

Book Reviews

A New History of the English Public Library: Social and Intellectual Contexts, 1850-1914.
By Alistair Black. London: Leicester University Press, 1996. vii, 353 pp. \$75.00.
ISBN 0-7185-0015-6.

A persistent criticism of library history concerns its traditional focus upon internal events: the chronological narrative of buildings, people, and collections recounted with little or no concern for larger social/cultural contexts. Regardless of the general validity of such criticism, it is entirely irrelevant to this particular book. Only with difficulty can one imagine a study of the English public library in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries being more external and more concerned with larger contexts than this outstanding work of scholarship by Alistair Black, who teaches at Leeds (England) Metropolitan University.

As is made clear in the introduction, this study does not attempt to compete as a textbook with Thomas Kelly's *History of Public Libraries in Great Britain, 1845-1965* (London: Library Association, 1973). Rather, Black's book undertakes a cultural study of English public libraries, presented as a holistic investigation using the tenets of urban, social, political, economic, and intellectual history. As such, a theoretical model and methodology are employed utilizing a wide range of economic, class, educational, cultural and social evidence normally outside the range of library history but highly reminiscent of the French *histoire du livre* school. Both contextual and deductive approaches are utilized. Black aims to address several issues: the failure of mainstream historians to consider libraries as crucial elements in social and cultural history, the reason for politicians and the general public attaching such a low priority to public libraries, and a desire to utilize the wealth of available public library statistics in a manner that takes them beyond case studies to the point of revealing general trends and theories.

At the core of Black's analysis is a concern with philosophical thought, specifically with how Victorian and Edwardian liberalism evolved from the *laissez-faire* individualism of utilitarianism in the early years to the shared communal values of idealism in the later years. His discussion of these two philosophical schools, particularly in chapters three and seven, is excellent and constitutes one of the best general introductions currently available. In the course of his exposition, he demonstrates the dichotomous views of utilitarians and idealists toward culture in general and libraries in particular: the utilitarians who viewed them as reforming, scientific, and material as opposed to the idealists who viewed them as founts of learning, aesthetics, assimilation, and wisdom.

Although names such as William Ewart, Edward Edwards, John Passmore Edwards, and others long familiar to library historians can be found in these pages, so also can names more familiar to intellectual historians, names such as John Stuart Mill, Jeremy Bentham, and T. H. Green. Even such traditional themes

as “Librarians” in chapter nine and “Architecture” in chapter ten are treated in innovative and untraditional ways with concepts such as the “regime of truth” (223) and the “bio-power” (247) theory of Michel Foucault. Black’s personal vision of the public library, and his sympathy with the idealist position, are most clearly stated in this concluding phrase: “the ultimate ends of knowledge are primarily social, altruistic and aesthetic; not individualistic, acquisitive and material” (268).

This groundbreaking work with its remarkable insights has many probable points of inspiration, of which three come immediately to mind within the field of library history, despite being much less ambitious in their theoretical and philosophical approach: Lorne Bruce’s *Free Books for All* (Toronto: Dundurn, 1994), Sidney Ditzion’s *Arsenals of a Democratic Culture* (Chicago: ALA, 1947), and Jesse Shera’s *Foundations of the Public Library* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1949). However, the true inspiration for Black’s work more likely comes from outside librarianship in the writings of historians of print culture, such as Roger Chartier, Robert Darnton, and Elizabeth Eisenstein, whose broadly based social/cultural approach is only beginning to influence English-speaking library historians. Whether Black’s aspiration to reach a broader audience of mainstream historians will be realized remains to be seen. Although well-written, the book is densely packed and favors methodological/theoretical rigor over narrative flow. That said, no one in the field of library history can afford to ignore this milestone work. The book is exhaustively documented and well indexed. There are no illustrations.

Peter F. McNally, McGill University, Montreal

People of the Book: Christian Identity and Literary Culture. By David Lyle Jeffrey. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., in cooperation with the Institute for Advanced Christian Studies, 1996. xx, 396 pp. \$37.00. ISBN 0-8028-3817-0.

In this beautifully bound and well-written book David Lyle Jeffrey explores how Christian identity has been defined as a “People of the Book” and how this identity has been shaped and articulated in Western literary culture. Jeffrey argues that the Christian Bible is “the foundation text” for a “whole world of books” (xiii) in Western literary culture.

In a kind of Christian identity politics, Jeffrey’s work defines his own Christian tradition, prompted by the desire to reject the mischaracterization of Christianity as “logocentrist” in poststructuralist theory, especially the work of Jacques Derrida. Jeffrey defines logocentrism as an idealistic idolizing of language, the opposite of nihilism, defined as the repudiation of language as a useful means to understanding. While I agree that Derrida has misunderstood the Christian tradition, Jeffrey’s critique of deconstructive criticism would have been strengthened by a careful reading of Derrida’s deconstruction of logocentrism and the metaphysical conception of “the Book” in *Of Grammatology* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976). And while I agree that, ultimately, deconstructive criticism is based upon a certain kind of nihilism, Jeffrey’s somewhat reductive characterization of deconstruction can be criticized for doing the very thing Jeffrey criticizes poststructuralist theory of doing, that is, oversimplifying his opponent’s theory.

Nevertheless, the heart of Jeffrey’s work—which he describes as threshing out “the rich harvest of ‘theoretical’ texts already gathered for us in the library of

Western scriptural tradition" (18)—is filled with rich insights. Jeffrey gives an impressive historical overview of literary theories that are guided by the Bible. Through a study of writings from the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament to contemporary American writers, Jeffrey recovers a biblically based literary theory which he argues displays three characteristics: (1) the locating of meaning not in language but in the intention or will of the author; (2) a sacramental view of reality, in which the temporal embodies the truths of the eternal, which leads to an incarnational aesthetics; and (3) an ethical poetics which sees the end of literature in the movement of the reader's will toward moral action.

One of the most original aspects of his project is his culling of a literary theory directly from the Old and New Testaments, including the "literary theory of Jesus" (61). Jeffrey is at his best when he recovers the importance of Christian identity as the people of the book in the origins and development of English literary culture, including the preservation of classical culture and the rise of literacy in English culture.

While Jeffrey writes incisive critiques of some Christian traditions, including Puritanism and American civil religion, as well as New Criticism, his readings of some of the early Church and medieval writings are a bit idealistic, dismissing too quickly the influence of Greco-Roman philosophies on early definitions of Christian identity.

In an outstanding chapter on the romantics, Jeffrey uses the opening of Goethe's *Faust* to illustrate how Goethe revises the Christian ideal of the "faithful reader" (214), whose will is submitted to the authority of the Bible, in order to valorize the willful reader who dispenses with "external authority mediated by the Book" (262). This change is shown effectively through many of the twenty-eight illustrations which grace this book.

While I applaud Jeffrey's recovery of "the cultural force of the great library of texts which mark out the growth and development of Christian literary tradition" (353) and hope that this will spur further attempts to demonstrate the importance of the biblical tradition in literary and critical theory, I am troubled by Jeffrey's call for a return to a belief in the authority of the text. While this stance is appropriate for a Christian reading of the Bible, Jeffrey, like Wesley Kort who makes a similar argument in his recent work "*Take, Read': Scripture, Textuality, and Cultural Practice*" (University Park, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1996), does not tell us how to distinguish which texts we should allow to move our wills. Like George Steiner's work, *Real Presences* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989), which Jeffrey cites approvingly in his battle against postmodern theory, Jeffrey's work leads us back to a romantic theory which asks us to read literature as Scripture, rather than forward toward a Christian critical theory.

Brian D. Ingraffia, Biola University, La Mirada, California

New Science out of Old Books: Studies in Manuscripts and Early Printed Books in Honour of A. I. Doyle. By Richard Beadle and A. J. Piper. Aldershot, Hampshire, England: Scolar Press, 1995. xi, 455 pp. \$109.95. ISBN 1-85928-004-X.

The lengthy bibliography of A. I. Doyle's works compiled for this *festschrift* attests to his great impact on the study of English medieval manuscripts and early printed books. The articles offer another kind of testament to his influence

on the advancement of codicological, paleographical, and bibliographical scholarship. His encouragement of the work of many scholars displayed throughout these essays demonstrates the inspiration and expert advice that he has generously given.

The varied subjects of the articles reflect not only Doyle's range of interests but also the different approaches to the history of medieval and early printed books. The collection of essays begins with an appropriately inspirational tone, as Mary A. Rouse and Richard H. Rouse analyze a twelfth-century monastic sermon in a Durham Cathedral manuscript that presents an allegorical interpretation of the scribal process. Indeed, a number of articles focus on paleographical analysis. M. B. Parkes examines the activity of ten scribes who copied manuscripts containing Gower's works to show that they worked independently rather than as a coordinated authorial scriptorium. In contrast, the process of writing and authorial revision is the subject of the essay by Peter J. Lucas on the fourteenth-century Augustinian friar John Capgrave, who copied out manuscripts of his own works. Richard Beadle integrates paleography with codicology and linguistic analysis to identify the monk Thomas Hyngham as the scribe of the Macro Manuscript in the Folger Shakespeare Library which contains important texts of fifteenth-century English morality plays. The relationship between paleographical and linguistic analysis is also used by Margaret Laing and Angus McIntosh to identify the various scribes in a twelfth-century collection of homilies and the *Poema Morale* in Cambridge, Trinity College MS 335.

Other aspects of medieval book production receive attention. Kathleen L. Scott analyzes the meaning of terms for book production that remain *in situ* in some medieval English manuscripts. The direct connection between the term and the appearance of certain features, such as types of decorated initials, helps to clarify the medieval terminology and the process of book production.

Two articles describe and examine complete manuscripts that contain Middle English texts. Anne Hudson's codicological study of Cambridge, Trinity College MS B.16.2 brings new insights about this important collection of Wyclif's Latin works. Toshiyuki Takamiya provides an edition of an unrecorded Middle English poem, "On the Evils of Covetousness," and places it within its manuscript context.

Several articles address issues connected with readers and owners of medieval manuscripts. Two articles look at provisions to aid reading. Michael G. Sargent explores statutes promulgated by the Carthusian order to maintain textual accuracy and uniformity in its book production. George R. Keiser shows ways that layout and textual division helped readers apprehend the contents of several late medieval texts. Linda Voigts identifies a significant group of manuscripts owned by a fifteenth-century English doctor, Roger Marchall. Studying these manuscripts as a group shows not only how he acquired and used the books but also how this working library adds to our knowledge about the intellectual and professional milieu of late medieval England. Mary C. Erler utilizes the case of exchanges of books between nuns and laywomen to add further information about medieval women as book owners and readers.

Although A. I. Doyle has concentrated on medieval manuscripts, his work has also extended to early printing. Three of the articles concern early printed books. Lotte Hellenga makes a strong case on linguistic and typographical grounds for locating the homeland of Caxton's associate, Wynkyn de Worde, in Woerden, Holland, rather than in Alsace. William O'Sullivan tracks down books that were in John Bale's library when he was in Ireland. Changes in content of early printed spiritual manuals designed to prepare the reader for communion enable J. T.

Rhodes to document shifts in devotional attitudes from the late Middle Ages to the early modern period.

Although each article focuses on a particular case study of medieval and early printed books, this volume as a whole shows the many interlinking ways that these books can be studied. Most important, the codicological and bibliographical attention to these books as artifacts yields significant insights into the culture of medieval and Renaissance England.

Karen Gould, Austin, Texas

A Colonial Woman's Bookshelf. By Kevin J. Hayes. Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1996. xv, 216 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 0-87049-937-8.

Professor Hayes set himself an ambitious task when he set out to discover what women read in the colonies, for the evidence, aside from the letters and diaries of a handful of well-known individuals like Abigail Adams or Eliza Pinckney, lies scattered in broken shards in all kinds of corners: inscriptions on flyleaves themselves, of course, and in wills and inventories, catalogues of subscription libraries and sales catalogues. Mostly those sources provide no context other than ownership. Fitting the bits and pieces together into a meaningful description of the intellectual world of women across almost two centuries is a daunting undertaking. Hayes has simplified his job in one sense by treating all colonial women from whatever colony as part of one print culture.

Even so, the organization of so much discrete evidence is difficult. There is no organizing principle other than the proposition that colonial women read often and widely. In the ordinary absence of any direct evidence of what a book owner thought, Hayes relies on an examination of the books themselves to tell us what was in the readers' minds. It is not a bad technique, and Hayes has found enough evidence of ownership to make his descriptions plausible.

He opens with a chapter on his sources that contains some of the most engaging sketches of individual women readers, like Jonathan Edwards's daughter Esther, who married Aaron Burr, president of the College of New Jersey. What Hayes wants, however, is to go beyond the few remarkable women to learn about Everywoman or at least every reading woman. After his first chapter Hayes has ordered his material by several categories of book: devotional books; books about how to conduct oneself; household books for cooking, medicine, and midwifery; novels and travel literature; and lastly science.

The chapter on devotional reading contains also, curiously, poetry. Hayes found that most poetry falls more easily into a category of devotional reading than into *belles lettres*. Like the other chapters, this one is most satisfying when he has some one person to anchor it. Here that person is Elizabeth Ashbridge, a woman whose religious life took many turns before she became a Quaker and settled in Philadelphia during the first half of the eighteenth century. She left a rich account of her devotional reading, an autobiographical memoir, and it lifts the whole chapter. The next two have no such outstanding personality, and though Hayes has found a large number of books owned by women that he describes in interesting ways, each chapter seems to this reviewer to remain a miscellany. Hayes makes no general observations and draws no conclusions from his findings.

In the chapter on fiction there is more to go on, thanks to the great popularity of Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*. So many women read the novel, both its two-

volume start and the four-volume sequel, and wrote about it, that Hayes is able to discuss at length, as with Elizabeth Ashbridge mentioned above, how women readers reacted to what they read. Wherever Hayes is able to go beyond mere ownership and write about the women's responses to their reading, his own book becomes interesting. The carefully gleaned evidence about ownership may prove to be a useful starting place for other scholars interested in the history of the book or in women's history. Extensive citations and notes, a large list of secondary sources, and a thorough index take up fully a third of this volume.

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Women Bookbinders, 1880–1920. By Marianne Tidcombe. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press; London: The British Library, 1996. 240 pp. \$58.00. ISBN 1-884718-23-X.

This long-awaited work is the first monograph in English on women bookbinders. The author is well qualified to write it, for she is a distinguished bookbinding historian who has written excellent books on Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt, T. J. Cobden-Sanderson, and the Doves Bindery: *The Bookbinding Career of Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt* (Pittsburgh: Hunt Botanical Library, 1974); *The Bookbindings of T. J. Cobden-Sanderson* (London: The British Library, 1984); and *The Doves Bindery* (New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press; London: The British Library, 1991). Although the present book is full of invaluable information and, in the appendices, painstaking research, it is not up to the high standards of her earlier books. There is no coherent theme or concept, and there are typographical errors and other copyediting problems throughout.

To begin, the concept of this book is ambiguous. The title leads us to believe that this is a comprehensive work on women bookbinders from a variety of countries during the forty-year period of 1880–1920. Yet the author herself states in the preface that the “main focus is on the three most famous binders of the period, Sarah Prideaux, Katharine Adams, and Sybil Pye, and the Guild of Women Binders” (6). The three women were all British, as were most of the members of the guild. So this book is really primarily about British women binders. But the book contains other more general topics including a twenty-page overview of the history of woman binders, which relies on secondary sources. There is also a rather paltry chapter on women trade binders (British) at the end of the nineteenth century, with no mention of the most important study in this area, Mary Van Kleeck's *Women in the Bookbinding Trade* (New York: Survey Associates, Russell Sage Foundation, 1913). Van Kleeck, a social researcher and industrial sociologist for the Russell Sage Foundation, wrote dozens of books related to labor. Her papers are at Smith College, which also houses the Ellen Gates Starr papers, which Tidcombe did consult. Was Van Kleeck's work ignored because its focus was on women bookbinders in New York City? Tidcombe's chapter focuses on the British trade, but here again, she does not state that she is examining only British binders.

The so-called main focus of the book—on Prideaux, Adams, Pye, and the Guild—does not begin until page 104, and the primary text of the book (there are seven appendices) ends on page 190. But the introductory chapters are actually shorter than the pagination might lead one to believe: the colored plates

take up the pages numbered 31 through 64. Thus these introductory chapters contain only fifty-seven pages of text. They contain a weak historical introduction (chapter one), and the equally weak chapter on women trade binders (chapter two). She should have jettisoned those chapters; pages 104 through 189 are the heart of this book. Chapters three and four are useful, on embroidered bookbindings (chapter three) and modeled leather bindings and pokerwork (chapter four), because these are products that have often come from women binders. But if, indeed, the book is not a social history, as she states, and is "a short general survey giving a brief account of the lives and work of women who started binding before the First World War" (8), then the chapter on women trade binders is truly out of place here.

Tidcombe is at her best when she focuses on individual binders rather than when she tries to paint a broader historical picture. She is particularly skillful at describing the techniques binders have used and their designs. Probably the most important scholarly contribution in this volume is her detective work on the bindings of Sarah Prideaux. Although Katharine Adams revealed some time ago that Lucien Broca did the finishing in Prideaux's best work, Tidcombe has determined that some of the bindings were also executed by others. Why did Prideaux keep her collaborations a secret? Tidcombe posits that Prideaux "may have thought her bindings were worth more if the public believed they were done by a woman, but most likely it was because she felt that, as they were produced to her designs and specifications, she was entirely responsible for the end product, and therefore deserved all the credit" (109).

The book is generously peppered with errors. Sometimes figures and plates are mislabeled; for example on page 66, figures 19 and 20 are reversed; on pages 187 and 188, figures 140 and 141 are reversed; and on page 158, plate 41 is listed as 42. Sometimes footnotes are misplaced or exist in error, as on page 182. There are several sentence fragments, such as the one beginning with "Katharine Adams" on the bottom of page 107. Names are given variant spellings, such as Florence Foot(e) and First Edition(s) Club. Many other mistakes, some amusing, crop up. Tidcombe, an American who has lived abroad for many years, has obviously forgotten her American geography. On page 116 she writes that when Frank Karslake lived in a house in Sacramento, he "enjoyed views of the Rocky mountains." Although California air quality was certainly better in the nineteenth century than it is today, it is doubtful that Mr. Karslake could have viewed a mountain chain three states to the east. More likely he was looking at the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The number of errors is rather surprising given Tidcombe's generally high caliber of work.

Tidcombe and other scholars on both sides of the Atlantic, with their research on individual binders of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, have merely begun the enterprise of writing a comprehensive study of women binders. This is often tedious work because women changed their names or stopped binding once they married, and it is difficult or impossible to follow their trails. A scholarly work on earlier women binders will be more difficult, since many of them often worked in anonymity in their fathers' or husbands' binderies. Primary sources such as account books, shop inventories, diaries, and probate records may reveal more information. But these are exceptionally difficult to locate and access. Though the present volume is not by any stretch a comprehensive study, it is a decent prolegomenon.

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American Treasures in the Library of Congress. Edited by Margaret E. Wagner and Rachel Tsutsumi. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1997. 176 pp. \$39.95. ISBN 0-8109-4298-4.

The Book in America, With Images from the Library of Congress. By Richard W. Clement. Golden, Colo.: Fulcrum Publishing, 1996. x, 150 pp. \$39.95. ISBN 1-55591-234-6.

American Treasures in the Library of Congress and *The Book in America* are complementary publications about the book trade and the treasures from that trade which have been collected, preserved, housed in our national library, and displayed, some of the items for the first time. The sum of \$23,950 paid for Thomas Jefferson's library in 1815 has to be one of the best decisions made by Congress on behalf of the American people. With this single purchase, the congressional research library was reconstructed, and the country acquired a national library.

The Library of Congress, as we know it today, rose from the ashes of the original legislative research library that was destroyed by the British army during the War of 1812 when the Capitol was burned. Thomas Jefferson sold his personal library of almost 6,500 items (more than twice the size of the original Library of Congress) to Congress to rebuild the congressional library. The Library of Congress was reborn and has continued to acquire holdings through donations, transfers from other institutions, and the Copyright Office, which became part of the Library of Congress in 1870, to reach the astonishing number of 110 million items today in all formats. The vast accumulation of items deposited with the Copyright Office accounts significantly for the diversity of materials in the Library of Congress. Each year the Library of Congress selects approximately 800,000 items from the Copyright Office to be added to the research collection of the library.

American Treasures in the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov) is a collection of ninety-six photographs selected by the Library of Congress staff in celebration of the opening of a new exhibit in the renovated Thomas Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress. Opening in May 1997, the exhibit, *American Treasures*, is a sampling of the diverse collection of Americana that will be part of the rotating exhibit in the coming years and is a joint project between the library and Xerox to display the priceless artifacts of American history housed in the world's largest library. *American Treasures* is divided into three distinct sections, following the same pattern as Thomas Jefferson's library, which was arranged according to the faculties of the mind: Memory (for history) followed by Reason (for philosophy, law, and science) and Imagination (for the arts and sports).

Some examples of the photographs in the book include the Bay Psalm Book, the first extant book printed in the colonies in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1640, and George Washington's personal copy of the Declaration of Independence, which was read to his troops in New York in July 1776. Another selection is a 316 mm. kinescope copy of a segment from *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson* with guest Groucho Marx, who read a letter from the Librarian of Congress asking for the donation of all of Groucho's personal correspondence throughout his career in vaudeville, radio, movies, and television. The photograph of the contents from Abraham Lincoln's pockets the night of 14 April 1865, when he was assassinated at Ford's Theatre, reveals that he carried items similar to most prominent men of that time. For sports fans, an 1865 photograph of the

Brooklyn Atlantics mounted on a piece of heavy card is the prototype of today's baseball cards, which did not become popular in our culture until the 1880s.

In *The Book of America* Mason Locke "Parson" Weems stated that Americans would buy cheap, popular books, if available. Parson Weems is perhaps best known to most Americans as the author of the major best-selling, but mostly apocryphal, biography of George Washington in 1800. But Weems was also a dynamic book salesman, and his assertion that Americans wanted cheap, popular books is as true today as it was then. His statement could also easily be a summation of more than three hundred years of the history of the book trade in this country.

The Book in America chronicles the role that the book and the people involved in the development of the book trade have played in this country from the colonial era to the twentieth century. Written in cooperation with the Library of Congress's Publishing Office as the ninth volume of the Library's Classic Series, *The Book in America* recounts the stories of the printers, publishers, authors, editors, agents, booksellers, and especially readers who shaped the book trade into the lucrative industry that it is today. Clement has filled his book with images of nearly every kind of printed material that is housed in the Library of Congress.

Europeans and books arrived in the New World simultaneously. Bibles, general religious tracts, textbooks, and navigational material came to New Spain and, later, to the English colonies in the same ships as the first immigrants. The first printing press arrived in New Spain in 1539 and in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1638. The first bookstore opened in Cambridge that same year, and printers and printing presses were established in most of the colonies by 1732. Before the American Revolution most of the reading material for the colonists was imported from England, as well as the components for the printing trade. Due to an inferior transportation system, distribution of printed material was extremely difficult, making the reprinting of material in different localities easier than transporting it.

Changes in printing, publishing, and distribution began to occur rapidly during the early decades of the nineteenth century with the establishment of publishing houses, many of which remain in business today, through the technological developments in the Industrial Revolution to the mergers and acquisitions of the twentieth century. Technological developments affected not only the price and physical appearance of the book but distribution as well. Railroad, automobile, and airplane passengers created new markets for the book trade, and thus new distribution points. The development of public libraries, supported by municipal taxes, also contributed to the demand for books and other reading material. With improved technology and bigger markets, publishers lowered prices, produced a wider variety of books, and distributed them through more imaginative venues. Parson Weems would be pleased.

The history of the book is the history of America. As America grew and prospered, so did the book trade. Manifest destiny, immigration, and the expansion of literacy created new markets for books, and the technological inventions of stereotyping, linotyping, rolling presses, and inexpensive paper production lowered the price of books so that more people could afford to buy more books.

Clement reminds us that books have had to compete with movies, radio, and television in this century for a share of Americans' leisure time and now must battle with the computer, electronic games, and electronic information resources. Clement is not concerned that the book trade will not survive this latest challenge. He is concerned that one-third of the population of this country is functionally illiterate. He maintains that this country is facing a literacy crisis which

is more threatening than a fear of whether or not the computer and electronic information might replace the book. We Americans should be more concerned about who is going to read than what the format of the reading material is going to be. He feels that, if this country is going to survive as a democratic nation, those of us who love to read must inspire and encourage the nonreader to pick up a book and read it.

Both publications are delightful to browse and informative and entertaining to read for anyone who loves books. The splendid photographs in *American Treasures in the Library of Congress* will make everyone want to hurry to Washington, D.C., to view these new exhibits, or purchase a copy of the book as a keepsake of an actual visit to view the artifacts that represent the history of this country. The purpose of the Library of Congress is to preserve its acquisitions and to provide access to them. In doing so, the library protects the books themselves as well as the history of libraries. To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, most of us who appreciate books and understand their role in the history of mankind cannot live without them. *The Book in America* is full of historical facts and dates; the knowledge that at least one date is incorrect only slightly diminishes the value and enjoyment of the book itself. Benjamin Franklin had died by 1796 when, according to Clement, he returned to Philadelphia from England after a stay of one year.

Olga Paradis, Baylor University

Readings in Canadian Library History 2. Edited by Peter F. McNally. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Library Association, 1996. vi, 407 pp. \$59.95 (pbk). ISBN 0-88802-269-7.

In her chapter on music historian/librarian Helmut Kallmann, Dawn Keer quotes him as saying that Canada is a "wide-open field for pioneer work" (367). Although Kallmann is referring specifically to Canadian music bibliography and history, his words apply to Canadian library history in general. McNally's second history volume is a welcome contribution to this very empty yet fertile field of study.

Readings has seventeen chapters grouped into five sections: guides to the literature, library education, public libraries, diverse perspectives, and biography. The contributors come from various information-related professions, including university librarian, professor of communication, teacher librarian, political researcher, and library science faculty member.

The first two chapters are Peter McNally's guides to Canadian library history in English and French, the first covering the period before 1964 and the second covering 1985 through 1991; they provide a context for the subsequent chapters and are in themselves essential road maps for the subject (McNally focused on the period 1964 to 1984 in the first volume of *Readings in Canadian Library History* [1986]). These comprehensive guides detail the rich scholarship in some history areas and the paucity in most, but in all cases McNally's work is a gold mine of suggestions for further research, complete with essential bibliographic information on where to begin.

All the essays in the book are good, but some, particularly in the concluding biography section, are exceptional. The library education section contains two essays, one by Elizabeth Hanson which assesses nondegree short courses held in

Montreal and Toronto between 1904 and 1927, and one by Peter McNally which provides an overview of the development of Canada's seven graduate library/information science programs.

Well-known history researcher Lorne Bruce contributed two public library essays: the first examines Ontario library boards between 1882 and 1945, while the second describes the Ontario public library movement in the late 1800s. In the latter he relates how advocates hoped public libraries would "cure a number of social ills—poverty, ignorance, irreligion, alcoholism, and crime . . ." (94) and give guidance to youths "drifting about like a rudderless ship upon a treacherous sea—without a link between giddy youth and sober mankind" (97). In the only French-language essay Marcel Lajeunesse describes how Montreal public libraries evolved in the early 1900s. He explains the social, cultural, and religious factors unique to Quebec in North America, factors which hindered the implementation of an open-access free library philosophy.

In the catchall "Diverse Perspectives" section, Maxine Rochester's essay on the Carnegie-funded regional library demonstrations in British Columbia and Prince Edward Island in the 1930s contains much information from primary documents and interviews. These sources explain how the British Columbia system, a world first, provided a template on assembling a variety of taxing and governance authorities to provide amalgamated regional library service. "Learning to Love the Computer: Canadian Librarians and New Technology, 1945–1965" is Basil Stuart-Stubbs's contribution to this section. He reveals the combination of bravado and trepidation with which Canadian librarians introduced computers into their work, frustrated as they were by the difficulties of obtaining up-to-date information from the vanguard of documentarists and American experts. Also in this eclectic mix of selections, Claire England gives an overview of the fires which have consumed Canadian libraries since the 1600s. She pays special attention to parliamentary libraries which have burned six times from 1813 to 1952, resulting in the loss of many irreplaceable documents. These fires were caused by faulty fireplace flues, angry citizens, American invaders, careless carpenters, or disgruntled employees. A fascinating cautionary tale.

After reading the essays in the biography section, I wished that a full book were available on each person. Faith Wallis writes about W. W. Francis, the lovable but eccentric guardian of McGill's Osler Library of the History of Medicine from 1919 through 1929, who was so devoted to his cousin Osler that he even wore the deceased Osler's old suits and fur coat (320). Despite his nonconformist library beliefs and social habits, Francis was a highly respected reference librarian who devoted many hours to helping McGill medical students and answered queries from medical history scholars around the world. Darrel Reid's essay on the Toronto philanthropist John Ross Robertson characterizes him as an irascible scholar, passionate about Canadian history. He was determined to educate Canadians about their history through his valuable collection of twenty thousand historical pictures which he began donating to the Toronto Public Library in 1910. A condition of Robertson's gift was that no pictures were to be moved from the main library. This resulted in a "sorcerer's apprentice" situation over the next twenty years, as pictures filled all available wall space and then began to crowd out books, the children's area, and librarians' desks.

Robert Brundin's biography of Canadian-born Sydney Mitchell, founder of the Berkeley Library School, and the aforementioned biography of Helmut Kallmann are equally well-researched and well-written.

This book is extremely well laid out, indexed, and edited. All contributions are strong, and the information presented helps fill a discouraging lack of

information in this area. It is hoped that McNally will be able to continue this series with a third volume in the future.

Ann Curry, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Guida alle fonti di informazione della biblioteconomia. By Alberto Petrucciani and Riccardo Ridi. Rome: Associazione italiana biblioteche, 1996. 204 pp. £30.000 (pbk.). ISBN 88-7812-036-7.

Alberto Petrucciani and Riccardo Ridi have been two noteworthy presences on the Italian library scene for several years as authors, librarians, and teachers. In addition to numerous publications, Petrucciani's curriculum vitae includes a remarkable record of service as vice president of the Associazione italiana biblioteche (AIB), the Italian Library Association, and member of the Section on Education and Training of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Presently, Dr. Petrucciani teaches Librarianship and Bibliography at the Scuola Normale Superiore (SNS) of Pisa. Riccardo Ridi—also a prolific author—wears the two hats of part-time librarian at the SNS library and electronic consultant. Mr. Ridi devotes most of his time to the creation and maintenance of several home pages, including those of the AIB and of the SNS. In accordance with their backgrounds and interests, while the two authors equally shared the responsibility of writing the *Guida alle fonti di informazione della biblioteconomia* [Guide to the Sources of Information in Librarianship], Dr. Petrucciani examined and described mainly retrospective and Italian material, and Dr. Ridi international and electronic sources.

Petrucciani and Ridi indicate in the introduction that the primary goal of the *Guida* is to fill a gap in the Italian literature of librarianship. Indeed, this is the first effort in Italy to compile a comprehensive bibliography of sources of information in library science and librarianship. However, the *Guida* goes well beyond the Italian boundaries to include major sources of information in librarianship published all over the world. While the narrative and annotations are in Italian, titles are listed in their original languages. The majority of the works selected are in Italian or English, followed by German and French. Print materials are up-to-date and electronic sources include news lists, e-journals, databases, and library on-line catalogs. Old publications are also mentioned when still valuable or when the authors see the need for an update.

The titles of the ten chapters indicate the completeness of the *Guida*: (1) Guide alle fonti di informazione e alle opere di consultazione [Sources of information]; (2) Opere generali [General works including manuals, treatises, encyclopedias, dictionaries, and glossaries]; (3) Legislazione, standard, norme [Legislation, standards, and guidelines]; (4) Repertori di notizie, dati, statistiche [Handbooks, guides, directories, and statistics]; (5) Bibliografie e banche dati bibliografiche [Bibliographies and bibliographic databases]; (6) Biblioteche e cataloghi speciali [Library catalogs]; (7) Rassegne [Annual reviews]; (8) Periodici [Periodicals]; (9) Editoria professionale [Library publishers]; and (10) Fonti di informazione in rete [On-line sources]. Chapter ten, devoted to electronic sources, was recently revised and expanded. It is now available on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.aib.it/aib/editoria/gfir.htm>. The page is authored by Sabrina Masoli, a student majoring in Conservazione dei beni culturali [Conservation of Cultural Resources], a degree program recently established at the SNS. This

responds to the intent of the two authors—as stated in the introduction—to make students attending the new degree program the primary beneficiaries of the *Guida*. It should be added, though, that the *Guida* is a useful tool not only for library school students, but also for librarians and researchers in Italy and abroad.

Sandra da Conturbia, Texas A&M University

Philobiblon. "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. \$5.00. ISSN 1224-7448.

It is an act of courage on behalf of any library to start its own journal and more so when the journal is published in English in an Eastern European country. *Philobiblon* is the journal of the "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, under Doru Radosav's directorship. The seventy-five-year-old Transylvanian academic library intends to stimulate research of its four million-volume collection and to publish the results of these studies in its own semi-annual periodical. The focal point of the research is the idea of the European integration of Romanian culture and society, based on "an open and comparative cultural dialogue," fostering a spirit of "authentic communication," as the editors explain their project in the introduction to the first issue (9-10).

The first issue (vol. I, nos. 1-2), 134 pages long, was published in 1996 and covers the entire year, and the second one (vol. II, no. 1), 136 pages, covers the first half of 1997. The structure of the two volumes is similar: the "Abstracts" section briefly presents the articles included in the two main sections entitled "Culture, Books, Society" and "Librarianship: A Changing Profession in a Transitional Society." They are followed by a "Varia" section, consisting of succinct notes on the exhibitions organized by the library, essays highlighting special collections and documents in the holdings of the library, and short articles grouped around a variety of themes. The first section includes academic and scholarly articles, while the second concentrates on professional and practical library issues.

The authors of these articles, notes, and essays are faculty members who teach at the "Babes-Bolyai" University in Cluj and librarians and freelance writers from the Cluj area. The topics investigated cover a wide array of concentrations, from sociology to cultural history, from philosophy to library science. The "Culture, Books, Society" section, under István Király's editorship, contains themes such as "The Europeanisation of Romanian Universities" (Andrei Marga), "Romanian Culture between East and West" (Adrian Marino), "Lucian Blaga in Romanian Culture" (Vasile Muscă), "A Metaphysical Model: Lucian Blaga" (Vasile Frăteanu), "Europe and European Characteristics" (Andrei Marga), "Towards a Relational Axiology" (Vasile Frăteanu), "Cultural Isolationism, Lights and Shadows" (Adrian Marino), "Two Main Paradigms in the Approach to Ethnification: Cultural-Attitude and Rational Choice" (Petru Ilut), "Images of Transylvania in Literary Periodicals between the Two World Wars" (Camil Muresanu), "Pitfalls of a Cultural Paradigm" (Károly Veress), and "History of the Báthory University Library Kolozsvár (Cluj) from 1579 to 1607" (Klára Jakó).

The section on "Librarianship: A Changing Profession in a Transitional Society" under Sally Wood-Lamont's editorship covers subjects presenting library history research and contemporary issues which confront Romanian libraries and

librarians. Here are a few examples: "The 'Lucian Blaga' Central University Library in Cluj: Short History" (Meda Diana Bărcă), "Ioachim Crăciun, Mentor of the Romanian Bibliological School in Cluj" (Cornelia Gălătescu), "The Application of Modern Methods of Working Practices in a Transitional Society" (Sally Wood-Lamont), "The Library Assistance Program of the Soros Foundation for an Open Society" (Ioana Robu, Anamaria Capalneau, and Ana Todorean), "To Be a Librarian" (Nastasia Fodorean), "The Customer Is Our Master: What We Know Now, How We Can Serve Him Better" (Robert Davies, Traian Brad, and Adriana Király), and "Self-Financing Services in Libraries: A Method of Increasing Limited Library Budgets in Post-Communist Romania?" (Sally Wood-Lamont and Ioana Robu).

One cannot but salute the presence of a scholarly journal published by an academic library on the Romanian periodical publication scene. There is no doubt that the choice of English as the language of the journal will ensure a larger international audience, and this feature makes *Philobiblon* unique in Eastern Europe. The journal has an ambitious goal: to showcase Romanian books and the riches and resources of Romanian libraries to the rest of the world. It is a real challenge for the editors, and we wish the journal *ad multos annos*. We hope that the publication proves successful and that the journal becomes a model worth following by other Eastern European countries which might consider looking into similar endeavors. *Philobiblon*, as a resource on Romanian culture and library science, would make an excellent publication for exchange programs of periodicals between departments of Romanian, Balkan, Slavic, or Eastern European studies worldwide and its publisher, the "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library in Cluj-Napoca.

Hermina G. B. Anghelescu and Donald G. Davis Jr., University of Texas at Austin

Chinese Academic and Research Libraries: Acquisitions, Collections, and Organizations. By Priscilla C. Yu. Greenwich, Conn.: JAI Press, 1997. xviii, 177 pp. \$78.50. ISBN 0-7623-0171-6.

A sentence in the preface—"As we learn about other countries, we begin to know ourselves better"—suggests that the theme for this study is the surprising differences between American and Chinese libraries. This book is the result of a study which began in 1985, when the author visited four of the most important libraries in China. In 1993 I met the author during the International Symposium on the Development of Theory and Practice of Library and Information Science at Wuhan, China. At that time she was still working on the research for this book. As one of its early readers as well as a Chinese library and information science faculty member, I found the research most interesting.

The introduction discusses how Chinese academic libraries evolved from the early Shang Dynasty (1766–1123 B.C.) to the current information age. The author has traced the development of Chinese libraries and formal library science education.

The following chapters focus on four of the most important Chinese academic and research libraries. For Peking University Library, the book devotes almost thirty pages to its organization, history, collection development, and electronic information services, and emphasizes its acquisition practices. Funds for new

foreign reference and periodical purchases came from the State Education Commission and a World Bank loan. These were used to fill gaps in the library collection caused by the Cultural Revolution. Peking University Library's collections are now at the forefront of all Chinese academic libraries. Other contributing factors were excellent acquisition and collection development policies, as well as greater freedom to communicate directly with book dealers.

For Fudan University Library, the study examines Fudan's contribution to reform in three primary areas: (1) library facilities, (2) technological changes, and (3) library services. Readers can find out how these various changes have affected Fudan's development of new studies.

For Nanjing University Library, the author discusses details about the library's collection and budget. She also describes the progress and growth of the library collection since the 1980s, focusing on the areas of administration, organization, and management.

The National Library of China is the largest and most diverse in China. The author presents the results of a collection development survey focused especially on the development of foreign language collections, foreign purchases and gifts, and acquisition funding.

In the final chapter of the book, the author expresses concern about important aspects currently facing Chinese libraries. In my experience the most important of these is the scarcity of trained professional staff and well-qualified professional library leaders. In fact, most of the administrative library personnel have no library degree. As the author points out, Chinese librarians would greatly benefit from an opportunity to visit abroad and gain international experience. They would return with a great deal of enthusiasm and innovative ideas which could be applied to their own libraries.

In general, the main point of this book is to examine the current practices, theories, and functions of academic and research libraries in China. It is a project which can encourage and assist Chinese academic libraries in the development and achievement of their appropriate goals. However, there is a frustrating feature in this book: only top-level libraries in China are considered in the study. If the author had included at least one of the smaller libraries, the overview of Chinese libraries would be more complete.

One could say much in favor of this book. It has valuable data statistics, good field studies, and a clear outline of current Chinese library development. In many ways this book is the key reference source for sophisticated comparative studies of the future of Chinese libraries.

Dan Huo, University of Texas at Austin

The Atlas of Literature. Edited by Malcolm Bradbury. London: De Augustini Editions; and New York: Stewart, Tibori & Chang, 1996. 352 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 1-899883-68-1.

This most accessible literary history was prepared by an editor from the University of East Anglia (Norwich) and founder of the institution's program in American Studies. The required photograph of the editor, with pipe and in tweed jacket, on the inside back cover, reveals a youngish-appearing retiree from 1995. Pages 4 and 5 list the forty-three contributors to the 110 chapters which

support the division of the volume into eight parts: "The Middle Ages and the Renaissance" (10–35), "The Age of Reason" (36–55), "The Romantics" (56–85), "The Age of Industrialism and Empire" (86–115), "The Age of Realism" (116–57), "The Modern World" (158–221), "After the Second World War" (222–59), "The World Today" (260–325). These are followed by [non-featured] "Authors and Their Works" (326–32), "Places to Visit" (333–42), "Further Reading" (343–5), "Index" (346–51) and "Picture Credits" (352).

An analysis of the content and characteristics of the chapters is important, as they comprise the major portion of the text. First, they can be broken down geographically: twenty-nine are for Great Britain and Ireland, fifteen for the U.S., ten for France and World War I, four for Europe, three for Germany, two for Russia, two for Spain, two for World War II, one for Canada, one for the Caribbean, and one for Latin America.

The vast majority of the chapters have one or more "labeled" maps—that is, symbols showing in maroon "Place with literary associations: STILL THERE"; in orange, "Place with literary associations: NO LONGER THERE"; in medium blue, "Place featuring in author's life: STILL THERE"; in pale blue, "Place featuring in author's life: NO LONGER THERE"; in greenish blue, "Real place feature in a work: STILL THERE"; and in pea green, "Real place featured in a work: NO LONGER THERE." A fictional place name is in italics, while a real place name is in roman type. Additional information of textual value is given in horizontal boxes on the page, with suitable arrows attached. A map may be one page, two pages, or parts thereof. Please do not underestimate the amount of information that can be conveyed in this manner: one double-page map had seventy-five statements! The "labeled" maps permit an additional basis for sorting the chapters. Category "A" labeled maps cover an entire nation(s), category "B" maps, a city and/or adjacent region, while category "C" maps cover one type of literature only.

Part One, "The Middle Ages and the Renaissance," has five "A" maps (countries) and one "B" (city); Part Two, "The Age of Reason," has one country, three cities, and one literature form; Part Three, "The Romantics," has two countries, and five cities; Part Four, "The Age of Industrialization and Empire," has two countries and five cities; Part Five, "The Age of Realism," has five countries and six cities; Part Six, "The Modern World," has three countries, and ten cities, and one literature format; Part Seven, "After the Second World War," has five countries, three cities, and one literature format; and Part Eight, "The World Today," has thirteen countries, four cities, and two formats. (It is clear that Part Six has action at the local (city) level, while the action in Part Eight is at the national level.)

The most striking thing about "Authors and their Works" (326–32) is how familiar these 110 names are. How could they have been winnowed out? The W's alone include Waugh, Weiss, Wells, Welty, West, Williams, and Wolfe. (There is a touch of provincialism in the Wolfe sketch: "novelist born in Richmond in the United States," whereas this reviewer had several boyhood chums who went to Earlham College, founded in 1847 in Richmond, Indiana.)

Of course, while the pages labeled "Places to visit" (333–42) do list 293 entries, they can not compare to the 1,337 entries in the standard work on Great Britain and Ireland alone, currently edited by Dorothy Eagle and Meic Stephens in a second edition, *The Oxford Illustrated Literary Guide to Great Britain and Ireland* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992). The geographic distribution of the 298 places shows: seventy-eight in France (twelve in Paris alone), seventy-three in Great Britain and Ireland (fifty in London alone), forty-three in the U.S. (six in

New York City), fourteen in Russia, thirteen in Canada, eleven each in Germany and Italy, and ten in Japan.

Finally, "Further Reading" (343-4) lists classics as well as some 1995 titles. All in all, this work is bound to be considered as a classic. It is taut in construction and shows evidence of a firm hand at the tiller. One is tempted to search for other works by each of the forty-three contributors so as to achieve a rounded knowledge of "the literature scene."

Eugene B. Jackson, University of Texas at Austin

International Biographical Directory of National Archivists, Documentalists, and Librarians. Edited by Frances Laverne Carroll; compiled by Susan Houck. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 1997. xxvii, 227 pp. \$45.00. ISBN 0-8108-3223-2.

The words of the descriptive title explain the purpose and scope of this work. This functional purpose is also intended to serve a social purpose: "to provide a base for further communication among people in national institutions whose efforts are directed to handling information" (ix).

The book is truly international, containing 192 geographical entries. (Narratives describing attempts to track down information make for interesting reading.) The term "Biographical" includes the following data, which are not all present for most institutions: name of person, education, certification, language competencies, record of professional career, publications, honors, professional memberships, and civic, social, and political activities. "National" for libraries means "maintained out of government funds and serving the nation as a whole" (p. xi), while definitions of "national" for archives and documentation centers are not separately specified. "Archivists" refers to heads of recognized repositories of public records or historical documents; "documentalists" refers to heads of "places where publications are received, processed, preserved, summarized, abstracted, and indexed"; and "librarians" refers to heads of national libraries.

Carroll and Houck employed surveys to gather most of their information, as was done for the work's predecessor, *Biographical Directory of National Librarians* (London: Mansel, 1989). Therefore, the completeness and accuracy of the information depends, for the most part, on the quality of the responses. The compiler and editor supplemented survey data with information gleaned from secondary works, such as *The World of Learning*. The mailing list for the survey was compiled from standard reference sources (xvii).

The book includes a preface, suggestions for use, and three indexes—by institution, person, and place.

One may argue about comprehensiveness here, but it would appear that these people have been about as comprehensive as anyone could hope, given the size and complexity of the task and the vagaries of survey responses.

The editor cross-checked the directory information with sources referred to above to try to ensure accuracy. However, even some of this mere directory information must have been promulgated hopefully, given instability in several areas. And there appear to be few if any sources to verify much of the biographical data, especially for countries with high turnover.

Checking a few dozen institutions in *IBDNADL* (as used in the book's preface) against other directory sources (e.g. *The World of Learning*, *IFLA Directory*) showed

several discrepancies, in phone numbers especially. But perhaps all directories were correct at the time of their respective publication dates.

Some of the entries are fairly full. Canada's entry, for example, extends to eight pages. Others contain less information, such as Burundi's eight lines. Without actually counting, it appears that for the majority of institutions only the mailing address and a phone number are listed. Listings seem fuller for English-speaking countries, for "developed" nations, and for nations amicable toward the United States, but these are not consistent criteria.

In the preface to the book, there is some hairsplitting about what is national, subnational, or international (see especially xiv). Country experts will no doubt debate some of the inclusions and exclusions (as Mohamed Taher did for its predecessor; see his review in *Libraries & Culture* 27, no. 4 (Fall 1992): 471).

As one example of inconsistency, for the United States there are three national libraries listed: the Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, and National Agricultural Library. For Denmark, on the other hand, *IBDNADL* lists as national libraries the Kongelige Bibliotek and the State and University Library, but does not list the National Library of Education, the National Technical Library of Denmark, nor the National Library of Science and Medicine.

While the inconsistency in fullness of entries is understandable, less understandable is the treatment of the names of the institutions listed. Most, but not all, are listed with an English name, usually a translation for institutions with names in another language. Sometimes the institution's name in the vernacular is also given, but not always. In some cases in which the vernacular language is written in a non-Roman alphabet, a transliteration is provided in addition to the English equivalent, but, again, not consistently.

There are curiosities in the book which, while not seriously damaging its utility, are interesting. For example, there is no entry for "England." Information about the British Library is listed under "United Kingdom" (without a cross reference), which includes in this book only England and Northern Ireland, while Scotland and Wales have their own entries.

Also, the book lists e-mail addresses for a clear minority of the individuals mentioned in the book. While, again, the principals were no doubt limited by the information gleaned from the returned surveys, e-mail addresses are becoming nearly essential for intercourse these days. And there is nary a uniform resource locator (URL) listed for World Wide Web (WWW) pages maintained by these institutions.

Information in this volume was collected from December 1994 through November 1995. It would be a blessing if an organization such as IFLA were to create an electronic version of this directory, make it available over the WWW (with paper or CD-ROM versions for those countries whose infrastructures do not yet support widespread Internet access), and update it on a regular basis. Perhaps the (relatively) apolitical nature of IFLA would encourage greater participation.

Users who could benefit from this book would include anyone who wants to communicate with members of these organizations—namely, faculty at academic institutions, persons in commercial organizations dealing with the international information industry, and professionals who deal with international cultural institutions. Libraries who help such users in anything beyond rare instances also might want to purchase this title.

Drew Racine, University of Texas at Austin

Handbook of Libraries, Archives and Information Centres in India, volumes 13–16. Edited by B. M. Gupta. New Delhi: Segment Books, 1996.

Volume 13: *Bibliometrics, Scientometrics and Informetrics*. 463 pp. Rs. 950. ISBN 81-85330-34-4.

Volume 14: *Social Sciences and Humanities Information Centers and Societies*. 379 pp. Rs. 750. ISBN 81-85330-35-2.

Volume 15: *Indian Languages*. 392 pp. Rs. 800. ISBN 81-85330-36-0.

Volume 16: *Library Development in India*. 355 pp. Rs. 750. ISBN 81-85330-37-9.

An attempt to portray developments in the field of library science in India is seen in the series *Handbook of Libraries, Archives and Information Centres in India*, brought out by B. M. Gupta, an Indian information scientist. For a review of the previous volumes, one may look at one of the recent past issues of *Libraries and Culture*.

To justify the themes that the series deals with, we may look into the details of only two volumes, volumes 14 and 16. Volume 14 deals with Indian contributions in the areas of humanities and social sciences. It highlights the growth and development of resource centers in these inter- and multi-disciplinary areas. The contributors to this book have interesting and important material, and the connections they make in presenting India to the world at large is bound to be significant. A glance at the contents of this volume shows the amazing variety of data and facts. Such collections are rare, and this compilation of articles is necessary in two contexts: first, it provides a database in the related areas to visualize the state-of-the-art; and second, it presents a link of the past with the present in assessing the growth and development of information centers, societies, and the emerging information society. We can also visualize the impact of such collective monographs on ourselves, in the sense that they expose the dearth of attempts to bring together writers, producers, and distributors in the society.

As a collection of essays pertaining to manuscripts, books, and data centers, it is an omnibus representing humanities, social sciences, and generalia. One may wonder why this is all that is included in the volume, and the answer probably is that a compilation dealing with similar resource centers (of records, repositories of ancient documents, collections of manuscripts, books, other printed materials, and so on) is not possible due to the limitations of time and space. In another sense one may appreciate that it is a collaboration from all over the country and from different subject backgrounds, depicting samples of area studies in librarianship. By theme and topic, the book covers language, religion, folklore, mythology, education, politics, public administration, history, and socio-cultural development. Geographically, the volume represents resources (institutional and documentary) in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Kerala, etc.

From the perspective of library history, volume 16 (*Library Development in India*) is relevant here, and hence a few words about the topic and a bird's-eye view of the contents of the book are worthwhile. Library history—which is a broad term that includes library movements, development, and collection development processes—is, in fact, an interdisciplinary area unified by tradition. This tradition is not a sole entity; rather it is usually the tradition of history, language, and

culture. And library historians have found there to be an interconnection between libraries and their environments. For instance, this connection is visible in the growth of library collections, reading interests, acquisition patterns, etc. It is also evident in the overall historic survey that the growth of library and reading material was dependent on social and cultural ethos, and these ethos were linked with religiopolitical springs, and these springs were linked with heavenly and inspirational showers, and so on. Further, the move to read and write and to make this a cultural phenomenon belongs to the medieval and postmedieval era, and not necessarily to the "modern" one. This is obvious in the literary and academic environment that prevailed in Indian society. Literacy or no literacy, reading and writing was still a part of the society, and we know of readers and storytellers who lived and prospered everywhere. This is one aspect of the intellectual history, and the others are still hidden for someone to bring to light.

Libraries or as some wish to call them, "centers of learning and education," were a part of the Indian civilization. While the term "library" was also used for the government document repository (record room) or for a shelf of decorative art pieces of aesthetic appeal, it was creating a mixup in the terminology. Yet it is obvious that whether it was a paperless era, a paper era, or "neo-paperless" era (multimedia), information was the hub of all concerned, and this continues to be so. Are we then ready to trade the name "library" for "information center"? This is a good bargain, and the profession has to give serious thought to the question, What's in a name, after all?

Development of a reading space meant to be free for all patrons is an idea which is today a common feature. It had some roots in medieval India. Despite so much recent "professional" development in India and despite a comparatively long tradition of "public" libraries, one of the most striking holes in our library fabric are the public libraries which are generally poor in all respects. A real sense of a library for the public is yet to be born.

Comparatively, we have some good academic libraries, and the best libraries are the special libraries, those attached to scientific labs. We have on the one hand left the library culture to the mercy of the environment, and on the other hand we have taken care to hook up the National Information Centre to local, national, and international networks, with many interfaces. This disparity in the status of libraries shocks many but shakes none.

The book under review contains a mine of information, facts, figures, and historic backgrounds about the trends, progress, and development of libraries, information centers, and archives in India. The traditional library, as opposed to the modern library, has its own importance in providing resources and is priceless. The book provides a descriptive analysis of growth and developmental patterns of library and archival institutions. The descriptions in some of the essays are exhaustive but in most are sketchy. The reader desires to get more details, more in-depth analysis of what these "libraries" of our past were like. In the context of library history, one has to search elsewhere for much more: what was "professional" behavior; what ways did the users approach information; what were the users' attitudes toward libraries; what were the library products—were there ways by which scholars from distant regions could identify particular collections and reach a library even in a foreign country?

The book, a collection of essays by distinguished library professionals, is nevertheless useful in giving a bird's-eye view of the state of the art and the craft. The history of library development is introduced and discussed. The essays are broadly about two types of developments: first is the history of the development

of libraries in general, and second is the development of the state library in particular. In the first category are patterns in the movement toward the development of libraries and librarianship. The second category deals specifically with the patterns of development in the concept of the state library in a few states of India. Historical samples from West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab are included in this book. One would hope that an analytical and in-depth survey of all major library movements and the library history of all states would be the end product of this introductory work.

An integrated library history is important to an understanding of the place of the library in the India of the past. Maybe extending an invitation to allied and related disciplines will bring in a holistic sense of what the "library" was in the society. This significant contribution is lacking in the present collection, due to reasons beyond the control of the compiler. Any one person's attempt to collate, compile, and produce developmental literature is bound to have shortcomings in the beginning. Rome was not built in a day, and hence if there is initiative in producing much-wanted encyclopedic surveys, it is the duty of the profession to support, promote, and collaborate in such ambitions, lest those who follow would point accusing fingers at the "modern librarian" for all the lapses, errors, and omissions.

It is desirable that such compilations should be more coherent and compact in presenting their contents, and this point can be considered for the future. It is also desirable that more authors join hands in such efforts and present a candid and holistic approach to the issues involved. Team spirit is the one missing link in the tradition of this profession, and maybe some superimposed device would remedy the situation and bring about a change. The profession must also evolve a regular method of composing and compiling works which highlights the best of the East and can withstand any hurricanes from any corner of the world. In short, this series is a must for any library science collection specializing in comparative librarianship, area studies librarianship, and Orientalia.

Mohamed Taher, American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad, India

Libraries and the Future: Essays on the Library in the Twenty-First Century. Edited by F. W. Lancaster. Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth Press, 1993. 195 pp. \$49.95. ISBN 1-56024-382-1.

Future Libraries. Edited by R. Howard Bloch and Carla Hesse. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995. vi, 159 pp. \$40.00. ISBN 0-520-08810-7.

La Bibliothèque «hors les murs.» By Claudie Tabet. Paris: Éditions du Cercle de la Librairie, 1996. 277 pp. 195 F. ISBN 2-7654-0624-3.

The library and information science communities have been talking about the library of the future, the library of the twenty-first century, the library of the third millennium as "virtual," "without walls," "paperless," or "electronic." Librarians are viewed as "information providers," "information scientists," or "cybrarians," while library patrons are no longer mere "readers" or "users"; they have acquired new designations to keep pace with the latest technological developments of the field, such as "information seekers," "navigators through the universe of knowledge," or "net/web surfers."

"Future libraries will provide information in whatever format is most appropriate to the user-print, electronic, optical, or some format yet to be envisioned," states F. W. Lancaster in the opening chapter, "Introduction: Threat versus Opportunity" of *Libraries and the Future: Essays on the Library in the Twenty-First Century* (2). Good news, though! The new formats are not seen as replacing the old ones, but rather as co-existing. Libraries will no longer be ranked according to the richness of their own collections; instead they will be evaluated in terms of the services they provide, based primarily on the remote access to the resources of other information centers. The authors, offering forecasts for the next century, address issues related to the implementation of new technologies (Pat Molholt and David Raitt) and their impact on traditional library activities as well as the library staff and collections (Kenneth E. Dowlin), information access and retrieval (Philip H. Young and F. W. Lancaster), acquisitions and users' needs (Frederick G. Kilgour), and the impact on scholarly research (W. David Penniman, Lauren H. Seiler, and Thomas T. Surprenant).

All of the above apply to libraries of the most developed nations of the world. What about the less developed nations, the "Third World," or the developing countries? These parts of the globe have been addressed as well in articles included in Lancaster's volume, by authors Maurice B. Line, A. Neelameghan, and Jeannette Marguerite Kremer. In some of these countries, new information technologies are in their infancy, and progress will be made only if "their economic situation improves substantially and/or their governments are persuaded that information is vital to their future." Otherwise, "the prospects look gloomy," states Line (82).

The focal point of *Future Libraries* is the traditional definition of the library as an institution which has as its main mission the preservation of the cultural and scientific memory of humankind and which, from this perspective, intertwines past, present, and future. That is the reason Bloch and Hesse, the editors of the volume, consider the TGB (Très Grande Bibliothèque) of France as the symbol of the "global library" of the twenty-first century, as they put it in the introduction (1). The work brings together the papers presented at a conference organized at the University of California, Berkeley, dedicated to the "Très Grande Bibliothèque and the Future of the Library."

The contributors describe their visions of the future of the book within the context of electronic publishing (Geoffrey Nunberg, Gérald Grunberg, and Alain Giffard), analyze issues pertaining to intellectual property and copyright in the electronic publishing age (Jane C. Ginsburg), and make predictions regarding future librarians (Robert C. Berring) and the future of readership (Roger Chartier). The architectural design of the San Francisco Public Library is addressed by Cathy Simon, and Anthony Vilder discusses the *grands projets* which "have perplexed and disturbed observers" (138), among which he enumerates the pyramids at the Louvre, the cubic arch at La Défense, Les Halles, and La Bibliothèque de France "with its diagrammatic forms representing luminous L-shaped towers" (138), which symbolize books in space, tradition, and transparency at the same time. The history, evolution, development, and perspectives of the Bibliothèque de France are traced by Dominique Jamet and Hélène Waysbord, while Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, administrator of the Bibliothèque Nationale, introduces us to the everyday aspects of a librarian's activity.

Roger Chartier's essay "Libraries Without Walls" (38-52) presents the author/reader relationship with an optimistic note for the survival of the text and its message in electronic form, transgressing the boundaries of the book as a physical object. Chartier is the author of the acclaimed volume *L'ordre des livres: lecteurs,*

auteurs, bibliothèques en Europe entre XIVE et XVIIIe siècles (Aix-en-Provence: Alinéa, 1992), translated into English as *The Order of Books: Readers, Authors and Libraries in Europe between the Fourteenth and Eighteenth Centuries* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1994), reviewed in *Libraries & Culture*, vol. 30, no. 3 (1995): 315–317. The theme of libraries in the emerging Eastern European democracies was briefly touched on by Prosser Gifford from the perspective of censorship and local materials, which ought to be made available to international research and scholarship via electronic networks, but which continue to remain a dream for this part of the world (122–128).

La Bibliothèque «hors les murs» [The Library “without Walls”] offers the French perspective on the future of the library, a perspective that focuses less on the technological aspects of remote access and information retrieval (which seem to be major characteristics and priorities of the North American continent) and more on readers, reading, and access to information and culture through books in a public or special library setting or through community outreach services. The volume illustrates the mission of the library stated in internationally adopted documents, such as UNESCO’s Public Library Manifesto, and applied at the national level throughout France, such as the Libraries’ Charter (Charte des bibliothèques), adopted by the French Superior Council of Libraries (Conseil supérieur des bibliothèques) in 1992. The charter grants the right to read to every French citizen and serves as the major document guiding French cultural policies.

Claudie Tabet considers the French government as one of the first allies of the public library in its fight against illiteracy. State-funded programs support book acquisition and encourage reading for a variety of groups, not only in traditional public libraries but also in prisons, hospitals, and the work place. Other target audiences are disabled people, military personnel, children and young adults, and the elderly, as well as homeless people who benefit from specially designed programs. In France “libraries without walls” means offering library services to different constituencies of the community, to people who would be less likely to be exposed to books if the library did not make the effort to reach them.

It is always interesting to compare and contrast North American views and concepts with those held elsewhere in the world. American syntagms and locutions such as “world wide web,” “Internet,” and “home page” are borrowed *talé quale*, while “Americanisms” such as “libraries without walls” are literally translated into other languages (in this case, “la bibliothèque «hors les murs»”) but acquire new valences and facets, and are applied and operate under different contexts and circumstances.

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