

# Review Articles

## German Source Books

*Deutsches Bücherverzeichnis 1941-1950*. Bearbeitet von der Deutschen Bücherei. Leipzig, Verlag des Börsenvereins der deutschen Buchhändler, 1952. Fascicle 1. (Ten fascicles of forty-eight issued thus far.)

*Die Schlüsselliteratur*. Band III: Entschlüsselung ausländischer Romane und Dramen. By Georg Schneider. Stuttgart, Hiersemann Verlag, 1953. 189p. DM24.00.

*Lehrbuch der Bibliotheksverwaltung*. By Wilhelm Krabbe and Wilhelm Martin Luther. Stuttgart, Hiersemann Verlag, 1953. 143p. DM10.00.

At the risk of subjecting ACRL to a congressional investigation, this review proposes to point out the advantages of the *Deutsches Bücherverzeichnis 1941-1950*, prepared by the Deutsche Bücherei in Leipzig, over the *Deutsche Bibliographie 1945-1950*, prepared by the Deutsche Bibliothek at Frankfurt am Main. This review is necessary in order to protect American libraries with limited means from investing in a less useful reference work when a more useful one including the same information is available.

When it became apparent that the partition of Germany was to be more or less permanent in late 1946 the west Germans quite properly set up a library whose purpose was to collect everything issued in that jurisdiction. Actually, the purpose of this library, the Deutsche Bibliothek, was expanded to include the collection of all printed matter in German, much as the Deutsche Bücherei. This too is a legitimate purpose in a jurisdiction which includes 50,000,000 inhabitants, although one may properly question the wisdom of setting it up in Frankfurt rather than in Munich or even in Heidelberg, Tübingen, or Stuttgart.

As the Deutsche Bibliothek grew, it felt called upon to do everything that the Deutsche Bücherei did. This is a proper function of the national printed book depository of the Bundesrepublik, the largest of the four German-speaking countries of Europe. However, when both libraries offer similar services for a price to foreign libraries and booksellers, the non-German group must make a decision as to which service it will subscribe.

It is readily apparent from the title of the *Deutsches Bücherverzeichnis 1941-1950* that it is indispensable, regardless of its quality. Even if it were an inferior work, libraries would have to purchase it as a stopgap until the Deutsche Bibliothek publishes the *Deutsche Bibliographie 1941-1944*, and this latter is most unlikely. But is it merely a stopgap? Will it, on the other hand, serve any needs we may have for a German national bibliography for the period of war and the reconstruction?

If you consult your Winchell or your Malclès, you will find that the lineal ancestors of the *Deutsches Bücherverzeichnis* go back to the beginning of the eighteenth century. If you are lucky enough to have the three volumes of the *Deutsches Bücherverzeichnis 1936-1940* (for which as much as \$250 has been paid recently), you will see that the new decennial cumulation simply carries on the set.

The *Deutsches Bücherverzeichnis 1941-1950* is indispensable inasmuch as it lists all periodical titles published during the period it covers, including all pertinent data about cessation, suspension, and resumption of publication and changes of titles. No such data are included in the *Deutsche Bibliographie 1945-1950*, although separate bibliographies of *Deutsche Zeitschriften 1945-1950* and *Deutsche Zeitschriften 1941-1944* have been announced. The 1945-1950 bibliography can probably be executed at Frankfurt; but the 1941-1944 list might have to be compiled in Tübingen, Heidelberg, Stuttgart, or Munich, where the material is available.

Quite naturally both Leipzig and Frankfurt parties argue that the other bibliography is less complete. Supporters of the Frankfurt bibliography (e.g., Bertold Hack in the *Frankfurter Börsenblatt für den deutschen Buchhandel* for 16 January 1953) have jubilantly pointed out that certain titles, mainly from 1950, were omitted from the *Deutsches Bücherverzeichnis 1941-1950*. These titles were listed in the *Deutsche Nationalbibliographie* (the weekly checklist of newly published titles, prepared by the Deutsche Bücherei), 1951, no. 21, *et seq.* However, only those entries between "A" and "B1" (covered by the first three of the forty-eight fascicles of the *Deutsches Bücherverzeichnis 1941-1950*) were

omitted. Such an omission, covering only a few hundred titles, is hardly a matter of great concern in the case of a bibliography including some 310,000 titles. Moreover, the missing titles will be included later.

In a broadside dated 22 January 1953 issued by the Bibliographical Division of the Deutsche Bücherei in reply to Hack's article, the Frankfurt bibliography is criticized for including certain relatively insignificant publications (e.g., such two-page titles as "Blusen mit stoffgebundener stickerei" or "System-Übersicht der Rekordstenographie"). This reviewer is not at all certain that a national bibliography should not be absolutely comprehensive, including even titles which are apparently of limited interest and are dated. Where is the line to be drawn, and who is to draw it? Be that as it may, we can still be quite certain that the *Deutsches Bücherverzeichnis 1941-1950* includes all significant works published in German and in the Germanies during the decade it covers. A library which owns it need not subscribe to the Frankfurt bibliography unless it is one of the half dozen or so American libraries which have a comprehensive acquisition policy in the field of bibliography.

The third and concluding volume of *Die Schlüsselliteratur* deals with key literature by ninety-six Frenchmen, forty-six Englishmen, eighteen Americans, twelve Scandinavians, six Russians, four Italians, two Latin writers, two Dutchmen, two Spaniards, one Roumanian, and one ancient Greek. Schneider makes no effort to be comprehensive but his selections are, in general, representative of the various national literatures. As examples to illustrate the first volume, the entries in the third volume are well chosen and elucidated.

Schneider reveals an excellent knowledge of French literature, and his selections and analysis of French *littérature à clef* are comparable to his treatment of German literature in the second volume. It is unfortunate that the limitations of space did not permit him to give more examples from Russian and Italian literature.

Schneider suffered from the same handicap as this reviewer (*C&RL* 14:109) for not having consulted Earle F. Walbridge's *Literary Characters Drawn from Life* (New York, H. W. Wilson, 1936; *Index and Key, ibid.*, 1938). His treatment of English and especially American literature would have benefited sub-

stantially from using this work. Mr. Walbridge has also published a sort of a "pre-supplement" to Schneider's third volume, under the title of "Key Novels, American and European: a Supplement to 'Literary Characters Drawn from Life,'" *BSA Papers* 47(1953):161-191.

Some titles and names in English are spelled incorrectly, but this is forgivable in a foreign work when we recall what mayhem American printers commit on any language but English. However, John Lothrop Motley ("Mothley," p.109) and D. H. Lawrence ("Lorenz," p.80) deserve better treatment. Neither can a citizen of the home state of Elizabeth Roberts, A. B. Guthrie, Jr., Jesse Stuart, and Robert Penn Warren agree that William Faulkner is the only great modern Southern novelist (p.54).

It would be possible for anyone familiar with the literature of the various countries not represented, as well as France, to find similar points that might be criticized. As a whole, this third volume is as good a selection as might be expected from any student of key literature who did not have access to Walbridge. The selection is representative, the critical comments restrained and objective, and the style highly readable.

A synopsis of standard practices in the management of a given type of library is always a useful book. It is not only valuable for practitioners in that particular branch of librarianship, but it is also useful to others who may profit by ideas current outside of their own sphere of activity. Thus a textbook of German library administration can have its special place in the American librarian's private collection of professional reference works.

In 1940 co-author Krabbe published the second edition of his *Kurzgefasstes Lehrbuch der Bibliotheksverwaltung*, and the present volume is a complete revision and expansion of this earlier work. Krabbe and Luther have, to be sure, depended insofar as possible on the second volume of the *Handbuch der Bibliothekswissenschaft* but their book is basically different in two respects other than length. It takes into due consideration all of the radical changes that have taken place in German librarianship since 1945; and, perhaps even more important for its use as a textbook, it provides students of librarianship with material for thinking through problems

to which there is no ready answer.

There are eight main sections, *viz.*, definitions and types of libraries, buildings, acquisition, cataloging, public service, statistics, office management, finance, and personnel. There are also notes on library organizations and an alphabetical index. A few basic references, including much material in English, appear after each section.

Although Krabbe-Luther is primarily intended for German scholarly libraries, it includes much that is pertinent for the management of German popular libraries as well as for all types of libraries outside of Germany. It is a meticulously accurate text book, a challenging presentation of the basic concepts of librarianship, and an eminently practical reference tool.—*Lawrence S. Thompson, University of Kentucky Libraries.*

## Libri

*Libri; International Library Review.* General editors: Jean Anker, Svend Dahl. Copenhagen, Ejnar Munksgaard, 1950-52. Vols. 1-2, no. 2. Quarterly. Annual subscription, \$7.50 (vols. 1-2, \$6.00).

Many American librarians probably share the sentiments which have given birth to this library periodical, ". . . the need for an independent international periodical to link together the work of libraries in different lands and to help in promoting that spirit of mutual understanding which springs from a thorough knowledge of conditions abroad."

Jean Anker, director of the University Library in Copenhagen, and Svend Dahl, state librarian of the Royal Library which is also in Copenhagen, head a staff consisting of themselves and approximately thirty co-editors from many different countries. *Libri*, although having a definite scholarly library orientation, deals with all aspects of librarianship including the history of books and publishing. It consists of original contributions, news and information of libraries throughout the world, book reviews, and a current list of recent publications. The text is in English, German, or French.

Two of many questions that might very well come to mind when the publication of a

periodical such as this is announced are whether the profession can supply worth while articles to still another journal and whether articles of sufficiently international interest can be found. *Libri*, in volume one, number one, goes a long way toward dispelling these doubts. In it are Tønnes Kleberg's "Bibliophiles in Ancient Rome," a paper by S. R. Ranganathan on the "Dawn of Library Consciousness," a description of the Farmington plan by Keyes Metcalf and Edwin Williams, "Die deutsche bibliographische Situation der Gegenwart" by Hans Widmann, and, finally, Franz Unterkircher's "Eine Handschrift aus dem Besitze Jean Groliers in der Osterreichischen Nationalbibliothek."

Later issues carry such outstanding articles as "General Union Catalogues in the Netherlands" by L. Brummel, another paper by Ranganathan in which he develops his conceptions of documentation, "Katastrophe und Weideraufbau der deutschen Bibliotheken" by Georg Leyh, and "Conrad Gesner et les débuts de la bibliographie universelle" by Paul-Emile Schazmann.

Of possibly even greater importance in gaining an acquaintance with the activities of librarians and libraries abroad is that type of article with the "special" interest, such as the paper on the cataloguing of mummy labels by Herbert Klos, Ernest Wickersheimer's "Jean Hermann et les insectes ennemis des livres," Willi Staudacher's account of the book-stealing feats of the famous mathematician, Guglielmo Libri, and "Ultraviolette Strahlen im Dienst der Bibliothek" by Erna Knöfel.

Sufficient progress has been made in the past in international library cooperation through such agencies as the International Federation of Library Associations, the Fédération Internationale de Documentation, and the UNESCO Libraries Division to suggest that it is a profitable field of endeavor. Whether *Libri* finds for itself a permanent place in this pattern remains to be seen; however, that it has made a promising beginning and that it deserves our support goes, I believe, unchallenged.—*James Ranz, University of Illinois Library.*