

net news

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 1977. The NETA News is the newsletter of the New England Translators Assoc'n.*

Editor: Alice Berglund

Assistant Editor: Marianne Warnick

(Ed. Office: 35 Catherine Drive Peabody, MA 01960)

SEPTEMBER 1977 MEETING — September 22 (Thursday evening)

Our September meeting will be held at Harvard in Jefferson Lab 263 (Same place as Nov. '76 meeting—see map below). The Translation Roundtable will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the meeting proper at 8:15. The Roundtable will be a discussion of the French passage previously published in the News and re-published here. Our meeting will include a short business meeting: We would like to redetermine a day for our regular meeting, since many of our members have conflicts on Tuesday evenings, and perhaps to plan alternate-month "social" gatherings where we could get together over coffee at a local restaurant. In addition, we will have a formal vote on our slate of officers for 77-78. Bill Grimes and Alice Berglund will discuss the ATA Workshop on Water Resources held in Denver in July. We will conclude with a Problem Corner. Refreshments will be served.

NETA UPDATE

It has been a long summer, and since too few of us were available for regular meetings, these were cancelled. However, now that the cooler days of autumn have arrived, we look forward to another year of NETA meetings, roundtables, and socials.

For instance, we intend to have a joint meeting with the Goethe Institute in December—so please bear it in mind. The topic of the program will be Translation. Bodo Reichenbach is in charge and several NETA members will participate in a panel presentation.

As you may recall, our May meeting was cancelled due to a freak snowstorm. Our speaker for that night, Mrs. Betty Brociner of Lincoln Labs, has so far not been able to schedule another time for us.

May was a busy time for those of us who went to the FIT Convention in Montreal; our June meeting focussed on the events in Montreal. Translators, it appears, have the same problems, and share the same experiences, no matter what country they work in.

A resolution, called the Nairobi resolution, entitled "Draft recommendation on the legal protection of translators and translations and the practical means to improve the status of translators" was drafted by FIT and copies were given to the participants. We have copies of this paper—of interest to practising translators—and would be happy to forward a copy upon request. (Please send request to AB, 35 Catherine Dr., Peabody MA 01960 and enclose \$1.00 to cover

xeroxing and postage.) Also at our June meeting—the Roundtable involved a Russian passage on hydrology that certainly had its pitfalls. Our later visit to Colorado shed some light on the technical aspects of the passage!

Bob Abilock was kind enough to bring along and discuss a number of dictionaries published in East Germany that are of practical interest to the technical translator. These are available from Adler in NYC.

Also, our '76-'77 slate of officers was nominated to serve another term. The officers are: Bill Grimes, President; Alice Berglund, Vice President; and Rudy Heller, Secretary-Treasurer.

OF INTEREST TO RUSSIAN TRANSLATORS

President Carter renewed the USSR-USA Scientific Cooperation Agreement last July for another five years. One of the cooperative programs involved is the Bureau of Reclamation project, made known to us through the ATA Chronicle. Another program, mentioned in the evening news recently, is an Energy Fusion cooperative effort; the theoretical work now in progress in this field is two-fold: Laser beam blasting of H and the study of plasma motion—for the purpose of producing super-high temperatures. Because it is safer than nuclear energy, this energy source will be developed extensively within the next 5 years. So—Russian translator-physicists: *cherchez la source!* (Sorry, I can't offer any names or gov't agencies to address—AB).

Remember the controversy between Lavoisier and Lomonosov? According to a chemistry text (Keenan/Wood, General College Chemistry, 1971), "The facts necessary to support the law of conservation of mass were correlated by M.V. Lomonosov, a Russian, in 1776. Perhaps because of translation difficulties, his work was not widely known in Western Europe. Antoine Lavoisier, a Frenchman, formulated the law independently in 1783." Herewith, another example of the law of translation=communication.

DICTIONARY POOL UPDATE

Members of the dictionary pool should forward cards on their new dictionaries to me as soon as possible. Most of the participants have already done so, but I am still waiting for a few. (Any new member may join the pool if: (1) He is a member of NETA in good standing; (2) He possesses at least 10 specialized dictionaries; and (3) He is willing to provide his time for answering the inquiries of others. In addition, an initial charge of \$10.00 is made to cover our costs—AB

*The NETA is a regional chapter of the ATA, the American Translators Association, a national professional society.

DUES

Anyone who has not paid his June-Dec. '77 dues must be paid up by Sept. 30 or his name will be dropped from the membership list. Rudy Heller will be on hand to collect dues at our September meeting. Thank you.

OF INTEREST TO GERMAN TRANSLATORS

From the Christian Science Monitor: "WWII records may hold secrets of Germany's synthetic fuel": A research team at Texas A & M Univ. has been tracing energy records of Nazi Germany to learn how Hitler waged war almost totally with synthetic fuels. Dr. Richard E. Wainerdi heads the German Document Retrieval Project. Dr. Wainerdi's research team has uncovered more than a million pages of German industrial documents dealing with synthetic energy processes, most of them ignored since 1945. The researchers are indexing the documents and cataloging. Dr. Wainerdi asserts that there has never been a similar opportunity in modern history to investigate the entire industrial records of a country whose scientific and industrial expertise on this subject was so advanced. The \$150,000 cost of the program so far has been underwritten by 3 major US corporations, but the project may run another five years and cost several million dollars. Dr. Wainerdi also states, "If we prevent merely the commission of a single mistake in the construction of the reactor or a demonstration plant, our project will pay for itself."

Here, then, is a good opportunity for German translator-chemists!

ON-GOING EDUCATION FOR TRANSLATORS

As was mentioned in a previous issue of NETA News, correspondence courses are now being offered by many major universities, either for college credit or professional advancement.

Two universities should be mentioned in particular: The University of Wisconsin, Independent Study—Extension offers more than 400 courses in arts, social, and natural sciences. Individual attention is given to the student who enrolls and course materials include tapes, practical exercises, and textbook study. The cost of a course is approx. \$60.—100, including texts. Address: 432 No. Lake St., Madison Wisconsin 53706. A free catalog is available.

Ohio University (Extension Div., Independent Study, 302 Tupper Hall, Athens, Ohio 45701) offers 3 types of courses: (1) Course credit by examination (a relatively unstructured course); (2) Independent study courses (similar to those given by Wisconsin); and (3) Independent study projects (any course, except a laboratory course from the Ohio U bulletin may be taken by correspondence—a proposal and contract

for the project will be drawn up.) Ohio U also offers a free independent study catalog.

Harvard Extension—705 Holyoke Center, Harvard U., 1350 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138, offers 225 courses of instruction, in the evening, open to credit and non-credit students. Tuition is relatively low (although it is more expensive this year than last) and courses are for the most part taught by Harvard professors. A catalog is available; classes begin the week of Sept. 19. (It should be noted that Polish and Ukrainian are offered this year!)

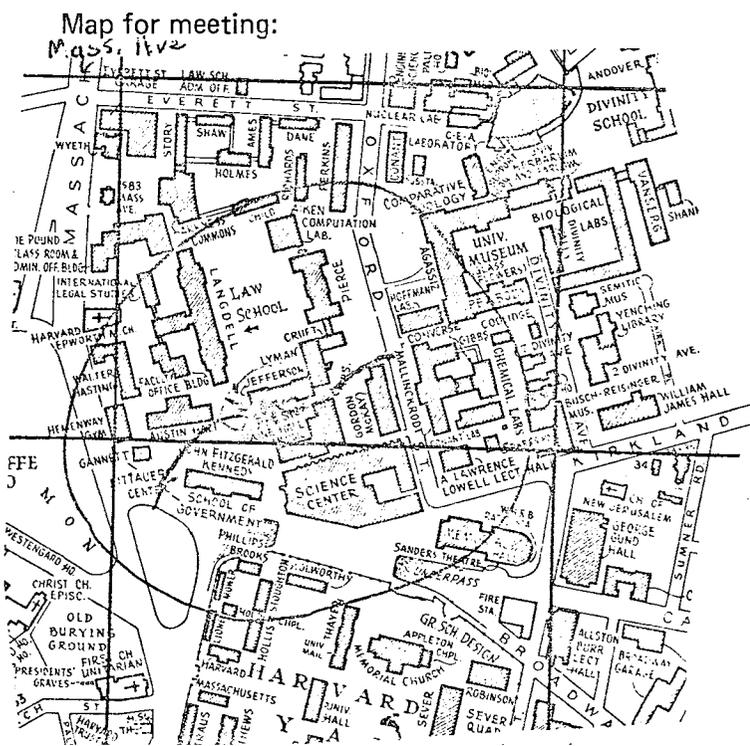
UMass—Boston has extended the regular class day to 9:30 p.m. and charges only \$54.50 for a 3-unit course.

Northeastern University offers a State-of-the-Arts Program for professional development. Courses include: Materials identification, Mass spectroscopy, Corrosion engineering, Modern industrial marketing, etc., etc. More than 50 courses are offered in a variety of technical, medical, and management-related areas and meet at NU's Boston, Burlington and Weston campuses once a week, 2 hrs. in the evening. Call or write: W.L. Kierstead, Director, State-of-the-Arts Program, Center for Continuing Education, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass. 02115, 437-2607, 2610.

More on INDIAN LANGUAGES

According to the Boston Globe, school-age members of the Yakima Indian tribe in Washington will soon be learning their language, Mamachat. On July 18, the first Yakima language dictionary was published, with state and local officials in attendance. A 5-week workshop was held for teachers and aides who will teach Mamachat in the public schools.

—contributed by Marianne Warnick



ATA & LOCAL TRANSLATOR GROUPS

ATA President Roy Tinsley recently gave Mo Rubiano, a member of the ATA Board (and Publications Manager at Kodak, Rochester) the assignment of working with local groups to accomplish the following goals:

1. Consolidate and develop existing local groups and encourage new groups, not indiscriminately, but where they appear justified.
2. Develop a regional organization consisting of regional divisions of local chapters and groups. This would eventually provide for local, regional, and national meetings and conventions.

Mo Rubiano accepted the assignment, and sent me (maybe others also) a note asking for ideas as to how the above might be done. The following is part of my reply:

"COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

The starting and running of regional groups of translators (or of any other group, I suppose) requires someone on the spot with knowledge of local conditions and a good supply of energy. ATA cannot provide "union organizers" to run around the country and get things going. What can it (or an ATA committee) do?

- 1) Announce the committee's existence in the Chronicle and suggest that anyone interested in organizing a local group contact it.
- 2) When contacted, it can point to the information we already have: the ATA Bylaws paragraphs on Chapters; the items in recent Chronicles in the "From the Chapters" column; the regional newsletters.
- 3) It can sponsor what you might call "seed events". The Washington 1975 ATA Convention was the seed event that got me fired up into organizing the Boston group, and the present Austin, TX group was, I am told, spawned by the Southwest Regional Meeting organized by Pat Newman in 1974. A less elaborate event might be simply someone giving a talk with a social hour afterward. One could write to ATA members who have something to say and do some traveling and ask them to let the committee know if they are going to be in a city with a number of translators but no organization. Then a local person would have to get a room (probably in a university), and a notice would go into the Chronicle. Translators would meet; someone might get inspired to arrange regular meetings. At any rate, nothing would be lost.
- 4) Make a list of possible things to do at translator meetings. Sources for these are: regional newsletters, past convention programs, newsletters of foreign translator societies."

Do you agree/disagree? Ideas about ATA's role in regional organization are invited; write to:

Mr. Moises Rubiano
343 State Street
Rochester, NY 14650

—Isabel Leonard

REGIONAL NEWSLETTERS—Exchange

I am now collecting a full file of regional newsletters from Ben Teague (who collects and distributes to all of the chapters). Although I have brought them to meetings in the past, it seems there is little time for the members to read them, or else they are forgotten. So—anyone who would like to see the newsletters as they appear (we usually get a batch every 2 months or so), please let me know. We will then start a mail distribution procedure. A list will be made up of those interested and each participant will read and forward to the next person on the list—eventually they should end up back here. Other ideas? —AB

FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND WORLD TRADE

Jolande Ruppert is a Swiss-American educator and author who lives in Atlanta and teaches languages privately. In a recent article in the World Trade Journal, she discusses the necessity for those engaging in international business to be able to communicate in the language of the country they are dealing with. If the businessman himself is unwilling or unable to learn the foreign language, it is essential that he hire a professional interpreter or translator, and/or a bilingual secretary.

Ms. Ruppert goes on to explain the differences between an interpreter, translator, and a bilingual secretary, and she outlines the extensive training required for each profession.

The author points out that the program for an interpreter includes seven semesters of graduate studies. This training should include every aspect of the language being studied as well as the laws, commerce, science, literature, and cultural background of the country. In addition, the interpreter must spend many hours in live sessions covering every field in which he intends to work. Since there is a great deal of responsibility involved, as well as the long and expensive training, the interpreter's average fee of \$180 per day plus expenses for common languages and simple texts is well justified.

A translator's training includes five semesters of graduate work. He should be a specialist in the field in which he is working—technical, commercial, legal, scientific or literary—and he should be able to produce a "readable and clearly understandable piece of translation". He should also be aware of the importance of deadlines. Since there is wide variety in translation projects, rates depend on several factors, such as difficulty and length of text, difficulty of the language involved, and deadline.

Although a bilingual secretary does not qualify as an interpreter or translator, she is often expected to be able to take dictation and handle correspondence in two languages. Her salary usually depends on her experience, general education, and on work load. She should, of course, be paid more than a secretary who

(cont. p.4)

has none of the above qualifications.

A businessman may decide to do without the services of an interpreter, translator, or bilingual assistant. He may not wish to study a foreign language, and may try to handle the work himself with the aid of a few dictionaries. He will quickly find that it is impossible to rely on this method. For instance, he may want to order "octagon-shaped nozzles" from a company in Germany. After looking up the words in a German dictionary, he places his order for "achteck form Schnauze". He will be very surprised to find that the German company is unable to fill his order because it has nothing to do with animal snouts, which is what the German word "Schnauze" means. He should have ordered: "Achteckig geformte Düsen". This kind of mistake can happen very easily, especially in German and French, and familiarity with the language is essential in order to avoid similar errors. In any case, the businessman dealing with a foreign country is much more likely to be successful if he knows the language or hires a competent bilingual assistant.

If, on the other hand, our businessman decides to study a foreign language, where is the best place to go for training? He has several choices, including colleges, special language schools and individual instruction. In the colleges, languages can be taken in the regular curriculum or as electives. The student can take two or four-year courses, depending on whether he selects a language as a major or an elective. In a two-year course, grammar, syntax, and a short survey of literature are covered. There is very little spoken language. Non-credit evening classes offer various programs, but he must investigate the course content in order to determine whether or not it will correspond to his needs.

Ms. Ruppert emphasizes that it is very important that *the businessman* choose the right school or best-qualified person, and that he have the "will and persistence to learn". He must learn to speak and to think *in the foreign language*, and he must be thoroughly familiar with the vocabulary for the business in which he makes a living. Drilling grammar or memorizing a text-book will be of no help when "confronted with the reality of conversation while transacting foreign business".

Cost is an important consideration when choosing a language course. Private language training can run from \$120 to \$1200 per month, exclusive of books. The price difference depends on the number of course hours. One can spend as much as \$3,000 for a four-to-six-week course. The choice depends on the individual and the type of instruction he desires. However, his money will be well-spent, and will eventually appear

"in his net income, his better understanding of international trade, . . . and his personal outlook."

Another important factor is which languages to learn. Ms. Ruppert advises the businessman to learn French, German, Spanish and/or Italian, because a great deal of business is transacted with Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France, and South America. With the increase in international trade, communications with Saudi Arabia and other areas of the world are becoming more common.

Saudi Arabia is now offering well-paid jobs in construction, mechanical and medical fields. In addition to professional ability, the jobs require some knowledge of Arabic. Teachers of Arabic have been swamped with students interested in learning the language.

Ms. Ruppert includes a few words of explanation of the Arabic language. There are many forms of Arabic, including: Egyptian Arabic, Iranian, Syrian, Palestinian, and others. However, the study of classical Arabic will definitely aid communication in these countries. Until the 18th century, Arabic was also spoken in Spain, Madagascar, and the island of Pantellaria, which is located between Sicily and Tunisia. Its alphabet consists of only 28 letters, and the language has only two articles and two tenses, so it is not so difficult as most people imagine.

Finally, the author states that an international company should always hire a bilingual secretary because "a company that calls itself international should not lack the capability to handle its business affairs in the language of its foreign partner. In fact, it should have order forms, bills of lading and other documents printed in English, and subtitled in the foreign."

As a matter of policy European companies insist that their secretaries be bilingual and well-educated. Department managers must also be bilingual, since they are expected to understand the letters they sign. Secretaries in overseas companies must complete intensive language training as well as regular commercial training, and usually have spent one year in the country of the language in which they intend to work.

Ms. Ruppert concludes with the following statement: "For Americans, international business . . . is a new undertaking, and there is still a lot to learn. There is, however, a great future in it, and it should not be clouded by any language inadequacy."

* * *

I know personally a president of one of the large industrial companies on 128, who asserts that he not only hires translator, interpreters, and bilingual secretaries as they are needed, but also takes a 6-month intensive course at Berlitz himself every time his company ventures forth into new markets. He says that it certainly makes a difference to his prospective customers in Saudi Arabia that he can converse "a little bit" in Arabic with them and has with his party an adroit interpreter who is totally familiar with his business as well.—AB

ABSENTEE BALLOT—Return to Rudy Heller
30 Lincoln St.
Newton Highlands MA 02161

The following officers were nominated for the term September '77—June '78:

William J. Grimes, President
Alice Berglund, Vice President
Rudy Heller, Secretary-Treasurer

If you wish to vote for these officers, check here _____.

If you wish to write in other names, please do so below:

_____ for _____
_____ for _____
_____ for _____

Thank you. Return ballot by Sept. 30.

(Instructions for balloting: Do not sign ballot. Place in small envelope and seal. Place in larger envelope and return to Rudy. All ballots will be placed aside until Oct. 5, when they will be opened and tabulated. Results will be published in next meeting notice.)

The following is an unpaid advertisement, hopefully of interest. (I have their previous catalog & find it very useful—I'll bring it to the Sept. meeting.—AB)

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SSA

ROUNDTABLE PASSAGE FOR SEPTEMBER

Secteur industriel

La place de l'électricité sur le marché industriel est plus importante qu'on ne le croit généralement : le tiers environ de la consommation totale d'énergie de ce secteur, soit nettement plus que le gaz et le charbon réunis et 3% seulement de moins que le pétrole.

Il reste que cette place s'explique pour l'instant par l'importance des marchés spécifiques, force motrice, éclairage, électrolyse, tandis que les applications de l'électricité dans les usages thermiques sont encore réduites, hors le domaine des hautes températures.

Notons également les efforts très importants faits dans le domaine du séchage thermodynamique. Il s'agit en effet d'un domaine très important quant aux quantités d'énergie primaire mobilisées : quelque 4 millions de tonnes d'équivalent pétrole. La consommation d'énergie par litre d'eau éliminée représente en effet deux ou trois fois la chaleur latente de vaporisation de l'eau. Des économies sont donc réalisables en développant par exemple des procédés de séchage par pompe à chaleur et par rayonnements. Les recherches concernent le séchage

- par pompes à chaleur classiques (température condenseur 50°C),
- par pompes à chaleur "haute température" : carreaux de plâtre, produits pulvérulents, séchage du papier, de produits agricoles,
- en vapeur surchauffée par recompression de vapeur,
- associant pompes à chaleur et rayonnements (bois, papier, etc.).

En 1975, s'agissant des "produits" déjà au point,

les actions ont porté principalement sur des applications où l'utilisation de l'électricité conduit – contrairement à certains préjugés fondés sur des conclusions trop rapides tirées du théorème de Carnot – à d'importantes économies d'énergie primaire :

- séchage du bois (économie de 50%),
- thermomaturation électrique du béton (économie de 35%),
- fusion de l'aluminium en fonderie pour l'exécution des pièces moulées (économie de 35%),
- chauffage avant forgeage des billettes d'acier sous forme de lopins recuits (économie de 20 à 40%),
- trempe superficielle des pièces en acier (diminution des consommations d'énergie primaire comprise entre 2 et 3),
- fusion du laiton (économie de 35 à 40% à laquelle s'ajoute encore celle due à la diminution des pertes au feu),
- chariot de manutention (économie de 50%),
- chauffage électrique des locaux industriels associé à des récupérations de chaleur dès lors que les apports internes d'atelier sont importants.

Faut-il souligner à cette occasion que lorsque la substitution de l'électricité aux processus traditionnels conduit à une économie d'énergie primaire, cela signifie qu'à l'utilisation, 1 kWh remplace plus de 2,4 thermies d'énergie primaire. On est loin du coefficient de conversion théorique (1 kWh = 0,86 thermie) sur lequel on se fonde abusivement pour récuser l'emploi pratique de l'électricité à la place des combustibles.

Sans qu'il soit possible de rendre compte de toutes les actions menées dans le secteur industriel pour aider les professionnels à une meilleure utilisation de l'énergie, notons enfin l'inflexion toute nouvelle en direction des industries agricoles et alimentaires dont la modernisation et l'expansion constituent désormais un des axes prioritaires du développement industriel.

Beschluss
gofaßt:PASSAGE FOR OCTOBER
ROUNDTABLE

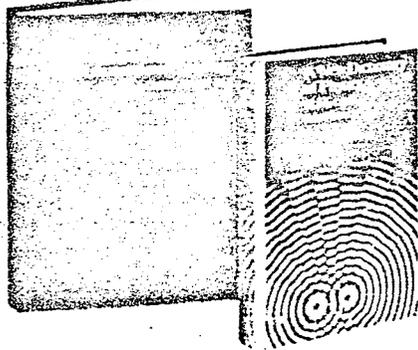
Dem Antrag der Beklagten wird stattgegeben und die Klage des Glen A. vom 20. 11. 1970 mit Wirkung vom 31. 1. 1972 als zurückgenommen erklärt.

Die Kosten und Gebühren des Verfahrens, die für das Schiedsgericht auf 6.000.-- sfrs festgesetzt werden, hat der Kläger zu tragen, dem außerdem neben den eigenen auch die Kosten der Beklagten zur Last fallen.

Gegen diesen Beschluss steht unbeschadet der Rechtsbehelfe nach §§ 612 ff ZPO kein ordentliches Rechtsmittel offen.

G r ü n d e :

Als vorbereitende Maßnahme für die Durchführung des mit der Einbringung der Klage beim Schiedsgericht anhängig gemachten Verfahrens hat der Obmann des Schiedsgerichtes mit Verfügung vom 30. 12. 1970 zur Sicherung der Verfahrenskosten dem Kläger und der Beklagten die Hinterlegung eines Kostenvorschusses von 15.000 sfrs vorgeschrieben. Auf Antrag der Beklagten war dem Kläger zur Sicherung der Prozeßkosten für den Fall des Unterliegens des Klägers außerdem eine Kautions von 2.000 sfrs auferlegt worden. Die Beklagte hat die vorgeschriebene Sicherheitsleistung termingerecht erbracht. Der Kläger jedoch beantragte mit Schreiben vom 5. 1. 1971 eine Fristverlängerung bis 15. 2. 1971. Diesem Antrag wurde mit Schiedsgerichtsverfügung vom 8. 1. 1971 stattgegeben. Mit neuerlichem Antrag vom 28. 1. 1971 hat der Kläger die Möglichkeit und die Bereitschaft zum Erlag der vorgeschriebenen Vorschüsse erklärt, gleichzeitig jedoch zum Zwecke der Beschaffung der erforderlichen Summe eine Fristverlängerung um weitere 6 Wochen ersucht. Mit Verfügung vom 3. 2. 1971 wurde in Würdigung der Antragsgründe die Frist zur Einzahlung des zur Sicherung der Verfahrenskosten vorgeschriebenen Vorschusses bis 31. 3. 1971 neuerlich erstreckt. Für die Kautions von 2.000 sfrs wurde keine Fristverlängerung mehr gewährt, weil deren Erlag der Beklagten als Voraussetzung für die Klagebeantwortung zugestanden worden war. Auf Grund einer Mahnung erhielt das Schieds-



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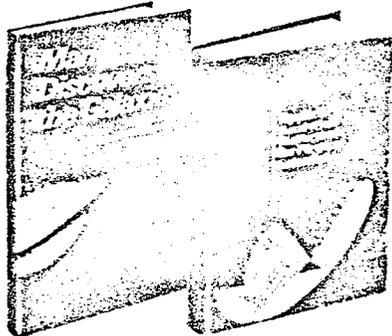
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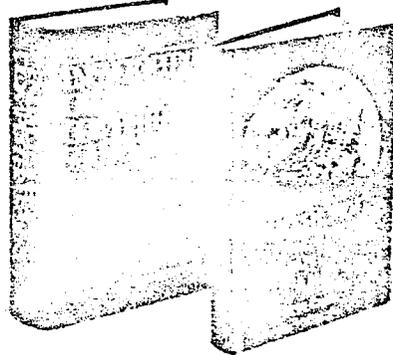
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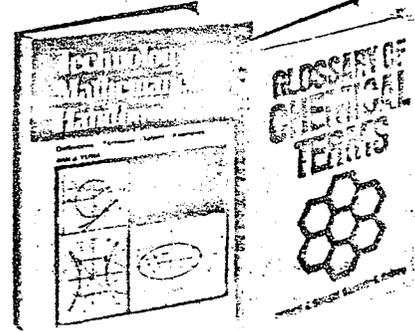
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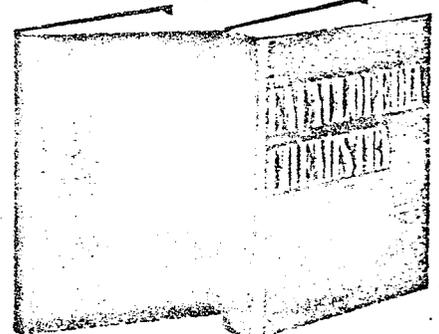
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