

Book Reviews

Careering Along with Books: Studies in the History of British Public Libraries and Librarianship, in Honour of the 85th Birthday of Dr. William A. Munford. Edited by K. A. Manley. London: The Library History Group of the Library Association, 1996. viii, 276 pp. £28.00. ISBN 0-9527919-0-0.

This book has successfully accomplished the admirable tasks of honoring Britain's leading library historian and presenting examples of current historical scholarship relating to aspects of British libraries and librarianship dealt with in W. A. Munford's own publications.

Of the four parts of this festschrift, three deal specifically with Munford: part one, "Tributes and Autobiography," contains biographical, autobiographical, and bibliographical essays; part three, "Studies in Public Library History," deals with the public libraries of Portsmouth, Ilford, Dover, and Cambridge where Munford spent parts of his career; and "Appendices" includes both a reprint of Munford's history of the National Library for the Blind, where he served for many years as librarian, and also the 1962-1968 minutes of the Library Association's Library History Group, which he founded. Taking these three parts together, a well-rounded portrait emerges of a scholar-librarian, possessing the instincts of a bookman and the administrative skills necessary for a successful career.

Of particular value to those with historiographical interests will be Peter Hoare's "W. A. Munford as Library Historian," David Gerard's "The Writing of Library History: A Conversation with Dr. Munford," "W. A. Munford: A Select Bibliography," and "Library History Group 1962-1968: the Early Minutes." What remains elusive, however, after reading these essays is a clear sense of whether Munford's historical writing is an extension of his professional activities or an expression of a scholarly passion. What does become clear is his particular focus upon biography and his ability to inspire others with an enthusiasm for library history.

Important and helpful as are these sections relating to Munford, the general essays in part two, "Studies in British Librarianship," along with those by P. Sturges and K. C. Harrison that have strayed into part three, will prove equally fascinating for many readers. The insights afforded into nineteenth- and twentieth-century transformations of the British scene will permit comparisons with contemporaneous events in other parts of the world. Such diverse topics as the British national library to 1837 by Ian Willison, Scottish working-class libraries by John Crawford, St. Martin's Subscription Library by Peter Hoare, and public library readership, 1850-1900, by Paul Sturges raise fascinating questions on whether libraries emerge as elite or popular institutions. Essays by E. Hanson, K. Manley, R. Busby, P. Morrish, N. Webber, R. Duckett, G. Jefcoate, and

K. Harrison detail the growing professionalism of British librarianship over the past one hundred years or so. Jefcoate's essay on the roll of honor for librarians killed in action during World War I is most illuminating. A wealth of information is contained in these essays that would be very difficult to find elsewhere.

If one essay can be said to summarize this collection, it is probably Alistair Black's "Edward Edwards and Modernity: Personality, Progress and Professionalism." This is not only because Munford himself has written significant studies on Edwards, but also because Black's insightful analysis provides a perspective from which to analyze Munford. The postmodern world of the 1990s has given commentators a sense of distance about modernism that permits its analysis as something different. Within the context of this collection, it becomes clear that Edwards and Munford were united in their commitment to the fundamental principles of modernism: social betterment and bureaucratic mechanisms. To the extent that the two men differed, it is largely a factor of the extent to which they did or did not align themselves with modernism's tripartite program of personality, progress, and professionalism.

This collection contains twenty-seven essays plus a foreword and a preface. The contributors are generally well-known figures in the field of British library history and are identified in a separate section. The only non-British contributor writes usually on Canadian themes. There is an all too brief index. A few black-and-white photographs are included. The collection has been issued as volume 12 (1996) of *Library History*.

Peter F. McNally, *McGill University*

Puritans in Babylon: The Ancient Near East and American Intellectual Life, 1880-1930. By Bruce Kuklick. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996. xii, 253 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 0-691-02582-7.

Bruce Kuklick, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania who has written histories of American philosophy and of baseball in Philadelphia, has written a fascinating account of the earliest American involvement in the archaeology of the Ancient Near East. Scholars from Pennsylvania began the first American excavations by digging at the ancient Sumerian site of Nippur.

Kuklick describes the difficulties of the first excavations, the conflicts between individuals and institutions, and the emerging academic disciplines of the half-century between 1880 and 1930. He focuses upon the controversies swirling about Hermann V. Hilprecht and his critics. Hilprecht was a pious German Lutheran who originally came to the U.S. in 1886 to edit the *Sunday School Times*. As a student of the famed scholar Friedrich Delitzsch, he was also a competent Assyriologist who began teaching at Penn. Hilprecht was brilliant but also egotistical and abrasive. He managed to turn many scholars, even his colleagues, against him. Particularly bitter were his relations with John P. Peters and John H. Haynes, who had directed the Nippur excavations. Hilprecht was not an excavator himself, but he was an epigrapher who examined the cuneiform documents. Hilprecht was criticized for claiming in a book which he edited, *Exploration in Bible Lands* (1903), to be the discoverer of the tablets. He was eventually denied access to the 17,000 tablets in the University Museum in Philadelphia and was accused of keeping 2,500 tablets at his home in Jena, Germany.

The author has done admirable research in the diaries and letters of the key participants in the Penn expeditions to Nippur. His knowledge of the rise of universities in America and the intellectual history of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries enables him to place American involvement in the Near East and the consequent academic developments in clear perspective. But in concentrating in such minute detail on the participants in Penn's excavations at Nippur, he neglects completely the key excavation of Ephraim A. Speiser at the important Hurrian site of Nuzi (1925–1931) and the important role played by James A. Montgomery as a teacher of Semitics at Penn. [Despite all of the information the author provides about the personalities involved at Nippur, he does not give a very good account of the importance of the texts, buildings, and objects discovered there. See E. Yamauchi, "Nippur," in E. M. Blaiklock and R. K. Harrison, eds., *The New International Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983), 339–41.]

In assessing the contributions of his subjects, Kuklick makes a rather gratuitous observation, "They were certainly sexist, racist, and homophobic" (199), as he has not presented evidence to substantiate some of these charges. There are some surprising omissions from his discussions about Jewish scholarship and the secularization of the universities, such as Samuel E. Karff, ed., *Hebrew Union-College Jewish Institute of Religion at One Hundred Years* (Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 1976), and George M. Marsden, *The Soul of the American University* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994).

The author concedes that he lacks firsthand knowledge of archaeology and Semitic languages (237). Despite consulting leading scholars, there are a few minor misspellings such as Sinoor for Sinor (205), Wallace E. A. Budge for E. A. Wallace Budge (210), and Margolies for Margolis (236). A more serious error is the identification of the site of Telloh with ancient Lagash (167). Scholars have known for some time that Telloh is to be identified with ancient Girsu and that ancient Lagash is to be identified with another mound, al-Hiba. See Vaughn E. Crawford, "Lagash," *Iraq* 36 (1974): 29–35.

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Libraries and Librarianship during Muslim Rule in India. By Shaikh Allauddin and R. K. Rout. New Delhi: Reliance Publishing House, 1996. 298 pp. \$77. ISBN 81-85972-95-8.

This book is an improved doctoral work of the first author. It deals with the history of libraries that emerged between the tenth and twentieth centuries during the period of Muslim rule, which in due course were either lost or were taken over by other libraries. The book traces the reasons for this growth of libraries and describes how Muslim rulers brought to India the art of making paper and improved binding techniques, as well as emphasis on literacy and cultural influences—all of which contributed to an improved concept of libraries and librarianship. As a result, many libraries emerged. Interestingly, mosque libraries in this era became the kind of libraries which are known today as public reading rooms.

The book has the following chapters: Delhi Sultanate; Mughal Dynasty; Deccani Kingdoms; Special Libraries; Regional Libraries; and Calligraphy, Binding, Illustrations and Book Production. The book has done some justice to the topic

and is quite elaborate in its details. Each chapter not only gives the size of a particular library but also includes a note on how and why the collection grew and what precursors and factors motivated and supported the development process. A few titles that were available in the respective libraries are listed—giving a picture of the interests which each library tried to develop and promote.

A few errors need correction, like Ushmania University for Osmaina University (206) and Hindu's library for libraries of non-Muslims, i.e., Hindus (144). In one case the book extends its survey to 1990 (204), whereas the Muslim rule ended in 1858, and in 1947 all power of the Muslim monarchs ended; this focus by period is essential for a historical study, which may be added in a revised edition. The index lacks cross references, say from "Library of Khuda Bakhsh" (the way it is listed), to "Khuda Bakhsh Library" (as a user might look it up).

Despite these errors, this book is yet another resource to evaluate the intellectual trends that have prevailed in this country. With its documentation and analysis of some significant collections—with descriptive notes—the book is a valuable source for those interested in textual studies and in the growth of the book in India during that age, as well as for historians.

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The French Book: Religion, Absolutism, and Readership, 1585-1715. By Henri-Jean Martin; trans. by Paul Saenger and Nadine Saenger. Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996. xii, 117 pp. \$35.00 (\$13.95 pbk.). ISBN 0-8018-5179-3.

A small, handsome book, presented in a form worthy of its author who has done so much to further studies in the field of "histoire du livre," *The French Book* is comprised of the following: a foreword (by Orest Ranum) preceded by a list of the illustrations; Chapter 1: "The Catholic Reformation and the Book (1585-1659)"; Chapter 2: "Absolutism and Classicism"; Chapter 3: "The Reading Public and Its Books"; Chapter 4: "The French Classical Book: Text and Image"; conclusion, notes, and index. (No bibliography, alas.) This study grew out of series of lectures given by Martin at The Johns Hopkins University in the autumn of 1993 (the Schouler Lectures) and is an original work, rather than the translation of something previously published.

The first section begins with a succinct explanation of printing in the hand-press period, decoding a sixteenth-century engraving after Jan Van der Straet, also featured (in part) on the cover of the paperback: men at the composing table, a press-man clamping down, sheets of paper hung up to dry. A review of the printing situation in Europe is provided, rounded out with elegant maps and tables, the fruit of an enormous amount of labor. Collections in the British Library have been used for one, those in the Bibliothèque Nationale for another. The Frankfurt (and Leipzig) Messkataloge play a part in helping Martin examine the printing and movement of books during the period. The fair catalogs were published regularly, from 1564 on (6) and provide a wealth of information concerning the printing and distribution of books of all kinds during the hand-press period—and later. (Most of the first two and a half centuries have been made available, thanks to the efforts of Bernhard Fabian, *Die Messkataloge des sechzehnten, siebzehnten und achtzehnten Jahrhunderts* or *Kataloge der Frankfurter und Leipziger Buchmessen*, Hildesheim; New York: Olms Microform, 1977-1986.)

Martin discusses the importance of the Reformation and the Counter-Reformation in the production of books during the early period, and he has some interesting things to say about censorship: first from Rome, then in individual countries. Which leads to the seventeenth century, "Absolutism and Classicism," the growth of publishing in the vernacular, and the decline of Latin (when measured against the vernacular). The Edict of Villers-Cotterets had substituted French for Latin early on (1539) in the judicial system. Libraries were formed and expanded. These were among the important steps in the cultural politics of the crown which, over the years and throughout the centuries, had viewed French and its predominance as an important if not vital part of national and foreign policy. In a way, the recent opening of the Très Grande Bibliothèque, now termed the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, in its new site can be viewed as the modern culmination of this policy.

Early in the seventeenth century (1618), the printers, publishers, booksellers, and binders of Paris officially organized into a corporation or kind of guild, which would prove a decisive factor in the bookmen—and bookwomen—of the capital exercising monopolistic power over their provincial brethren. All this and much more is lucidly explained by Martin as he takes us through the age of Louis XIV and the setting of his sun, marked by the revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685) and the subsequent flight of the Huguenots to Holland (and to England, America, and many other places). Martin is also interested in readers and how they can be defined, identified, and classified—a crucial element in understanding the demand and supply of the book market.

In chapter 4, Martin remarks, "Historians must always remember that a text is by no means an abstract entity but rather a concrete object bearing many languages" (77). A discussion follows of the "mise en page"—the "mise en livre," really. The "modern" look developed in the sixteenth century. Not only does Martin trace aspects of this, but he treats the reader to thoughtful insights about emblems, illustrations, and more. Founder of a new discipline, Martin is respectful of the monuments of French thought and erudition which preceded him, and he ends by invoking Paul Hazard's wonderful *Crise de la conscience européenne* and sees his own book as a sort of postlude or complement to it. The conclusion of *The French Book* sketches a history of the "histoire du livre," paying just tribute to the likes of Lucien Febvre even as Martin points the way to the future.

I would like to end my review with a citation from this fine, erudite, and eminently readable book. After outlining the various subdivisions of "histoire du livre" to which scholars have turned over the past couple of decades, Martin writes: "All these different areas of interest stimulated a rapprochement between the history of the book and analytical bibliography, fields that were destined to unite into what was already being called the sociology of reading. The result was a return to the study of the book as an artifact (an approach that I have attempted to follow in this volume) and a new effort to delineate the functions and the status of the author, this somewhat mythical and complex personage who becomes problematic to define when he is no longer equated with the 'writer.' Thus, the history of the book has not ceased to evolve over the past thirty-five years. Let us not be mistaken, however. A veritable history of the book will not be written if historians are influenced solely by the latest trends, and new paths of research will prove fruitful only when they take into account earlier achievements and employ a variety of research methods" (99). Any person of sense could not help but agree.

The Odyssey of a German National Library. By Michael P. Olson. Wiesbaden, Germany: Harrassowitz Verlag, 1996. 122 pp. DM78. ISBN 3-447-03648-6.

The subtitle of this slim paperback reads, "A Short History of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, the Deutsche Bücherei and the Deutsche Bibliothek." Michael Olson, head of Harvard's Germanic collections, has produced a largely chronological, sociopolitical history of the abundantly documented origin and growth of the four principal institutions having some claim to be called "national." Olson has used this documentation well. He has also been able to interview the librarians, directors, and other officials of the four libraries.

There are actually five physical entities. Besides the four in Munich, Berlin, Leipzig, and Frankfurt noted above, there is also the rebirth of the building of the former Prussian State Library that, at the end of World War II, was an empty ruin and is now a part of the Berlin State Library.

Olson relates clearly and persuasively enough the histories of these institutions to the times in which they existed. It is consequently unfortunate that he has chosen to begin his study as follows: "Throughout this book, 'Die Deutsche Bibliothek' will refer to the Deutsche Bibliothek, the Deutsche Bücherei, and the German Music Archive (Deutsches Musikarchiv). *'The Deutsche Bibliothek' refers to the library in Frankfurt am Main. Die Deutsche Bibliothek, the Deutsche Bibliothek, and the Deutsche Bücherei will remain untranslated in order to avoid confusion with each other, as 'German Library' is the translation in each instance'* (Preface, [vii]; emphasis added). The reader who, despite the author's assurance, is left somewhat confused here is urged to persevere; it all becomes quite clear eventually. Following a general outline, Olson traces "the development of libraries in key periods: 1558–1806, 1806–1900, 1900–1933, 1933–1945, 1945–1970."

Two final chapters deal primarily with cooperative ventures in book preservation and book collecting, with the problems brought about by unification, and with unifying library policies and services. These efforts have culminated in many good results. An example is the creation, for the first time in half a century, of a biographical, statistical, and descriptive handbook of all scholarly (*wissenschaftliche*) libraries and librarians in all of Germany. (*Jahrbuch der Deutschen Bibliotheken*, Vol. 56. [Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz, 1995].)

Of the major libraries considered, the best known to the educated public is no doubt the former Prussian State Library "Haus" on Berlin's Unter den Linden. The library or significant parts of it has borne many other names: the Electoral Library of Cölln on the Spree (founded in 1661), the Royal Library (1701), Libraries for Public Research, the German State Library, Hessian Library, West German Library, and the Berlin State Library of Prussian Cultural Foundation. This, along with the magnificent new building in the Tiergarten, is now the State Library "Haus" in Berlin—Prussian Cultural Foundation, with a total of close to nine million volumes. Some readers may wish that the author had devoted more attention to the status and activities of this institution. After all, it is not only the inheritor of the internationally famous Prussian State Library, it is also the site of most of the country's supranational, supraregional, and international library responsibilities and services: e.g., Publishers' International ISBN Directory; Foreign Periodical Holdings in German Libraries; Union Catalog of Congress Publications—more than forty altogether.

This is the largest of the German "national" libraries. It was for most of its life and is now again in the national capital. From the end of the nineteenth

century to 1945, the Prussian State Library was the national library *de facto* if not *de jure*. The library played the leading role in German librarianship from before the end of the nineteenth century to World War II, and its dozen directors were convinced of its leading role. Despite all this the library was never *de jure* the national library, and Olson is at pains to make clear why neither it nor any of the other three in Munich, Leipzig, or Frankfurt is ever likely to be. This is an important contribution. The four libraries comprise, however, as Olson suggests, an effective “national library system.”

Olson has a propensity for making statements that are likely to cause knee-jerk reactions of doubt or denial: “How does a historian summarize nearly 250 years of German history . . .” ([9]). Immediately thereafter he begins with the university libraries of the fourteenth and, later, the court libraries of the sixteenth centuries. “The best of all possible worlds—another of Leibniz’s phrases . . .” ([9]). Surely the source of this world-famous phrase is not Leibniz, but rather Voltaire, whose Pangloss in chapter 1 of *Candide* uses it in ridiculing Leibniz’s philosophical optimism.

Remarkable and most unfortunate omissions occur in the otherwise commendable index. The title of not a single one of the national-level libraries appears in it, either in English or German, nor by city of location—Berlin, Leipzig, Munich. No Deutsche Bibliothek, no Prussian State Library, no Royal Library, no Berlin State Library, no State Library of the Prussian Cultural Foundation. Nothing.

The publication is in other respects virtually error-free. It is well printed and an “easy read.” On the whole, a useful and interesting contribution.

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Hunger for the Printed Word: Books and Libraries in the Jewish Ghettos of Nazi-Occupied Europe. By David Shavit. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Company, 1997. xi, 178 pp. \$37.50. ISBN 0-7864-0203-2.

Poland in the 1930s was home to the world’s largest community of Jews. While Polish Jewry had established large libraries in their seminaries, a more recent development was the creation of community libraries by young and active Zionist and socialist organizations. The Nazi occupation devastated their libraries as well as readers. In a few short years, the holdings of these libraries were systematically looted by the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg and other Nazi agencies. What remained were the legal and clandestine libraries in the ghettos of Eastern Europe—holding pens for the victims until they were shipped to the death camps, died of starvation or disease, or were executed.

Shavit’s slim book is the first monograph in English to deal with this important albeit depressing history. His work takes the reader into the various libraries in the ghettos of Warsaw, Łódz, Kovno, Vilna, and Theresienstadt. He also includes a chapter on books and readers, which allows for contemplation of the rationale for reading in such a hell.

The book is an expansion on Shavit’s 1982 *Library Quarterly* article, although that did not deal with the libraries in Kovno or Theresienstadt. He has added an amazing number of details to his previous account given that he relies mostly on secondary sources. There are a few people who could have provided further insight as both surviving librarians and readers if Shavit had used oral histories.

Still, Shavit should be commended for being able to piece together such a moving study. It is obvious that he has reviewed large amounts of material (much of it without indexes) in English, Hebrew, and Yiddish, the most interesting source being the *Yizkor* [memorial] books compiled by survivors of a specific community, recalling life in their former home and its destruction. The existence of a large number of *Yizkor* books containing chapters on their library and their ghetto further belies the book's claim to be a comprehensive study of ghetto libraries. There is still more to be researched, some of which will hopefully emerge in Shoah Foundation video testimonies and in the files of the once-closed archives of the former Soviet bloc. The works published by Laurentius and the two-volume *Bibliotheken während des Nationalsozialismus* [Libraries during the Nazi period, 1992] indicate that there is much that remains to be discovered. Shavit has done an excellent job of explaining both Jewish and Nazi terms in the text, so the lack of a glossary is forgivable, although the reader with little background in the Holocaust may not perceive the significant distinctions between the different Judenrat administrations of the ghettos or the ideological differences between libraries, which are some of the most important details of this period of history. These could have been fleshed out if compactness had been less of a concern. Another option would have been to treat Theresienstadt separately, since it was more like a "model concentration camp" than a ghetto, and its inhabitants were quite different in background from those of other ghettos (German-speaking Western/Central Europeans as opposed to, for the most part, Eastern European Yiddish/Polish/Russian speakers) and thus had different reading interests and attitudes. The text is, alas, replete with typos and erroneous romanizations—partly (but not wholly) due to incomplete copyediting. Most noticeably, page 40 is entirely missing.

There are, then, criticisms to be made, but this book does impress the reader with the spirit that drove the Jews to create *folks-bibliotekn* before and during the war. It is the spirit of librarians who risked execution in smuggling and hiding books and endangered themselves by circulating books which often were contaminated by typhus. By sharing these librarians' stories, Shavit honors them and all who fight those who wish to destroy books and readers.

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Cloak & Gown: Scholars in the Secret War, 1939-1961. 2d ed. By Robin W. Winks. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987, 1996. 607 pp. \$22.95. ISBN 0-300-06524-8.

Winks's locale—an Ivy League university with distinguished faculty, well-prepared, socially well-connected student body, financially secure alumni, and brilliant administrators—is the accepted prime source of a supply of brilliant undercover operators in the World War II era. Further, its campus libraries have a high percentage of subject matter specialists on their staffs. The willingness of the Yale University Press to publish two editions of this work shows its belief that Yale responded to a wartime national challenge in a commendable way.

That the volume has a chapter on "The Library" (116–51) probably would be sufficient justification for the present review despite its concluding statement (151), "There was, for those addicted to the cloak and dagger, really very little to the story of Joe Curtiss and his time in Istanbul. That was what made it his part of the real world." Basically, Yale Library got some agency funds to set up

an expediting office in Istanbul for current European books, periodicals, and newspapers, but the university president was not aware of the source of the funds. (Incidentally, a little before this time period, the University of Illinois Library had been getting its Continental newspapers and some periodicals through its long-term agents, and they arrived stamped "Via Siberien.") In the amateurish efforts to provide "secure cover" for the Istanbul operation, the ALA financial office got involved in tangled accounts of "civilian" libraries that wished to get their Continental acquisitions expedited too. The Farmington Plan (108-9) "got into the act" also. Curtiss, Yale '23 (Assistant Professor of English), Walter Pforzheimer (a Yale Dad), and Thomas C. Mendenhall, Yale '32, (Assistant Professor of History) were involved, but no one from the Yale Library acquisitions staff was.

There was a steady refrain (too many instances to list) praising both British and agency analytical card files as being master information sources. This reviewer has over the years "inherited" Ms. Hope Thomas's Special Documents Collection, Wright Field Reference Library, Dayton, Ohio, that had over 250 entries for a single technical report; all prewar analytics were done by newly commissioned flight engineers (including such as "Jimmy" Doolittle) and are still available "with time delays" from DTIC, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. (See ERIC Report ED 184,503, 1978). The corresponding civilian file was Ms. Maude Muller's Office of Aeronautical Intelligence, National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Washington, also started in 1915, which included reports from her Paris Liaison Officer (who also had the social connections mentioned as necessary in this volume. Her primary power plant engineer/analyst lives in Florida in retirement).

There are repeated references to the fact that a huge portion of the information needed in intelligence work (say 90%, or 95%, or . . .) can be found in the open literature, but the time factor is a crucial limiting one. This combined with a need for subject-background-aided reference assistance means that the library's reference profession (including the special library portion) have not done a good enough job of public relations with those outside our chosen profession. Perhaps Dr. Wines could be "co-opted" for a major association presentation to outsiders?

The confession that "I barely have adequate Malay" (482) reminds that a major "fallout" from government funding was an emphasis on area studies and less common languages. This lead must not be lost. "The individuals chosen for looking at closely were meant to represent a variety of intelligence work . . . Thus I focus in turn on administration, research and analysis (R&A), secret intelligence (SI), secret operations (SO), counterintelligence (X-2) and evaluation (ONE) . . . I have, therefore, sought to remember the motto of the great French *Biographie Universelle*: 'To the living we owe some consideration, but to the dead we owe nothing but the truth'" (482).

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Fiction as History: Nero to Julian. By G. W. Bowersock. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 1994. xiv, 181 pp. \$15.95. ISBN 0-520-08824-7.

In *The Christians as the Romans Saw Them* (Yale University Press, 1984) R. L. Wilken wrote, "The distinctive traits of the new religion and the tenacity of

Christian apologists . . . opened up new horizons for Greco-Roman culture and breathed new life into the spiritual and intellectual traditions of the ancient world” (205). In *Fiction as History* G. W. Bowersock offers an analysis of Christian influences in various genres of Greco-Roman novels, stating that “Parallels in form and substance between the writings of the New Testament and the fictional production of the imperial age are too prominent to be either ignored or dismissed as coincidence” (124). In these lectures, delivered at Berkeley in 1991, Bowersock sketches specific developments in Hellenistic fiction from the principate of Nero to the rule of Julian, arguing that the Greco-Roman novels of this period serve as evidence of a crisis in cultural boundaries as well as polytheistic responses to the influence of Christianity.

Bowersock introduces his reader to these tensions through Celsus and Lucian, whose works (which he calls “True Lies”) used myth, historical truth, and wild fantasies to expose fabrications within other fictions. Celsus, in particular, through his “True Discourse” attempted to expose the Christian abuse of history. According to Bowersock, both writers were responding to a crisis in which traditional definitions of history and fiction were blurred.

Such tensions were partly related to a broadening Hellenic scope, an ecumenism more inclusive of “barbarian” influences than the Roman Empire. Bowersock states that this form of Hellenism in late antiquity would “become the voice of the barbarians as they cried out against the tide of Christianity” (52–3). Among the works that Bowersock uses to illustrate this development is the “Chareas and Callirhoe” of Chariton which he rightly identifies as traditional. But he does not mention the possible Christian influences or, more likely, the opposition to Julio-Claudian ideology found in Callirhoe’s child, a son destined for greatness (3.8). Nor does he thoroughly examine how this text might itself be indicative of “Homeric revisionism,” an important problem in the overall crisis. And, finally, Bowersock might have noted that this new ecumenism more closely matched Christian ecumenism, a point that would have informed his argument.

Elsewhere Bowersock finds more direct reflections of Christian influence. The “wounded savior” motif was attached, over time, to the “revised” Homeric character, Philoctetes, who was transformed from a despised, weak-spirited man in Greek literature to the Roman political ideal. He represented self-sacrifice and the Stoic acceptance of duty, a trait that Celsus and (later) Julian saw lacking in Jesus who “cried out” from the cross. Bowersock states that this development, originating soon after the time of Nero, “ought now to guide us surely and unerringly to a better understanding of the way in which the Greeks and Romans of the period responded to an extraordinary story that came out of Palestine in the middle of the first century . . . The Greeks and the Romans of the early centuries of the Christian era had made their savior in their own image and likeness” (74, 76).

In the following chapters Bowersock identifies dreams and resurrections in these novels as even further evidence of interaction with Christian influences. Bodily resurrections, in particular, were utterly new. Bowersock states that in such fiction, “For resurrection in the flesh . . . there are virtually no examples before the 2nd half of the first century” (102, cf. 116). Even links between this theme and a “cannibalistic” meal are in widespread use and create unusually great interest. This suggests, for Bowersock, that the Greco-Roman writers understood what Christians were teaching and were responding with their own “fictions” to buttress Greco-Roman tradition. He argues that the results of these efforts were the polytheistic fictions or “scriptures” which competed with the Christian texts.

While intensely detailed this work leaves unanswered a number of crucial questions. The first is that of dating. If many of these themes emerged at the time of Nero, particularly the resurrection/"cannibalistic" meal motif, which gospels or gospel traditions most influenced Greco-Roman literature? Much of the parallels Bowersock cites sound suspiciously Johannine, which, by most accounts, is a Christian tradition that emerged very late in the first century. If we accept the general dating that Bowersock has proposed for the origins of these influences (Neronian, 124) then we would have to accept that Christian doctrine and the Christian gospels were well-developed at an early date. This position opposes much of modern higher-critical thinking regarding the gospels. In this work Bowersock seems to argue for Christian primacy on such doctrines as the "wounded savior" and the bodily resurrection. What has happened to the assumption made within modern scholarly orthodoxy that such doctrines arose from polytheistic mystery religions and gnostic influences? Does Bowersock not realize this problem? Or perhaps he is using the skills of a classicist rather than those of a biblicist, a contrast that often produces such variations.

On a final note, Bowersock takes on the very modern question of historical interpretation by tackling the same question as it was asked in the ancient world. The Christians made outrageous claims to historical truth. Bowersock points out that the Christian apologist Origen bemoaned the same abuses of history in his culture that Celsus attacked while still affirming the veracity of the gospels. Indeed, the Christian claims were a problem then, as they are now. And it is important that the Christian message was being made on the basis of events that were within the lifetime of many who claimed their truth (the Neronian period), whereas much of the fiction produced by the polytheists reflected Homeric traditions stretching back thousands of years. Just why Christian motifs entered so powerfully into the novels of this period must have had something to do with this immediacy as well as the conviction of the Christians that these truths were history, not fiction.

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World Guide to Libraries. 11th ed. Edited by Bettina Bartz, Helmut Opitz, and Elisabeth Richter. Munich: K. G. Saur, 1993. xxvii, 1179 pp. \$350.00. ISBN 0936-0085. ISSN 0936-0085. [WGL]

World Guide to Special Libraries. 3d ed. Edited by Helmut Opitz and Elisabeth Richter. Munich: K. G. Saur, 1995. 2v. [v.1, xxx, 644 pp.; v. 2, 613 pp.] \$325.00. ISBN 3-598-22234-3. ISSN 0340-1332. [WGSLS]

World Guide to Scientific Associations and Learned Societies. 6th ed. Edited by Michael Zils. Munich: K. G. Saur, 1994. xiv, 542 pp. \$245.00. ISBN 3-598-20580-5. ISSN 0939-1959. [WGSALS]

Who's Who in European Research and Development, 1995. London: Bowker-Saur, 1995. xxvii, 800 pp. \$400.00. (European R&D Database.) ISBN 1-85739-097-0. [WWER&D]

Directory of European Research and Development, 1995. London: Bowker-Saur, 1995. 2v. \$400.00. (European R&D Database.) ISBN 1-85739-092-X. [DER&D]

Directory of Special Libraries and Information Centers, 1996. 19th ed. Detroit, Gale Research, 1995. 3v. \$900.00 set. ISBN 0-8103-9105 (set) 4. ISBN 0-8103-9106-6 (Pt. 1) ISBN 0-8103-9107-4 (Pt. 2). [DSL]

With the publication of these mid-1990s titles, the boundaries between special libraries, science biography, and science professional organizations are becoming transparent and more international. The pioneer publishers in these fields have been Gale Research and Bowker (for North America), while K. G. Saur (Munich) has been aggressive for Europe. (Note the imprint for *WVER&D* & *DER&D* is "London: Bowker-Saur".) Reviews of earlier editions of some of the above titles have appeared previously in issues of this journal, including *JLH* 20 (Spring 1985): 230–231; *JLH* 21 (Summer 1986): 585–599; *L&C* 24 (Summer 1989): 400–401; and *L&C* 27 (Winter 1992): 606–607.

The most comprehensive of these works is *WGL*, which states that it includes 45,773 libraries from 181 countries (v), but the core of special libraries remains as stated in the last mentioned review—the National, General Research, University/College, Government, Ecclesiastical, Corporate Business and "Other Special Libraries" for a total of 17,892 in the U.S., Germany (reunited), Italy, and a virtual tie among France, Canada, and the U.K.. The remaining 175 countries would have about 17,000 more "hard-core" special libraries. The book's main arrangement is under the country's English name in the seven categories listed above plus two additional very general ones. There is an alphabetical list of libraries as well. All Saur prefaces mention the dislocation in Eastern Europe and the Baltic countries and solicit aid in purifying entries from those areas. The editorial deadline for *WGL* was 4 December 1992.

WGSAL claims to have 41,600 libraries listed under about 800 subject headings with subarrangement by English country name. The test subject selected for the directories was "Friction and wear in internal combustion engines." Closest terms were "Automotive engineering," "Mechanical engineering," or "Combustion." The first was selected, although it was misspelled in the list. Pages 113–116 had 117 special libraries from nineteen countries, including Slovenia and Yugoslavia. One U.K. entry had been entered under five additional headings. Features included on-line services available and professional association memberships held. "Note on Use" (ix) listed the thirteen elements a complete entry held. A full alphabetical index occupies pages 1083–1258. Editorial deadline was 30 September 1994. *WGSALS* had 17,200 entries including culture as well as scientific/technical. Entries were alphabetical under English name of country. Page 411 listed seventeen associations for automotive engineering in seven countries. The publications index occupied pages 501–542. Deadline date was 31 December 1993. *WVER&D* contains more than 10,000 names of researchers from all European countries that were asked to submit in English a questionnaire comparable to those for *American Men and Women of Science* and which were verified from London by telephone in fall 1994. Although the comparable volume arranged by the 20,272 R&D institutions (*DER&D*) was not available until very late in the review process, access via the index of *WVER&D* yielded ninety-nine valid entries under "automotive engineering" of twenty-seven nationalities—most of whom were with universities. *DER&D* turned out to be more interesting to the international marketer looking for partners in technical projects. But there were 350 organizations listed under "automotive engineering" of which 38 percent were German; Italy and the U.K. had 17 percent each, and France and Sweden had 13.5 percent each.

While it is beholden upon readers who are special librarians to remember the pioneering efforts in the post-World War II years of *ASILB* and its subunits to identify Continental scientific/technical librarians, libraries, and special collections, most would agree that the Bowker-Saur *European Data Base* (2 CD's, 20,272 organizations, sublisted under 650 subject headings—200,000 total subject entries, and 120,000 individual researchers' names) is an exceptional resource (\$1,595.00). Annual editions are planned.

Opportunity was taken to review the most senior special library directory, *DSL*, in its unbound signature state. The subject headings for the index continue to improve and there are twenty-five data elements per entry as compared to *WGSL*'s thirteen. Still lacking a clear statement for the basis on which foreign entries are selected, it is noted that the 260 new ones bring the *DLS* total to 2,789. Both editorial groups are strong and eager to improve. In the subject index for *DSL*, the order is U.S., Canadian, and foreign (country names are similar to airport tags). While larger libraries would need the latest editions of both titles, medium-size libraries could alternate between the annual editions, and small libraries would get the one edited in their hemisphere periodically.

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Children's Literature Research: International Resources and Exchange. First International Conference, April 5-7, 1988. Edited by the International Youth Library. New York: K. G. Saur, 1991. 247 pp. \$48.00. ISBN 0-598-10912.

This volume of the proceedings of the First International Conference held at the International Youth Library in Munich is a grab-bag of items, many of which were outdated by the time the volume was published in 1991. Some opening remarks and two keynote addresses (15-35) given at the conference are followed by sixteen reports on the situation of children's literature research by country. The reports vary greatly in quality, ranging from Betsy Hearne's excellent "Research in Children's Literature in the U.S. and Canada: Problems and Possibilities" (109-121), a model for what this work might have contained, to the extremely sketchy "Children's Literature Research in Austria," by Gertrud Paukner (152-54). Many reports list collections, awards, bibliographical references, and names and addresses of institutions and scholars, but there is no consistent format; given this circumstance, an index would have been helpful.

The usefulness of the reports varies greatly. Some of them, for example those on Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, remain valuable because so little information is available on these countries. Other contributions, such as the report on the USSR (in German) and on Eastern European countries, are no longer pertinent because of the collapse of the Soviet system. And one, that on Cuba by a Cuban scholar, Alga Marina Elizagaray, seems hopelessly one-sided in the light of more balanced reports by scholars who have visited Cuba recently.

Children's Literature Research also contains a section on "International Organizations and Their Work," a somewhat useful source for information on the International Youth Library, the International Research Society for Children's Literature, the Banco del Libro in Venezuela, and IBBY, the International Board on Books for Young People. Nevertheless, much of the information here is also dated, and current information on these institutions is readily available in IBBY's

journal *Bookbird: World of Children's Books*; for example, they are covered in 33:3/4, the Fall-Winter 1995–1996 issue.

Large research institutions, particularly those with an interest in international literature or children's literature, might want to purchase this volume for its references and the names and addresses of individual institutions and scholars. In a perfect world, *Children's Literature Research* would be reissued and updated, with all the countries contained (as well as those omitted; for example, South Africa) following the model of Hearne's report. Failing such an eventuality, however, most libraries interested in keeping up-to-date with the international situation in children's literature would be better served by subscribing to *Bookbird*.

Gillian Adams, Children's Literature Abstracts; Children's Literature Association Quarterly, Austin, Texas.

Old Books in the Old World: Reminiscences of Book Buying Abroad. By Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine B. Stern. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press, 1996. viii, 175 pp. \$45.00. ISBN 1-884718-18-3.

Book Collecting as One of the Fine Arts, and Other Essays. By Colin Franklin. Brookfield, VT: Scolar Press, 1996. x, 138 pp. \$39.50. ISBN 1-85928-262-8.

The two books under scrutiny for this review were written by booksellers with long and distinguished careers, not only in their profession, but also in the world of scholarship. They approach their subjects idiosyncratically, so readers may be fascinated or bored with these books, depending on each reader's predilections.

Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine Stern grew up in New York City. Both were students at Columbia University during the Depression, majoring in history and English respectively. Rostenberg wrote her doctoral dissertation on the role of the printer in the dissemination of learning in Strassburg at the beginning of the Reformation. Her advisor—the renowned but inflexible scholar Lynn Thorndike—rejected her dissertation in 1938, unconvinced of the importance of the printers, whom he considered illiterate and uneducated. Her scholarship was clearly ahead of its time. (Columbia did not reverse that decision, but made amends in 1973 when it accepted Rostenberg's books in lieu of the dissertation and awarded her the doctorate.)

Rostenberg's unfortunate fate at Columbia led to a distinguished career as a bookseller. She worked for the Austrian émigré bookseller Herbert Reichner before establishing her own business in 1944. And she became a prolific writer of works on printing, publishing, and the book trade.

Madeleine Stern ended her formal studies in English after receiving her M.S. from Columbia. Her first book, *The Life of Margaret Fuller* (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1940), received excellent reviews. It was followed by a biography of Louisa May Alcott and a host of other writings on American writers and publishers. She joined Rostenberg as a junior partner in 1945. Scholarship, creativity, moxie, and business acumen have made these women important booksellers and scholars.

With their characteristic lively, witty, and candid style, Rostenberg and Stern have entertained and informed us in several books and essays about literary and bibliographic sleuthing. The most recent memoir by these octogenarians is *Old Books in the Old World: Reminiscences of Book Buying Abroad*, an account of their annual buying trips to Europe from 1947 to 1957.

The book contains excerpts of journal entries and letters home written by each, interspersed with current notes headed "Retrospect." The text contains many photographs from these trips. The authors note that "To retain the spontaneity and informality of the originals, extracts from our journals and letters have been transcribed as they were written, often in the heat of the moment" (vii). The freshness and frankness of their writings often make for captivating reading and recapture the passions and indignities of their youth. For example, an entry from London, 9 and 11 August 1947: "We have seen many a bombed-out building in our walk along Park Lane. . . . It is *still* appalling" (20); and the following year on 22 August, "visited Grafton Sat. a.m. where that old hex Miss Hamel . . . still guards her wares in flounces of black satin, a broad hat & a large piercing brooch. . . . Old Peddie was schlobbering about, dilating upon his Index—now containing 250,000 entries & in the 4th Supplement" (36).

The spontaneity of their early reflections tends to become bogged down by their retrospective notes, which, while interesting early on, become dreary as these notes consist primarily of accounts of what their purchases would be worth in today's market or else which library or collector wound up owning the books that they acquired on these trips.

Judicious editing might also have kept the book moving at its early lively pace. Stern and Rostenberg "schmoosed," had a "schmoose" or a "schmoos," or engaged in "schmoosing" some dozen times. The collector Miriam Holden is mentioned five times, three in which she is referred to as "the feminist collector" or "feminist friend" (82, 93, 99).

The book provided enough memorable passages to send me back to their *Old & Rare: Thirty Years in the Book Business* (New York: Abner Schram, 1974). Their earlier work admirably covers their postwar buying trips and also provides the reader with a more sustained narrative coupled with a circumspect perspective. It is the superior work. Rather than provide us with diary excerpts and choppy retrospectives, Stern and Rostenberg should simply have treated us to their unexpurgated diaries. As biographers they surely know how much more valuable those would be to us. But the task of bringing out their diaries, it appears, must fall to their own biographers. Such an insight into the lives of these admirable women would be a lagriappe indeed.

* * *

Colin Franklin's collection of essays does not quite captivate the reader. His title snags our attention since there is a wide readership of books about book collecting. But this is disappointing since there really is little about book collecting here. The subtitle—in smaller type—says it best: "and Other Essays." The first piece, somewhat rambling and unfocused, does talk a bit about collecting, but the author's style—in his own admission "It is the privilege of a bookseller to wander across subjects" (5)—leaves the reader wondering what all this is about. He seems to talk about what to collect, how to collect, whether to use (i.e., read) the books in one's collection, the sense of "a separation from practical affairs" (5) that collecting affords, collecting as investment, finding one's own optimal area of collecting, and so on. There is nothing new here, nothing that collectors did not already know and that many authors have not covered in abundance.

The redeeming feature here is the author's relaxed style: it is almost as if he and the reader are sitting beside his fireplace, a jar of his home-gathered honey on the coffee table beside a plate of toast, and he is reminiscing about a passion he has pursued for half a century. The advice is not so much advice as it is his

discussing with a restrained enthusiasm a long-standing passion of his, recollected in tranquillity. We might not learn much, but we feel rewarded, nonetheless, by mere contact.

The “Other Essays” yield the same “reward.” The eleven other pieces range from one topic to another—often only peripherally related to books—the way one’s evening conversation might roam around. “So, Colin, I like this Doves Press book. Great type face!” “Oh, it was one of those proprietary types, you know.” “Ah!” And so the second essay launches into what Franklin knows about proprietary types—Doves, Vale, Eragny—and their ultimate disposal in the Thames.

“This is a nice little item, *The Garland for Rachel*. What can you tell me about it?” “Funny you should ask—I just wrote an essay about it and the Daniel Press.” The inspiration for much of the writing here comes from the books and manuscripts in Franklin’s own collection. But he has also traveled widely and become familiar with the many tools of his trade: books and the libraries they reside in. He has, for example, written about the typography and illustration of early editions of Shakespeare (chapter 4); chiaroscuro illustration, especially the work of the English artist John Baptist Jackson (chapter 5); Lord Chesterfield’s writing—not just his well-known letters to his son (who died in 1768, “worn out perhaps,” Franklin speculates, “by three decades of advice,” [51]), but also his more controversial volume of “Characters,” sketches of his contemporaries (chapter 6); the work of William Combe, the prolific nineteenth-century writer who published most of his work from debtor’s prison (chapter 7); the Sette of Odd Volumes (the English club) and its many publications (chapter 8); and so on. The last four chapters deal with Dante Gabriel Rossetti (chapter 9) and the Brownings (10–12)—various aspects of their interests, writings, or experience. The last chapter is on Elizabeth’s fascination with seances, “table-rapping” (133), and other paranormal experiences brought to her by Daniel Dunglas Hume; Robert Browning’s skepticism and the tensions created in their marriage because of this interest; and his poem “Mr. Sludge, ‘The Medium,’” emanating from these experiences. This chapter is punctuated by Franklin’s own lively tale, paralleling the Browning story, of his own childhood paranormal experience: his lying about being able to dowse and being taken seriously by his family for many years.

The book is not without problems (a phrase, I am sure, the reader anticipated). To begin with, while many of these essays introduce us to things somewhat bookish, not all of these essays are even slightly captivating. Second, and perhaps the most problematic feature of this for me, most of these essays talk about the physical objects of Franklin’s trade and his collecting: books and manuscripts. And he talks of them specifically *as* physical objects: their varying levels of beauty, their typography and illustrations, their bindings. The fourth essay, for example, is solely about the *look*—typography, illustration, bindings, sizes, papers, and leathers—of eighteenth-century editions of Shakespeare. But there is no single facsimile or illustration of any kind. This is true of the entire volume, with its essays on the Sette of Odd Volumes books, the chiaroscuro and other illustrations of Jackson and his contemporaries, the looks of many editions of Elizabeth Browning’s sonnets, the volume of poems to Rachel, the many printings of Robert Browning’s *Pied Piper*, and the interesting manuscript scrapbook of William Combe. We are tantalized (in at least half of the essays) by Franklin’s telling us of how such and such an item *looks*, but we are not shown a single one of them. For \$39.50 we get only 138 pages of intriguing, provocative prose: not a satisfying purchase. Without pictures to show us what Franklin is talking about, many of these essays are soporific.

I have been reading and profiting from Colin Franklin's scholarly work for three decades. He is one of those rare combinations of prominent and eminent bookseller and learned scholar—like Rostenberg and Stern. His writing does not border on the boastful or egocentric, as does that of Rosenbach, Fleming, and Randall, to name only three. He is truly a gentleman scholar, a gentleman bookseller, and a relaxed and friendly writer. This is not his most compelling or informative endeavor, but it is a congenial stroll down a few new or slightly worn paths with a kind interlocutor.

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ABC for Book Collectors. By John Carter. 7th ed. with corrections, additions and an introduction by Nicolas Barker. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press, 1995. 224 pp. \$25.00. ISBN 1-884718-18-05-1.

The Art & History of Books. By Norma Levarie. With a foreword by Nicolas Barker. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press, and London: The British Library, 1995. xx, 316 pp. \$45.00. ISBN 1-884718-02-7, hardback. \$29.95. ISBN 1-884718-03-5, paperbound.

Encyclopedia of the Book. By Geoffrey Ashall Glaister. 2nd ed., with a new introduction by Donald Farren. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press, and London: The British Library, 1996. xxiii, 551 pp. \$75.00. ISBN 1-884718-15-9, hardback. \$49.95. ISBN 1-884718-14-0, paperbound.

Five Hundred Years of Printing. By S. H. Steinberg. New ed., revised by John Trevitt. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press, and London: The British Library, 1996. xx, 262 pp. \$45.00. ISBN 1-884718-19-1, hardback. \$29.95. ISBN 1-884718-20-5, paperbound.

With the republication of these four titles alone, Oak Knoll Press can lay rightful and impressive claim to be the premier publisher of reference works and standard texts in the field of the history of books and printing. These revised and reprinted classics lend new distinction to a publisher that has long been a friend of book people in the English-speaking world. Though the publisher's fall 1996 catalogues reveal its continuing commitment to publishing books on "printing, bookbinding, illustration, papermaking, marbling, bookselling, publishing, typography, bibliography, book collecting, etc.," it is its newest venture into bringing back out-of-print works of worth that is its current spectacular achievement.

Many publishers, trade and scholarly, have produced single printings, and even occasional reprintings, of noteworthy works; but they frequently abandon them nowadays when the demand declines to that of a steady backlisted item. To its credit and with the gratitude of many, the thoughtful leadership of Oak Knoll Press has rescued and resuscitated these excellent works, brought them up to date when needed, and reissued them at a very fair price—including a complete and undisguised publishing history on the verso of each title page. It has immediately become the publisher of record for the professions that take the history and care of books seriously. The fact that the Bibliographical Society of America

and The British Library have determined to work with this publisher also suggests that it has earned its enviable position. These four works illustrate the enlightened practice and promise of this press.

Carter's succinct *ABC for Book Collectors* has been a gem to discover and a favorite with students of the book since it first appeared in 1952 from Rupert Hart-Davis. Now, several editions later, this little classic is still available at a very reasonable cost, thanks to an arrangement with HarperCollins. Barker's brief introduction provides good insight into why this title has been invaluable to beginners and seasoned book workers for more than four decades.

Levarie's *The Art & History of Books*, an illustrated survey of the book from ancient times to the present century, has been an excellent introduction to the subject since it first appeared in 1968 from James H. Heineman; it was reissued by Da Capo Press in 1982, but then was out of print for a number of years. With its full size and reproductions of book title pages, text pages, and illustrations—that occur on almost every other page—this work, published by arrangement with Heineman, will be highly appreciated by a new generation of book lovers and students. Again, Barker's extended introduction provides an evaluation and supplementary assessment in light of recent scholarship.

Glaister's *Encyclopedia of the Book* became a friend to many in the profession as a unique and sturdy reference work in a field that had few others in English. Originally produced in 1960 under the modest title of *Glossary of the Book* by George Allen & Unwin Publishers, its completely revised second edition appeared as *Glaister's Glossary of the Book* from the University of California Press. Farren's thirteen-page introduction to the present reprinting of the second edition presents a fascinating portrait of Glaister, the British Council librarian who for nearly thirty years worked overseas and who used a Swedish work as the basis for his reference work. This reissued volume published by arrangement with HarperCollins, London, and available in paperback binding, brings the work again into the reach of virtually anyone who has an interest in the history and technology of the book arts.

Steinberg's *Five Hundred Years of Printing*, as revised and brought up to date by John Trevitt, is a classic that students always appreciate. Though not perhaps intended to be a definitive text, it has aided many in their understanding and appreciation of the Western historical tradition of moveable type printing. This short work from a prolific author was originally published by Penguin Books as a Pelican Original; second and third editions appeared in 1961 and 1974. Now with expanded page size, completely reworked text and illustrative matter, and an extended addition that covers the twentieth century, the availability of this work again will ensure its being the standard text, notwithstanding the widespread use of Warren Chappell's *A Short History of the Printed Word* (various publishers from 1970). The revised selective bibliography is welcome.

In sum, Oak Knoll Press has gifted its profession by bringing back these exceptional books and not allowing them to languish, to be forgotten, or to be available only for collectors. Along with the far more selective and specialized reprints of Dover Publications of New York, this press has made a conscientious attempt to keep classic works available to the broadest possible audience. As a professor who has taught courses in the history of books and libraries, I can speak from experience and with thanksgiving. We can look forward to other efforts of Oak Knoll Press—especially as we support its recent achievements.

Cycles of Time and Scientific Learning in Medieval Europe. By Wesley M. Stevens. Brookfield, Vt.: Variorum, 1995. ix, 336 pp. \$92.95. ISBN 0-86078-471-1.

In this collection of eleven articles previously published from the early 1970s to mid-1990s, with corrections and revisions conveniently marked, Wesley Stevens weaves together several topics crucial for medieval studies in general as well as manuscript and library studies in particular. The pattern woven is one too frequently neglected by scholars despite its value. It is a book suited for trained medievalists rather than general readers; one article is in German. This reviewer approaches the work as an historian specializing in codicology and the history of scholarship, including scientific scholarship.

The articles' topics include calendrical and astronomical reckonings, sidereal reckoning in Anglo-Saxon England, Bede's scientific studies, Isidore's representation of the cosmos, scientific instruction in early insular schools, several articles on the scientific efforts of Hraban, Strabo, and the scribes of the scriptorium at Fulda as well as specific manuscripts therefrom.

There is an important theme that unites these articles. Stevens argues—with reason!—that the interrelations between what moderns call scientific labors and the religious, social, and intellectual life of early Christian Europe deserve broader acknowledgment among scholars today, if we are not to risk ignoring an exceedingly great amount of historical sources for this period. He focuses on manuscripts from the eighth to eleventh centuries, thus from the period before the influx of Aristotelian manuscripts and translations following the initiation of the crusades into Iberia.

By this view of scientific manuscripts, Stevens reinforces the theoretical nature of the traditional quadrivium and trivium of the Roman model for education, replacing it with the practical nature of *grammatica*, *cantica* (applied music) and *computistica* (time reckoning). *Computistica*, calculations of various elements of time as well as fields related to such endeavors, was a critical, pervasive element of medieval education and academic activity. This account serves as a needed check on the customary descriptions of educational systems and curricula, such as those by H. Marrou or M. L. W. Laistner. However, it is not a matter of supplanting them, contrary to Stevens (e.g., IX, 28), but one of amplification. Indeed, in agreement with Stevens, the ordinary student in early medieval monasteries concerned himself with applying his studies to resolve quotidian problems. From this sort of training in calendrical and arithmetical calculations, scholars were then able to go on to other logically related fields, such as advanced studies in astronomy, geometry, and mathematics as well as theology. For the medievalist today, examination of such scientific texts and curricula reveals their far-reaching impact. For example, tracing how the Easter date was resolved—however tedious the process can seem to many today—shows the flow of ecclesiastical influence. It must be remembered that it was the religious life of Christian Europe that served as the impetus for scientific studies, rather than that they occurred separate from common society. Yet, scholars' choices of manuscripts for study usually serve to reinforce a division between literary and scientific manuscripts. This division is natural, of course, but Stevens shows that the scientific texts have much to offer scholars concerned primarily with the literary ones.

For readers of this journal, Stevens's articles bear special weight. Medieval library holdings included large numbers of scientific manuscripts. Even literary

manuscripts frequently contain marginalia of scientific material. Stevens demonstrates how computational texts are integral to understanding the early medieval context. The majority of his articles concern actual practice within scriptoria, especially at Fulda, and specific manuscripts. Two articles on a ninth-century codex from Fulda but conserved in the Bodleian library provide a precise, exemplary model of codicological description and analysis. This collection can thus serve very well as a working guide for those scholars interested in expanding their current literary-oriented studies of manuscripts or libraries to include the abundant riches of scientific texts. Stevens offers a superb work of scholarship and, equally important, explains how his studies help illuminate many other fields, including codicology, paleography, bibliography, and library history.

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