

**1958:** "Towards a Cataloging Code for Persian Materials" was one of 31 grants CLR awarded during its second year of operation. The \$8,966 grant, to Nasser Sharify, was followed by a \$3,612 grant in 1959 to support publication of the code. No standardized code had previously existed for Persian materials.

Nasser Sharify, on leave from his position as deputy director of the Library of Parliament of Iran, came to the United States from Tehran in 1953 to study at the School of Library Service, at Columbia University. After earning his master of science degree there in 1954, he became a member of the staff of the Library of Congress. While a descriptive cataloger at LC, he was responsible for the cataloging of Persian materials. He returned to the School of Library Service in 1955 for advanced study and selected cataloging as his major area of emphasis. His book, *Cataloging of Persian Works, Including Rules for Transliteration, Entry and Description*, published by the American Library Association in 1959, is the revised version of his dissertation.

The following description was provided in the second annual report of the Council on Library Resources, Inc., for the period ending June 30, 1958, p. 11.

The Council has also sought to encourage the development of a cataloging standard for a geographical area where no such standard now exists. There has been no generally accepted cataloging code in Iran, and no generally accepted rules for cataloging Persian publications in Western libraries. In libraries outside of Iran such publications are cataloged according to local rules, which among other things results in many different representations of an individual author's name. Correspondingly, this means within Iran a lack of the basic standards which have been found in other countries essential to the effective organization of library resources. As a result of two grants to Dr. Nasser Sharify, Deputy Parliamentary Librarian of Iran on leave, a code for cataloging Persian books has been developed and will be published by the American Library Association. It is anticipated that this publication, which carries to a new field certain standards which already enjoy wide application, may in time encourage the development of norms having a similar basis of wide acceptability where none now exist.

CLR President Verner W. Clapp articulates his vision for a future with "one library" in this conclusion to the second annual report. In subsequent posts, we'll highlight some of the mechanical devices that he refers to.

## CONCLUSION

In reviewing the fiscal year 1958, it becomes evident that the library world parallels the larger world, a larger world ever growing smaller. What may be done in Lübeck or London will have its effect on the catalogs of Stanford and Harvard; and the techniques of photography—and perhaps someday those of telefacsimile also—promise to reduce the barriers to inquiry by strides as great as did the invention of printing from movable type five hundred years ago. The improvement of the mechanisms used by libraries is not to be dreaded as the encroachment of the machine upon intellectual work. Just as the printing press, the card catalog, the pneumatic tube and the book carrier have contributed to the liberation rather than the limitations of the mind's inquiry, so too may other mechanical devices, even automata, serve the same end. But not by themselves. All mechanisms are but tools, extensions of the body's or the mind's reach; and in library work their improvement must reflect improvement in preparation for the work through training, or organization, or cooperation. Only so may these mechanisms be expected to bring closer the day when the resources of the world's libraries may constitute "one library" to which all may have access, wherever they may be.

VERNER W. CLAPP  
*President*