

American Documentation Institute

Among the organizations with which the Society co-operates, one of truly fundamental importance but little known in our field, is the American Documentation Institute which is now over ten years of age. Its objectives are promotion and development of documentation in scholarly and scientific fields. This rather inclusive statement of aims is reviewed at length in the first issue of *American Documentation*, the Institute's new Quarterly publication, by its editor Dr. Vernon D. Tate, who is better known to the world of science as Director of Libraries at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Directors of engineering, research workers and technical librarians who are concerned with scientific reference matters would do well to look into the work of the Institute, paying particular attention to its two publications *American Documentation* and its *Catalog of Auxiliary Publications*, listing documents deposited with the Institute and available on either microfilm or photo copy.

The Winter 1950 (January) issue of *American Documentation* is Vol. 1, No. 1, 58 pp., 8 × 10½ in. in size. Succeeding issues will have a minimum of 48 pp., and are scheduled to contain advertising. Typographically and in content, it is a very creditable job. Its aims, aligned with those of the Institute, are:

"To serve as an impartial clearing house for information about documentation from any source; for the publication of original research in the field; for reporting investigations of new mechanisms, techniques or devices for documentation and their applications; to assist in the development and adoption of basic standards; to provide bibliographic and other control of the literature; to serve as an effective medium for national and international co-operation and exchange in documentation; to stimulate and discuss new ideas and approaches to existing

or future problems; for the publication of material originated by the American Documentation Institute.

In content *American Documentation* will follow this general outline. It will not duplicate the work of the *Review of Documentation*; it will not follow too closely in the footsteps of its ancestor, the *Juornal of Documentary Reproduction*. Instead, the field of interest has been substantially broadened and particular attention will be devoted to urgent problems in documentation encountered by those engaged in creating, handling, storing and using documents, together with advances in technology. Also covered are microfilm, microprint, microcards, sheet microfilm, photographic technology generally, the new graphic arts including photo-composing machines, Xerography and myriad processes of documentary reproduction, punched cards, digital computers, rapid selectors and facsimile machines. Ultra-fax and many other developments all have a place. Approaches to the organization of information, classification systems, semantics and the logic of communication are important. Documentary aspects of graphic portrayal through motion and still pictures, television and the recording and use of sound offer important fields for emphasis. Finally, there are physical and philosophical considerations as yet only dimly perceived that may alter much present thinking; Cybernetics is such a concept.

Annual subscription rate is \$5.00 and inquiries concerning subscriptions should be addressed to the American Documentation Institute, 1719 N. Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Communications regarding manuscripts or other editorial matters should be directed to Dr. Vernon D. Tate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge 39, Mass.