PSEUDONYMOUS WORK

(TECHNICAL NOTE, 18)

The paper Treatment of pseudonym by M M Shukla (Herald lib st 2;1963; 14-9) is a lucid account of the subject. I am particularly gratified that the author belongs to the new generation of Indian librarians. I have been hungering for long to get such contributions from the younger librarians. I wish more of them come forward with similar contributions. The CCC has extended the meaning of the term 'Pseudonym' for cataloguing purposes. This, Shukla has pointed out very clearly.

After reading his note, I am inclined to feel that it is unnecessary to add the Descriptive Element 'Psend' to the Heading, if the title page gives only the pseudonym in place of the author's name. The prescription of it in Rule 5125 of CCC is merely the persistence of a tradition without sanction in the Canon of Ascertainability. However, I would prefer to preserve Rule 5125 in this amended form. This is because occurrence of a term such as 'X Y Z' in the place of the author's name in the title page should not lead a cataloguer to ignore it because it does not appear to be the name of a person.

In his discussion of Rule 51251 of CCC, Shukla has interpreted the term 'subordinated manner' to mean occupying a later position in the title page. This is not however the only way of indicating subordination. It can also be indicated by typographical variation. Apart from this, his application of my statistical principles to the choice of the heading for a pseudonymous book, on the analogy of the application of that principle for the choice of the entry element in a name, does not appear to be correct. The statistical principle is used only to select one of the words in a word-group for use as the entry element. It cannot be used to determine the choice between two different word-groups used to denote one and the same person.

Apart from this, in the light of the other points raised by Shukla, I am inclined to amend some of the other rules in CCC as follows:

51251 If the title-page gives the real name of the author also in a subordinated manner, it is to be added in circular brackets after the pseudonym. The real name of the author is to be preceded by the term 'Pseud of'. The bracket is to be preceded by a comma.

Example:

TWAIN (Mark), (Pseud of Samuel Langhorne Clemens).

512511 If the title-page gives the real name of the author and adds the Pseudonym in a subordinated manner, the former is to be chosen for the heading. The latter is to be added after it and enclosed in circular brackets. The pseudonym of the author is to be preceded by 'Pseud'. The bracket is to be preceded by a comma.

The remaining four rules on the subject should be amended analogously. The examples should also be amended in conformity with the new rules.

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