

The celebration of the American bicentennial sparked a resurgence of interest in our national past, a search for national identity and viable values in a changing world. On a very much smaller scale, the commemoration of the centennial of the formal founding of the American library profession in that bibliothecally fertile year 1876 stimulated American librarians, also groping for a renewed sense of purpose, to consider the evolution of their profession and the contexts in which it has been practiced.

The resultant publications and meetings reflect this increased interest among librarians in their collective professional past as well as the growing number of scholars among them who have been seriously and critically probing that past. *A Century of Service* joins the list of centennial histories (among them the July 1976 *Library Trends* devoted to "American Library History: 1876-1976" and the fine series of articles on the history of academic and research libraries and librarianship in the 1976 issues of *College & Research Libraries*) that will be referred to for information for some time to come.

The editors of *A Century of Service* undertook an ambitious project—the compilation of articles that would survey librarianship in the United States and Canada over the past 100 years. It is ambitious, not only because the scope is large, but because the secondary historical literature in the field, while increasingly substantial, is not yet rich enough to form a wide and firm base for such a survey. At the same time, the authors of each article, unless they had been immersed in the historical sources for years, could not possibly be expected to have done deep research in order to write a concise overview of a century's history of a major aspect of American and Canadian librarianship, though many did gather the most significant articles and books that deal in a general way with the assigned subjects.

The resulting book is predictably and probably unavoidably uneven. The articles—altogether eighteen by twenty-one authors and arranged under four rubrics—clienteles, personnel, facilities, and environment—range from several written from a

strongly argued intellectual position to those which describe developments in terms of broad trends and key issues, to some that are mainly compilations of facts or weak expositions of complicated subjects.

The most original pieces are Dee Garrison's on women in librarianship (actually public librarianship) and Peter Conmy and Caroline Coughlin's application of sociological theory to the development of library associations. Some important topics, like library resources and bibliographical control, could have been thrown into bolder relief (though they are covered rather extensively in the *Library Trends* issue), and problems of library governance, financial support, and libraries in the political and legislative process receive not much more than passing attention.

Highlighted are several subjects that have needed historical exploration, such as library technology in relation to reference and technical services and the history of services to ethnic minorities, Afro-Americans, and the urban masses. Academic and research librarians will be especially interested in the several articles on technology and in Samuel Rothstein's survey of services to academia, Angelina Martinez' survey of services to special clientele, and John Cole's article on the national libraries of the United States and Canada.

On balance, *A Century of Service* is a positive contribution to the literature and serves to remind us once again of both the accomplishments and the problems of our profession. One hopes that historical scholarship in librarianship, already well launched, will mature to the point where book-length, integrated, intellectually powerful syntheses can be written without the difficulties and pitfalls of collaborative work or the superhuman effort of one or two authors.—Phyllis Dain, *School of Library Service, Columbia University*.

Fang, Josephine Riss, and Songe, Alice H. *International Guide to Library, Archival, and Information Science Associations*. New York: Bowker, 1976. 354p. \$15.00. LC 76-2700. ISBN 0-8352-0847-8.

This *International Guide* is an updated and expanded version of a preliminary edition published in 1973 under the title

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Deutscher Literatur-Kalender (Register of German Literature)

56th ed. 1974, 1300 pp, cloth, \$91.70

This is the only complete bio-bibliographical account of contemporary writing in the German language, approx. 8000 living authors are listed with the titles of approx. 70,000 literary works. The appendix contains a Necrology (authors deceased since the 1967 ed.), literary societies, publishers of literary works, as well as literary translators listed by language.

Deutscher Literatur-Kalender, Nekrolog 1901-1935 (Register of German Literature, Necrology 1901-1935)

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PARLIAMENTS OF THE WORLD, A Reference Compendium

Ed. by the Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Parliaments of the World is an exhaustive survey of all aspects of the composition, organization and operation of 56 Parliaments as well as their legislative, budgetary and control functions. It takes the form of a series of 70 tables with country-by-country entries, each table being preceded by explanatory text. *Parliaments of the World* is a reference compendium of lasting interest to scholars as well as to parliamentarians, politicians, journalists and all people involved in the work and life of parliamentary institutions.



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Handbook of National and International Library Associations (Chicago: ALA). It now lists a total of 361 organizations, 44 international and 317 national, excluding provincial or local ones.

Part 1 covers international organizations both worldwide (e.g., IFLA) and regional (e.g., The Scandinavian Association of Research Libraries), arranged alphabetically by the name of the association. Part 2 lists national organizations by country. The names of the countries are in English whereas the organizations are listed under their official name, followed by their acronym, if used, and an English translation of the name where necessary. Names in non-Roman script are transliterated. The information for each association, where available, is comprehensive and presented in a consistent format. It includes the address, names of officers and their terms of office, languages used, brief history, aims, structure, financial resources, membership data, major activities, and the name of its official journal with full bibliographical detail. Special features and indexes are a list of acronyms, a list of official journals of library associations, a subject index, and a list of associations under their official name with reference to the entry under country.

As is inevitable in such undertakings of global scope, there are errors and omissions. For a number of countries, there is no more information beyond the name and address of the national or major library and perhaps indication of an affiliation with IFLA. Ten countries (Andorra to Tonga) are listed separately as "omitted due to lack of information." However, while the People's Republic of China is included, nothing is said about the omission of Taiwan. Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales each have separate country entries (with a "see also" from United Kingdom, to be sure). Yemen (Arab Republic of) is there, but there is no mention of its neighbor, Democratic Yemen (formerly Southern Yemen). Granted, there is not much library activity in either country, but fair is fair! A few misspellings and inaccuracies in the form of names and in the use of diacritics are perhaps inevitable in a work using such a variety of languages.

There is a short bibliography at the end

of each entry and a six-and-a-half-page "General Bibliography, 1965-75," listing monographs and articles of international or multinational scope published during that period. Most citations should be familiar to anyone concerned with international library matters. It would have been more useful, I think, to separate the titles into categories, such as international library journals; directories, annuals, etc.; and writings about professional library associations.

A short statistical data section presents the contents of the *Guide* statistically. It is interesting to note that there are a total of 256 official journals listed, of which 37 percent are indexed or abstracted; not a bad ration, in my opinion, considering that many represent not very substantial newsletters. Nevertheless, there may be room for improvement here, especially as the *Guide* now provides information on the availability of all the journals listed.

Some of the information contained in the *Guide* is, of course, also covered in two other major sources, the *Bowker Annual* and the *IFLA Directory*. Both these titles are published annually and are thus more up to date, especially for names of officers or addresses for associations without a permanent secretariat. However, the *Guide* is broader in scope and detail, and Professor Fang and Ms. Songe must be congratulated on a unique and useful compilation that should be brought up to date regularly.—*Elisabeth H. Nebehay, United Nations Library, New York.*

Martin, Susan K. *Library Networks, 1976-77*. White Plains, N.Y.: Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc., 1976. 131p. \$24.50 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. LC 76-29187. ISBN 0-914236-06-7.

Through expanded coverage, stylistic improvement, and a far better integration of factual statements with considerations of those issues confronting networks, Susan Martin has substantially improved upon the first edition of this publication, which, under different authorship, was unsatisfactory in its treatment of library networks during 1974-75 (*College & Research Libraries* 37:77 [Jan. 1976]). With some reservation, this second edition can be recommended to those librarians and readers from com-