

United States counterparts in developing networks, Professor Hayashi stated that with the present rapid development of Japanese libraries he was confident "that we will sooner or later have our contributions to make." Certainly we must recognize those already made by a number of Japanese librarians (particularly in the National Diet Library) in assisting American academic librarians in the acquisition and processing of Japanese publications. It is too early to determine whether this air of confidence is justified, but no one who is at all acquainted with the remarkable capabilities and achievements of the scholarly and technological community in Japan should take too pessimistic a view of long-range prospects.—Everett T. Moore, *University of California, Los Angeles*.

Cutter, Charles Ammi. *Charles Ammi Cutter: Library Systematizer*. Edited by Francis L. Miksa. The Heritage of Librarianship Series, no. 3. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1977. 344p. \$17.50 U.S. and Canada; \$21.00 elsewhere. LC 76-58870. ISBN 0-87287-112-6.

Were it not for the Cutter-Sanborn Tables, it is probable that many librarians would not have heard—or would not remember—the name of Charles Ammi Cutter. Yet, this thoughtful, dedicated librarian was one of the shapers of the profession and made lasting contributions to library service. Miksa's new book helps to give Cutter his rightful place in the profession's hall of fame.

Part I of *Charles Ammi Cutter: Library Systematizer* provides the details of Cutter's life, his career, the overall principles under which he practiced his chosen profession, and the contributions he made to it. Part II, the greater part of the volume, gives selections from Cutter's writings classified under the subjects: administration, fiction, perspectives on the library profession, cataloging, classification, and personal perspectives. Part III provides a bibliography of Cutter's works, of which only summaries can be supplied for some categories of his large output. And last, a short but useful index. Each of the sections is introduced with an informative statement by the editor. In an inspired gesture, Miksa has

chosen to dedicate his opus to Seymour Lubetzky, who, like Cutter 100 years ago, "has called our attention to the need for basic principles in cataloging."

Michael Harris, editor of *The Heritage of Librarianship Series*, of which this is number 3, says in his foreword, "Those who seek a model of how practical expertise might be developed within a clearly and constantly understood philosophy of library service can do no better than to study carefully the life and work of Charles Ammi Cutter." And this is indeed the process that Miksa unfolds in his book.

The articulate and hardworking Cutter examined his own and his colleagues' activities critically and sought to improve and generalize from experience. He shared his conclusions through writing and public debate and worked for progress through cooperative attacks on common problems. He was a generous man, dedicated more to improving his profession than to improving his position in it.

Miksa explains Cutter's ideal of the library as an "enculturating process" and his view of the library itself, in Harris' words, "as a complex, but unified, system which could make a basic contribution to life in America."

Cutter's best known contribution to librarianship is his codification of cataloging rules first appearing in 1876 as *Rules for a Printed Dictionary Catalogue*. The late Paul Dunkin, no slouch as a writer himself, wrote of the *Rules*: "Probably his is the only book of rules for cataloging which is fascinating reading." Miksa's drawing together of the four editions of the *Rules* to show successive changes, while useful, cannot serve as a substitute for holding the original publication in one's hands, savoring its elegance of presentation, and realizing what its first appearance meant.

Cutter the man emerges clearly from his writings. To relish his attractive personality the reader should turn to his writings, where, with clarity, ease, and grace, Cutter has shared the products of his lively intelligence.

Based on some of Cutter's work, Miksa calls him a "literary and library journalist." Lacking a library press, Cutter perforce wrote for less specialized periodicals. He

was thus, as Miksa says, "a reporter to the world of culture on the progress of the library movement." Although he appeared in such diverse publications as the *Boston Daily Advertiser* and the *North American Review*, his two principal outlets were the *Nation* and the *Library Journal*. He joined in establishing the latter in 1876 and participated in its editorship continuously from the beginning to October 1893. With its establishment, he was able to speak more directly to librarians, and his writings reflect the different audiences that they addressed.

Cutter's letter accepting the Boston Athenaeum headship includes his rationale for his extensive writing outside the library field: "Nothing freshens a man's ideas so much, preserves him from sinking into a mere drudge, or becoming a man with one idea and running in a rut, as writing on some subject a little removed from his ordinary labors."

Cutter wrote well whatever his subject and intended audience, pursuing a wide variety of scholarly endeavors. Wit and irony flourish in his writings, often giving them what might be called "the Cutter edge." In the *Nation* of July 27, 1876, commenting on the upcoming Philadelphia convention of librarians—referring back to the 1853 meeting, and perhaps taking a sly poke at a number of the leading librarians who were holding aloof from the meeting—he notes, "Frequent conventions may become wearisome, but one every twenty-three years can certainly be endured by the most indifferent of the profession." In his "Common Sense in Libraries," his 1889 presidential address to the American Library Association, he offers a definition: "But if I must be explicit, I will say common sense is my sense; other people's sense, when it differs from mine, is little more than nonsense."

At the end of the volume, the bibliographic sources about Cutter cover a meager two pages and few of them deal exclusively with Cutter. As Miksa points out, there is still work to be done. More of Cutter's anonymous writings remain to be identified, and an analysis of his total influence on librarianship is to be made. Miksa himself is probably best prepared to do it. I hope he will.—*Helen W. Tuttle, Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services,*

Princeton University Library, Princeton, New Jersey.

Scholz, William H. "Computer-based Circulation Systems—A Current Review and Evaluation," *Library Technology Reports* 13:231–325 (May 1977). (\$40.00 for single issue, available from American Library Assn., 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.)

Dranov, Paula. *Automated Library Circulation Systems, 1977–78*. White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc., 1977. 102p. \$24.50. LC 77-7382. ISBN 0-914236-10-5.

Many libraries are about to embark on the automation of their circulation operations, the subject of these two publications. The *Library Technology Reports* study is neither authoritative nor worth its purchase price. The work is purported to be an update on the excellent July/September 1976 report by Barbara Markuson. In fact, 20 percent of the volume is devoted to the history of computers and automation in libraries—topics with excellent treatment elsewhere.

The product descriptions read as if they were taken directly from the vendors' literature, and no firsthand experiences on the operations of the systems are reported. The most serious defects of this issue of *Library Technology Reports* are the lack of an index and lack of any citations to the extensive literature in this field. The publication appears to be the product of the author's knowledge of the field and draws on little from practitioners in the field.

The study by Paula Dranov, however, has both an excellent index and makes knowledgeable use of the literature in the field. A selective bibliography is supplied.

The circulation systems covered in Dranov's volume include both "off the shelf" systems and those where the library will have to do much of its own software production. This volume gives one an excellent overview of existing systems and those in the developmental stage.

The treatment on the cost of such systems is weak in both studies, though Dranov's is the stronger of the two. This issue could be developed more completely by having all the vendors submit bids for the installation