economy: (CIRIEC, 9 rue des Acacias, 1227 Geneva, Switzerland). Quarterly. Most, but not all, issues have articles on Co-operation, with particular emphasis on workers' Co-operatives. This is an authoritative and prestigious publication with a strong bias towards formal economics. Recent topics include Co-operative democracy, Mondragon, Co-operatives in India, with treatment varying from simply serious to somewhere beyond the capacities of a non-economist such as me. A major source of information and analysis, but certainly not an easy read.

Communautes: Archives de Sciences Sociales
de la Co-operation et du Developpment

(Bureau d'Etudes Co-operatives et Communautaires, 7 Avenue Franco-Russe, Paris VII eme). Quarterly. Has a considerable, but not exclusively Co-operative content. Co-operative coverage centres on France and the francophone world, but not rigidly, and has, as the journal's sub-title suggests, a strong sociological bias, which to some extent sets it apart from most academic work on Co-operatives, where there has been a tendency, at least in recent years, to emphasise the economic aspects of Co-operation. Unfortunately the journal is published in French only, but the articles, though solid, do not generally present very high barriers for those with a limited knowledge of the language. Recent topics include studies of Co-operative education at Antigoni and Co-operative development in a Vietnamese village. A study by Yves Chevalier of worker-members of productive societies in Burgundy appeared in issue 35 (1975) and seems to me a valuable contribution which appears to have been neglected in this country.

Co-operative Scientific Quarterly (Spoldzielczy
Kwartalnik Naukowy, Warszawa 1, Jasna 1, Poland).

Quarterly. Produced by the Polish Co-operative Research Institution, this is a journal of English language summaries of articles appearing in Polish in the parent journal of the same name. Its usefulness is therefore limited, but not negligible, as the summaries are reasonably substantial (up to four or five pages) and serve to acquaint the readers with what is evidently an active research programme.

Oxford Agrarian Studies (Institute of Agricultural Economics, University of Oxford, Dartington House, Little Clarendon Street, Oxford). Annual. By no means every issue contains Co-operative material, but this journal has included a number of substantial articles on agricultural Co-operation, particularly on its organisational aspects. Not perhaps a major source of Co-operative study, but certainly one to be aware of.

Rivista della Cooperazione (Istituto Italiano di Studi Co-operativi "Luigi Luzzatti", Via Francesco Siacchi 9, 00197 Rome, Italy). Quarterly. A wide-ranging academic journal within the field of Co-operation and related subjects. Special attention is given to Italy, but coverage extends much further. If your Italian is as primitive as mine you will find the text of most articles in Rivista fairly technical and very tough going indeed. Nevertheless it is a potentially useful source of information.

B. Non-academic journals

Centrosoyus Review (35 Studencheskaye Street, Moscow 121 165 USSR). Monthly. Czechoslovak Co-operator (Tesnov 5, Prague 1, Czechoslovakia). Quarterly. Polish Co-operative Review (Warszawa 1, Jasna 1, Poland). These are grouped together as official magazines of East European state Co-operative enterprises. They are glossy and popular in format, but in addition to briefer notes about events and people all three of the magazines do contain serious and reasonably substantial articles on different aspects of Co-operation in their respective countries. The Czech and Polish magazines include material on all types of Co-operatives, the Russian journal confines itself to Centrosoyus and its consumer co-operative activities.

Co-op Consumers (Co-op. Consumers FDB Roskildevej 65 DK - 2620 Albertslund, Denmark; UK subscriptions may be placed with the Co-operative Union, Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester.) Quarterly. The most recent ICA specialist committee journal. It contains relatively short non-technical articles which go beyond consumers' Co-operation itself and tackle related subjects such as consumerism in general. Coverage is world-wide.

Co-operative News Digest (Reserve Bank of India, Agricultural Credit Dept. Bombay). Monthly. In part this journal is exactly what its title states, but a large section of each issue is given over to discussion articles on a much wider range of Co-operative topics than those obviously associated with its sponsoring body. These articles tend to be reports on or descriptions of particular projects, usually in India, rather than theoretical contributions. The bulk of the journal is in English.

Co-operative Times (John Parkinson Education and Research, 46 High Street, Solihull, West Midlands). Quarterly. Lively and often provocative articles on many aspects of Co-operation, particularly with regard to the British Co-operative Movement. Often has a political edge. Sometimes includes historical material, a rarity among the journals reviewed here.

I.C.T.C. Review (International Co-operative Training Centre, Co-operative College, Stanford Hall, Loughborough, Leics). Annual. The first number appeared in 1981, and it is hoped that the publication will become a regular feature of college activity. The Review partly outlines developments at the

I.C.T.C., but articles also explore areas of training and education relevant to Co-operatives. At present it largely represents work emanating from the I.C.T.C.

Public Enterprise (Public Enterprise Group, 15 Manor Drive, Aylesbury, Bucks). Six-monthly. The Public Enterprise Group is the British section of CIRIEC, and, like Annals, the journal is by no means purely Co-operative in content. It has, nevertheless, a substantial co-operative presence, mainly articles on workers' Co-operatives, and indeed one quite recent number was given over entirely to workers' Co-operation. Articles are purposeful and sometimes fairly technical, but keep to a fairly brief format.

Review of International Co-operation (International Co-operative Alliance, 11 Upper Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9PA). Quarterly. The official and premier journal of the I.C.A. Over the years this journal has carried substantial articles, brief discussions and news notes from an enormous range of countries on practically every aspect of Co-operation. In particular it is a means of communication within the world-wide Movement, and contains digests of many conferences and seminars, but discussion articles also receive ample space.

Note of the Author

STEPHEN DRODGE is Librarian of the Co-operative College and member of I.C.A. Librarians' Working Party. Previously spent four years in public library service.