

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.*