

Civil but assertive in Moscow (1974)

(Opening and closing remarks by Monty Hyams at a WIPO Symposium)

The essential background to these remarks, book-ending a prepared presentation, is given at: www.montyhyams.info/derwent/derwent18.html

OPENING

It was with particular pleasure that I accepted the kind invitation of WIPO and the Soviet authorities to address this symposium, because the speakers are drawn both from governmental organisations and from private enterprise.....

.....It seems strange that although most of the larger patent offices take Derwent services and use them extensively, only Mr Horvath amongst the previous speakers has mentioned our name. True, we have made tremendous strides recently, and perhaps the lecturers have not yet caught up with our advancement.

Thus, I am pleased to be able to assure the United States Commissioner Dann that we already have in operation the on-line service he dreams of for the future, and will be pleased to demonstrate it at any time and, hopefully, sell it to him.

Mr. Horst-Madsen of Copenhagen is not at all old-fashioned in wanting cheap, simple yet informative weekly indexes which are updated quarterly and annually. He has the practical approach so often lacking in this do-it-tomorrow, computerise-everything, modern era. Well, Derwent has been providing exactly what he and many other patent attorneys and individuals want in the form of its World Patents Index since the beginning of this year. All you have to do now, Mr. Horst-Madsen, is to persuade the Danish Patent Office to put this modestly priced set of publications on their shelves.

Mr Borggard told us of the trials and tribulations of ICIREPAT in their efforts to code organic chemical structures, and to do coordinate keyword searching. What a pity he did not consult Derwent – we have even advanced to the stage of automatic word indexing, and have been coding chemical structures successfully for years.

What then is this mysterious, unmentionable organisation known as Derwent which, for the first four days of a symposium on patent information, has had such scant acknowledgement compared with the trumpet blasts heralding in the untried, newly born government-sponsored babes? Well, I will tell you....

[Outlines history of Derwent and then overviews World Patents Index]

CLOSING

I feel sure many of you would like me to comment on the INPADOC project. During the past few days I have learned a great deal about the art of diplomacy, and so I will merely take out of context a remark of Mr. Tasnadi, President of the Hungarian Patent Office, on a totally different topic – and I quote: “Our aim is peaceful coexistence in the industrial property sphere, with exchange of experience.”

In conclusion, as distinct from finally, which I have discovered this week means three-quarters of the way there, I would stress that the Derwent systems have been built up with the cooperation of committees representing its industrial subscribers – committees from such bodies as the PDG, the IDC and the Pharma-Dokumentationsring in Europe; the MCA in the United States; and three special committees in Japan.

Representatives of Derwent and these committees earnestly wish to exchange experience with technical committees of patent offices and with representatives of Soviet inventors and innovators, for mutual benefit in helping solve our common problems. Hopefully, one of the many useful results of this historic symposium will be the fulfilment of this wish under the expert guidance of WIPO.

This was the final day of a Symposium held in Moscow by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) on 7-11 October 1974.

*The full list of speakers and titles at the event can be found at:
www.wipo.int/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?bib=16579*