

Book Reviews

Med Boken Som Bakgrunn; Festskrift til Harald L. Tveterås. Oslo: Forlagt av Johan Grundt Tanum, 1964. 263p.

Twenty-two of Harald Tveterås' professional associates and friends have contributed essays to this volume to honor him on his sixtieth birthday. The subjects on which the contributors have written reflect the honoree's professional activities and intellectual interests. He is the distinguished head of the University of Oslo library, a leader among university librarians in Europe, and has been active and influential in the promotion of international library cooperation. He has long been a participant in UNESCO library activities and was the first librarian of UNESCO in 1946-47.

The essays fall into two chief categories, the first including those dealing largely with background and historical topics, the second those treating contemporary library problems. The twenty-two essays are followed by a bibliography of Tveterås' printed publications prepared by Torborg Collin. Eight of the contributions are in Norwegian, and eight are in English, three in Danish, two in Swedish (by Finnish authors) and one in German.

The first essay, "Four Water-colors by Henrik Ibsen" is written by Øyvind Anker, of the university library in Oslo. He describes four newly-discovered water-colors by Ibsen, three being costume designs for theatrical productions in Bergen and one a portrait of astronomer John Julius Astrand, a contemporary of Ibsen. The paper also includes an over-all discussion of Ibsen's total production of stage settings and costumes.

Several essays concern literary figures, one by Hallvard S. Bakken about the folklorist Asbjørnsen and his anonymous venture into cookbook writing. The economic views advanced in his book, "Commonsense Cooking," created a newspaper dispute of some heat and was known as the "porridge controversy" because of his attack on time-honored methods of cooking porridge.

D. Wynn Evans, of the national library

of Scotland, has an interesting account of John Francis Campbell (1822-1855), "the greatest of all collectors of Scottish Gaelic tales" and the author of *Popular Tales of the West Highlands* (1860). Mr. Evans points out the influence of Asbjørnsen and Moe on Campbell through G. W. Dasent's translation of their collection of Norwegian tales, *Popular Tales From the Norse*, published in 1859.

A thorough piece of research has been done by Helge B. Kragemo of the university library in Oslo, on Father Maximilian Hell's "unfillment," the story of the Hungarian Jesuit priest's scientific investigations, made at the behest of the Danish government on the island of Vardø in northern Norway, April 28, 1768, to August 12, 1770. The author inventories and describes the manuscripts now existing of the three-volume work which was projected and announced but never published.

J. Vallinkosi, of the university library in Helsingfors, in an introductory section to "The First Translation of Bjørnson into Finnish," cites among early foreign translations into Finnish Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* (1847), two of Oelenschlager's works, Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and Oliver Goldsmith's *Vicar of Wakefield* (1859). In 1862, Bjørnson's "A Happy Boy" came out under the title *Iloinen Poika*, translated by T. J. Dahlberg. This was followed by many other Bjørnson works.

The second part of the volume concerns contemporary library problems and international library relations. Edmond Carter, the first head of UNESCO's library division, in "The Birth of UNESCO's Library Programmes" gives an excellent account of the work inaugurated by the Preparatory Commission and at the First General Conference. "As the only person who was deeply and personally involved in UNESCO's library development from the very beginning," his comments are most instructive.

Gerard Munthe, of the university library in Bergen, makes an impressive appeal for the preservation of business archives and

interprets their value as historical source material.

L. Quincy Mumford, librarian of Congress, reviews the past and envisions future developments of importance, for the National Union Catalog of the Library of Congress. He stresses the great value to scholarship which would come from the publication of the fifteen million entries as yet unpublished for pre-1952 books in United States libraries. He foresees in the future "the possibility of making a machine-readable National Union Catalog available to other bibliographic centers throughout the United States."

"Form and Substance" by Ralph R. Shaw questions too ready an acceptance by librarians of innovations and trends without thorough analysis of their implications. He cites also the tendency to accept statements as being authoritative and applicable anywhere, when they are actually unsubstantiated and may apply only to special situations. He says: "The purpose and justification for storage, retrieval, and transmission lies in the intellectual record. . . . We need to manage the record and to handle the physical objects in which it is stored and to transmit them. But when that becomes the end, that is ultimate replacement of the thought by the thing." This article deserves wide reading.—*Rudolph Gjelsness, University of Arizona.*

Science, Humanism and Libraries. By D. J. Foskett. New York: Hafner Publishing Co., 1964. 264 p. \$4.50.

This book is a collection of seventeen papers and articles produced between 1951 and 1962 by the librarian of the Institute of Education, University of London, whose work as a member of the (British) Classification Research Group is well known.

The main theme which runs through the essays is that of the problem of the communication of specialized information. The by now well worn discussion of the "two cultures" topic provides the matter for the first and last sections of the book. Here Foskett is on the side of the angels and submits that there is no fundamental cleavage between science and humanism, though the tendency towards division must be constantly guarded against in the instruments of communication, libraries and librarians.

After a plea for style in scientific writing, the author, in the essays which follow (apart from those dealing with special classifications), points out the necessity for positive, active collaboration by the librarian in the provision and dissemination of information. Foskett's background as a special librarian, now in a professional library in a university, leads him, in the articles on documentation needs in libraries for various disciplines, to be pleasingly careful in discussing, for example, the role of the librarian as "information scientist" and his responsibility in different situations and fields of knowledge, to ensure that the literature which he collects is used. A problem in the United States is that of the use of research libraries (mostly university) by special libraries which are under no obligation to reciprocate. This use can vitiate service to the primary clientele and while here the large libraries have had to take steps to ensure that this particular demand for service does not get out of hand, it will be a while before such a state of affairs comes about in England, for the "trade balance" seems to be in favor of the special libraries, as Foskett reports.

The group of articles devoted to the construction of special classifications are expositions of the author's view, and doubtless that of the CRG, of the need for a faceted classification as the basis of all methods of information retrieval. Cleverdon's results with the Cranfield experiment did show however that some modification of Facet was needed to make it comparable with other classification systems.

Most of the observations concerning the problems, human and material, which librarians are having to face are already familiar to thinking practitioners, though the solution of those problems lags of necessity for lack of the necessary money. For example, in discussing documentation in the social sciences, to which he has already devoted a book, Foskett calls for the kind of information services which subsidized scientific research and industry now take for granted. The degree of bibliographical control which can be exercised by the librarian is a function of the money which can be put into the effort, and resources which can be devoted to this have to be related to provision of the material, too. It is now possible to make the purveying of information ser-