

become increasingly culture-conscious. We may train ourselves to pass judgement upon the dominant traits of our own civilization. It is difficult enough for anyone brought up under their power to recognize them. It is still more difficult to discount, upon necessity, our predilection for them. They are as familiar as an old loved homestead. Any world in which they do not appear seems to us cheerless and untenable."

In his introductory chapters Mr. Bengé describes a society certainly no less complicated than that of the thirties, but perceptibly changed by the processes of human communication. In them he deals articulately and concisely with the principal doctrines of cultural change, citing such divergent views as those of Eliot, Huxley, Snow, Mills, Marcuse, and Fanon, and then with communication (with due regard for Marshall McLuhan), leisure, literacy, education, censorship, and other social phenomena by which libraries are affected and upon which we hope they have some constructive effect. His concluding chapters deal specifically with libraries' role in a changing society, with the education of librarians, ending with advocacy of a more active and imaginative role for the profession.

Although he assesses, in conventional terms, the functions of libraries (collection, preservation, organization, and dissemination) and some of the particular problems of selection and censorship, individual (as opposed to institutional) responsibilities, status, and the uses of authority, the concluding chapters are rather suggestive than specific in presenting answers to questions posed in the earlier and more general essays.

The questions which he poses, and the manner in which they are presented, however, are highly relevant to the current debate which the American Library Association is having about its own role and the role of the profession. The place of libraries in the general communication of information and ideas, the conception of social responsibility, the role of libraries in the educational process, all must be modified by the rapid changes in the structure of society as a whole. Professor Bengé suspects, with reason, that librarians may be

somewhat conservative in criticizing cultural traits—particularly in their own institutions—which are (in Benedict's words) familiar as an old loved homestead.

Does he go far enough in suggesting what we should do about it?

Perhaps not. Although there is occasional mention of information science, automation, and some of the other intrusions of technique and technology upon the processes of human communication, these are not only scientific but cultural changes (in both the United States and Great Britain) of considerable magnitude, and Professor Bengé touches upon them rather casually.

Although he does deal at some length with the paperback revolution, he might be suspected of underestimating the cultural impact of reprinting and the lesser forms of reprography which, although not conventional parts of the book trade, certainly are having an effect upon it and upon the library as well. Although Professor Bengé rationalizes the Two Cultures of C. P. Snow, he gives no acknowledgement of the Technological Society of Jacques Ellul. This may, of course, simply represent a difference in British and American points of view (we must be considerably influenced by the unrelenting persuasion of Xerox and IBM). Nevertheless the theories and techniques of information science constitute the most conspicuous current accultural phenomenon on the library scene, and this is not conspicuously reflected in these essays.

*Libraries and Cultural Change* is a valuable contribution to library literature. It is concise, readable, and deals with most of the problems which American libraries share with their sister institutions in Britain. If it deals somewhat briefly with some of the current preoccupations of academic librarians in the United States, it makes up for it in the imaginative presentation of a number of provocative ideas.—David W. Heron, *University of Kansas*.

***Eighteenth Century Bibliographies.*** By Francesco Cordasco. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1970. 230p. \$5.00.

This volume collects under one cover

thirteen previously published lists of references. Three are concerned with the novelist Tobias Smollett (with some repetition), and one each with Edmund Burke, Thomas Frognall Dibdin, Henry Fielding, Edward Gibbon, William Godwin, Samuel Richardson, Laurence Sterne, Edward Young, eighteenth century medicine, and eighteenth century novels. As all the lists were prepared and published separately at least twenty years ago and the editor says: "In this reprinting, I have made no changes," the present volume is a kind of memorial to years gone by. It may have some usefulness while we await the promised second volume of the *New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature*. Interestingly, comparison of the Dibdin list with that in the already published third volume of *NCBEL* finds Cordasco supplying some valuable references not in the Cambridge volume and showing that it does not do to be condescending towards anyone's labors, especially when it comes to reference bibliography.—Henry Pettit, *University of Colorado*.

#### **Libraries, Readers, and Book Selection.**

Ed. by Jean Spealman Kujoth. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1969. 457p. \$10.00.

Book selection is generally acknowledged to play a vital role among the professional responsibilities of the librarian, but until recently there has been surprisingly little written about the subject. The only up-to-date, substantial, monographic treatments that come to mind are Danton's *Book Selection and Collections; a Comparison of German and American University Libraries* (1963) and the Carter and Bonk textbook, *Building Library Collections* (3d ed., 1969).

During the past few years, the subject has begun to receive more attention in the periodical literature of the profession. In *Libraries, Readers and Book Selection*, Jean Kujoth has endeavored to make some of this scattered material more readily available by gathering together forty-four recent journal articles which have some relevance for book selection in libraries. The

readings are arranged under the following categories: (1) Professional Reading (i.e., the reading of professionals); (2) Reading Interests and Needs of Special Groups; (3) Communication and Reading Values; (4) The Public Library's Collection; (5) The Academic Library's Collection; (6) Trends, Issues and Influences Affecting Book Selection; and (7) Censorship and Controversial Books.

Most of the articles which appear in the first three sections, comprising more than half the book, are only indirectly concerned with book selection. These sections concentrate on describing characteristics of the diverse clientele which libraries serve and discuss the role of books and reading in contemporary society. Sections four through seven contain articles which deal more directly with the subject. Academic libraries receive very limited coverage. Only four articles are included in section five, and the total length of the section is less than thirty pages.

The organization of *Libraries, Readers and Book Selection* suggests that it is the outgrowth of an introductory library school course in book selection. Its approach is comprehensive; the compiler attempts to provide relevant material for a wide range of potential interests. This unfortunately precludes the possibility of treating any facet of the subject in detail. This deficiency in focus is aggravated by the limitation of having to rely on a variety of previously published articles written by people with dissimilar points of view. The selections are presented without editorial comment, and it sometimes becomes something of a puzzle to determine why an article has been placed where it has, or, in a few cases, why it has been included at all.

Every librarian with an interest in book selection and in the relationships which exist between the library's clienteles and its collections will find something of interest in this book. The articles are usually of high quality, and the diverse topics and approaches may provide new frames of reference for the consideration of old problems. I suspect, however, that there is little in the collection that will be new to the experienced librarian who is a regular read-