

## CORRESPONDENCE

The following is a letter received by the Secretary on the subject of a review published on page 141 of Parts 3 and 4 of the 1964 Volume of this *Journal*.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM,  
DEPARTMENT OF ORIENTAL PRINTED  
BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS  
19th February, 1965.

Dear Madam,

It is apparent from Mr. W. E. D. Allen's review of the *Catalogue of Georgian and other Caucasian books in the British Museum*, compiled by Professor D. M. Lang, that he has not entirely understood the scope of the Catalogue and its deliberate limitations. For the benefit of readers of this *Journal* who may wish to consult books on Georgia in the British Museum, I should like to take this opportunity to make the position clear.

Mr. Allen notes the absence from the Catalogue of many standard travel books on Georgia and the Caucasus written in Western languages, and infers from this that the British Museum Library does not possess them. This is not so. Books in European languages, including a complete range of English publications, are already recorded in the General Catalogue of the Museum. No attempt has been made to duplicate all these entries or to include in the new Georgian Catalogue every Western publication having a bearing on Georgia or the Caucasus. As the title implies, the scope of the Catalogue is primarily books in Georgian and other Caucasian languages; in addition, in the words of Professor Lang's introduction, "it was decided also to include in this Catalogue a selection of grammars, dictionaries and bibliographies compiled by European specialists, as well as a number of texts and monographs relating to the Caucasian languages and literatures, and published in periodicals and publications of learned Societies."

This is the normal practice adopted in catalogues of oriental books in the British Museum. It is widely understood and accepted by regular users of the catalogues.

Yours faithfully,  
K. B. GARDNER,  
Keeper