

above, librarians should consider this list only as a first aid in purchasing, requiring the advice of faculty colleagues under whose instruction the books are to be used.

The Catholic list is not restricted to titles by Catholic authors. "Works written by non-Catholic authors covering Catholic topics acceptably have been included . . . [and] . . . since the list is merely to supplement, and not intended to replace the Shaw list, it does not duplicate the titles in the latter" (p. vi). It is precisely at this point, the nonduplication of "Catholic" titles found in the Shaw lists, that the Catholic list is weak. Shaw's lists contain numerous titles which acceptably present the Catholic point of view (e.g., in German literature alone: Droste-Hülsoff, Ebner-Eschenbach, Huch, Nadler, Rilke, Werfel). Since the Catholic list carries the imprimatur of the Church, it would have been a most valuable service to have had these titles identified: a short title entry with identifying reference to Shaw would have sufficed and would not have added appreciably to bulk or cost. Had this been done we would have had a significantly useful and satisfyingly complete bibiothecal entity.

In this connection, inasmuch as the librarians of Catholic colleges had been aware of the

need of a Catholic "supplement" to the Shaw list since its publication in 1931, the reviewer finds it difficult to understand why they did not attempt to work up their list for inclusion in the 1938 Shaw supplement. There is no need for the two separate lists. Having missed that opportunity, there should not be any thought of a new and separate edition of the Catholic list. Rather, the Catholic Library Association, under whose auspices the compilation was prepared, might well investigate the feasibility of joining forces with Shaw in a new addition or additional supplement of the basic Shaw list wherein the "Catholic" titles will be identified. Under the one over-all editor, using and following identical procedures and methods, having the same scope and intended for similar use, a composite list of books for *all* college libraries will be even in quality and should make a really significant addition to library literature.

Despite its shortcomings, the Catholic list is an important work. It will be a welcome addition to the equipment not only of Catholic college librarians but also of the librarians of all other colleges and of public libraries whose clientele includes Catholics. —*William A. Kozumplik, Oregon State College Library.*

## Binkley and Scholarship

*Selected Papers of Robert C. Binkley.* Edited by Max H. Fisch. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1948, xiii, 426p. \$5.00.

The papers in this volume have been divided by the editor into three major groups: "The Peace That Failed," "The Economy of Scholarship," and "Ideas and Institutions." In addition to the 18 papers that are reproduced, there is a foreword by Luther Evans, a brief biographical sketch, and a bibliography of Binkley's work.

The body of Binkley's work that is of the greatest interest to librarians relates to his interest in what the editor calls "the economy of scholarship." This is material with which librarians deal from day to day, and it was a topic that had a real attraction for Binkley. The wide scope of his work and interest in this field is indicated by some of the titles: "The Problem of Perishable Paper," "New

Tools for Men of Letters," "History for Democracy," "The Reproduction of Material for Research," "The Cultural Program of the W.P.A.," "World Intellectual Organization," and "Strategic Objectives in Archival Policy."

One should recognize that this book is what its title indicates; it does not include all of Binkley's writings but a judicious sampling of them. As a consequence the book reflects Binkley, the man, rather than the subject interests of any single group of readers—except that very large and diverse group who knew Binkley. Binkley, the historian, is clearly a matter of concern to historians, but Binkley, chairman of the widely known Joint Committee on Materials for Research, the promoter and director of much of the important historical work of the W.P.A., and the author of the manual on *Methods of Reproducing Research Materials*, was dealing with

matters of more vital concern to librarians than most of us would admit.

The diversity of Binkley's work was so great that only a little of his full impact upon librarianship is reflected in the present volume. This is no fault of the editor, for much of Binkley's impact grew out of his energy, his imagination and his interest in people and their ideas, rather than his writings. The brief biography discusses his contributions to librarianship, but the biography, quite properly, is devoted more to Binkley's work in the field of history, his major professional field, than to his work in connection with libraries and their problems.

Binkley's broad perspective, which was so helpful in his planning, may be illustrated by his introduction to the brief paper on the problem of perishable paper.

"The invention of writing provided mankind at one stroke with two new instruments: a means of communication and a new device for remembering. This double function of writing serves a purpose which libraries are expected to fulfill. Our civilization expects our libraries to be at once institutions for the diffusion of contemporary ideas and depositories of the records of the race."

From this theme he develops the divergency and conflict in the duties of librarians, with respect to these two tasks, and the relationship which each has to the physical deterioration of the records of modern civilization.

His perspective is also reflected in the relative permanence of his articles. The editor, of course, has recognized this in his selecting process. Everything that Binkley wrote does

not have quite the same degree of relevance today, for much of his writing was, by the nature of his interests, devoted to critical and topical problems of the time. He wrote about topical items, however, in such a way that there is unusually important content and meaning still today in much of the material relating to procedures and economy.

This aspect of Binkley's writing may be shown by quoting from his article on the reproduction of materials for research.

"Micro-copying and near-print will force us to think anew the whole procedure of library work, from selection of acquisitions to lending. The mass of material that is 'accessible' is increased in astronomic proportions. This will mean that our traditional catalogues will no longer control the material that is accessible. They will control only a part of it. The greater the amount of material to be controlled, the greater is the need for inventions of all kinds."

This statement appeared in 1937 and was, of course, directed to a very specific subject. In the 12 years since then we have made progress, but we still have some way to go before we will be up with Binkley—"We will have to think of library systems rather than separate libraries. . . . Our problems will be far more intricate than theirs and also, I believe, far more interesting."

This book is valuable, not only because it shows us clearly how serious our loss was in Binkley's untimely death, but because it recalls to our attention—if we have forgotten—the variety of unsolved problems relating to the provision of materials for contemporary and future research.—*Herman H. Fussler, University of Chicago Library.*

## A Helpful Guide for Building Planners

*Planning the University Library Building, a Summary of Discussions by Librarians, Architects and Engineers.* Edited by John E. Burchard, Charles W. David and Julian P. Boyd, with the assistance of LeRoy C. Merritt. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 1949. xvii, 145p. \$2.50.

To the many who have had no connection with the Cooperative Committee on Library Building Plans, but who have followed the proceedings of its conferences, this book will appear to be much more than a by-product

of those meetings. It adds both system and substance to the discussions as previously reported, and supplies a new compendium for college and university librarians who are confronted with building projects, and who seek the fullest information bearing on the decisions and recommendations they must make.

As its activities have shown, the purpose of the committee was to pool efforts in meeting the questions pertinent to the construction of university library buildings, and thus to prepare the way for solutions in particular cases