

our own, where information technology coupled with economic changes exert tremendous pressure on the institution and profession. Sapp uses F. W. Lancaster's *Toward a Paperless Society* (1978) to set the stage for a continuing debate about the role of libraries in a digital environment. Here we see references to the "scholar's desktop" and "electronic communication" as agents confronting the traditions and changing the identities of libraries.

It is undeniably true that technology can function as an agent of transformation, but less certain is the stability of values and tradition. Although some will read this history of the future of libraries as a measure of the library's ability to circumscribe, adapt, and integrate technological innovation to their goals, Sapp's book also documents the library as an institution with mutating and oscillating functions. In many texts outlining the "History of Libraries," the traditional goals of the library are represented as firmly cast upon the institution's inception or portrayed as a progressive evolution. Sapp's chronicle of voices serves to deconstruct these notions, as the library, in this speculative literature, is placed again and again on the precipice of obsolescence. Rather than the embodiment of established concepts, the library is revealed as a contested site, where enterprise, personality, and initiatives are played out against the backdrop of societal forces. The ensuing dance between purpose and means is interesting because speculative writing is by form, social and political as well as often emotionally volatile.

I suppose any annotated bibliography about futurology would be of equal interest, but what sets this volume apart is the role of its subject. The library, even in its most ambiguous manifestation, serves as a medium between the past and the future society. This institution serves as a metaphor for ideas about public space, intellectual freedom, equal opportunity, as well as technical prowess, cultural wealth, and social structure. Visions of its future are charged with social value, and

the writings here are capable of reflecting contemporary ideology. Because libraries are placed within the crucible of our technological and information revolutions (and, in fact, libraries, as recorded here, have often led and focused the forces of these revolutions), the library is both a harbinger and an agent of transformation in a wider informational/technological society.

As such, Sapp's effort will surely appeal to sociologists and historians of technology. However, because of his economical display of the vast amount of resources included, one will have to read closely. Although providing some context, Sapp does not afford space for an analysis of motives, social or personal, behind each author's forecasts. Also, little attention is paid to the international forces weighing in and influencing the development of library discourse; it is enveloped quite tightly in the U.S. context.

A Brief History of the Future of Libraries is extremely useful for librarians seeking to trace the evolution of contemporary library theories and goals, as well as those with the lingering recollection that "they heard that one before." They probably have, for it is not that the future is unwritten but, instead, that the future has been written in infinite ways.—David Michalski, *University of California at Davis*.

Lives in Print: Biography and the Book Trade from the Middle Ages to the 21st Century. Eds. Robin Myers, Michael Harris, and Giles Mandelbrote. New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Pr.; London: British Library (Publishing Pathways), 2002. 208p. \$39.95 (ISBN 1584560940; 0712347968). LC 2002-28304.

One of the functions of biography is to view history through a lens focused on the individual. This collection of essays (the product of a conference held in London in 2001) takes just this approach to the history of books and publishing. As with all efforts that focus on the particular and the specialized, some of these essays are more successful than others at drawing in the reader. All seek to illumi-

nate larger questions on the historical and social currents surrounding the book trade by describing particular individuals, literary works, or sources of biographical information, but some inevitably will be of interest only to the specialist.

A case in point is the opening essay by Joana Proud. Proud describes a particular thirteenth-century manuscript (MS Rawlinson C. 440) containing lives of the saints and, as is usual in such compilations, a liturgical calendar of feasts. What marks the manuscript as unusual is its use of the calendar as an indexing tool: next to each saint's name is a pressmark pointing to another text in the same library with other accounts of the same saint's life. Although this cross-referencing system will be of interest to catalogers and indexers everywhere, the author herself admits that this is a unique and local case, not a demonstration of a widespread and therefore representative practice.

Two of the essays in the book contribute to the publishing history of two monumental works: John Foxe's *Acts and Monuments* and the *Dictionary of National Biography*. The first work became a best-seller upon its initial publication in 1570; the latter has become an indispensable reference source. Elizabeth Evenden and Thomas S. Freeman's article on the printing of *Acts and Monuments* sheds more light on the relationships between authors and publisher/printers: Foxe apparently was an inveterate reviser and that, coupled with the large size of the volume, made the printing job a challenging one. John Day, printer of the first edition, had to make a substantial investment of capital in the work; paper, labor, and proof-reading all contributed to what was to become the first book printed in England that could match the quality of the output of continental presses. The *Book of Martyrs*, as the book was more popularly known, signaled the birth of the English book as luxury item—expensive to produce and to purchase. But Foxe was so culturally important to the early English Protestant community that it became a

must-have title, to be read and reread intensively, along with the Bible.

Robert Faber and Brian Harrison's publishing history of the *Dictionary of National Biography* will be of special interest to librarians. Accustomed as we have become to the mini-industry of reference book production, it is refreshing to read about the creation of a scholarly resource so driven by the will of individual men. The authors' description of the initial editorial work and the reasons for Oxford University Press's decision to undertake a complete revision makes for fascinating reading. Ian Gadd's complementary article, reviewing his research on Elizabethan bookseller and printer John Wolfe for the new *DNB*, demonstrates both what new scholarship can contribute to the biographical and historical record and how methods of research have changed since the first volume of the *DNB* was published in 1885.

Paulina Krewe's essay, "Shakespeare's Lives in Print, 1662–1821," couples the story of the canonization of England's most famous poet with the publication of Shakespearean biographies. Collective biographies of literary authors, separately printed lives, and biographical prefaces to the collected works became one mechanism to help publishers sell their works. Life and works were yoked together, and Shakespeare as natural genius and British Worthy was born.

In contrast to the proliferation of Shakespeare biographies, Anna Giulia Cavagna offers "Missing Lives," an explanation for the absence of biographical writings on Italian printers until well into the nineteenth century. Why this paucity of biography on a group of men and women who were renowned for the quality and quantity of their printing? Cavagna suggests a combination of factors: the notion that printers were mere craftsmen and thus not worthy of heroic treatment or speculation on their intellectual development; a peculiarly Catholic view that the attention drawn to an individual biographee might be an occasion of the sin of pride; and an unconcern with

work and the ordinary lives of ordinary people. Only when printing became a public good during the formation of the Italian nation in the nineteenth century did it become important for historians and biographers to begin to record the accomplishments of members of the book trade.

The remainder of the essays in the collection deal with the life of printer John Nichols, the archives of the Nichols family, and a selection of writings by Andrew Brice, an eighteenth-century Exeter printer. These articles are useful only as starting points for further research and do less to add to our picture of the ways in which individual lives contribute to the entire social history of books and the book trade. Because of the specialized nature of several of the offerings in this volume, this title is recommended only for research-level collections in the history of the book.—*Cecile M. Jagodzinski, Indiana University.*

Jones, Reinette F. *Library Service to African Americans in Kentucky, from the Reconstruction Era to the 1960s.* Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2002. 200p. alk. paper, \$39.95 (ISBN 0786411546). LC 2001-52118.

In *Library Service to African Americans in Kentucky*, Reinette F. Jones has written a compelling and important book for both Kentucky and library history. It is not unexpected that the history of library service in Kentucky would reflect the history of African Americans in the state, and Jones uses this history to bring to life the conflicts experienced by blacks during the one hundred years following the Civil War.

Many libraries in Kentucky hired African Americans but did not offer services to them. Through an examination of these libraries, Jones has produced a concise history that illustrates the double standard in a focused, but representative, way. The author, a librarian at Shaver Engineering Library at the University of Kentucky, was concerned about the perception that African American librarians did

not have a history of their own but had “simply appeared in Kentucky one recent day.”

The structure of the book is largely chronological, but the chapter titles hint at a topical approach as well. Although the chronology is not necessarily broken in typical places for African American history, it does work for the topic. For example, 1954–1964 has been referred to as “the Second Reconstruction” in some historical reference sources, but Jones’s chapter division is from 1936–1963. The author obviously chose 1963 because it was the year the first African American received a master of library science degree from the University of Kentucky. Chapter 6, “The Impact,” looks at the years 1892 to 1956, which is a little confusing when paired with the dates of the other sections. This seems to be a minor problem, but it may make some readers wonder whether a different editing approach might have been useful.

The preface sets a wonderful tone for the book by explaining Jones’s need to research the topic and by identifying a neglected aspect of African American and library scholarship. This is a well-documented book, but perhaps more significantly, the documentation supports the personal lament in the preface, giving the facts a very human face. “I cried when the initial research showed that there had been an influential era of colored librarians in Louisville during the early twentieth century, and Kentucky had a history of desegregated and segregated libraries, beginning in 1866.”

It is regrettable that some of the richest parts of this book are nearly lost to the casual reader. The appendices are wonderful, but the structure puts too much information in a small space and important quotes are lost. Citing the Filson Club in Appendix E, the author records their response to providing service to African Americans: “No service—but on several occasions those working on a thesis have been accommodated in a separate room, although not a practice.” The Filson Club is not listed in the index,