

well worth its price of \$3. It shouldn't be missed by libraries offering or planning on-line services or by schools of library and information science.—*Sara D. Knapp, Coordinator, Information Retrieval Section, State University of New York at Albany, Albany.*

Japan-U.S. Conference on Libraries and Information Science in Higher Education, 3d, Kyoto, Japan, 1975. *Japanese and U.S. Research Libraries at the Turning Point: Proceedings of the Third Japan-U.S. Conference on Libraries and Information Science in Higher Education, Kyoto, Japan, October 28-31, 1975.* Edited by Robert D. Stevens, Raynard C. Swank, and Theodore F. Welch. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1977. 240p. \$10.00. LC 77-2535. ISBN 0-8108-1028-X.

Any assessment of this third Japan-U.S. Conference must be made in the context of the two preceding ones in 1969 and 1972. Ryohei Hayashi, 1975 steering committee chairman, observed that the first conference, in Tokyo, had been an important event for Japanese librarians faced with the rapid expansion of higher education in his country. For many participants, both Japanese and American, it had highlighted the differences in the organization of academic libraries in the two countries. It was difficult to share common experiences because, clearly, development of Japanese libraries had lagged seriously behind that of the United States and other Western countries.

The second conference, held in Racine, Wisconsin, also was concerned with these disparities but nevertheless moved with determination to consider problems common to both countries. It concentrated, therefore, on the theme of library cooperation and on ways to utilize new technologies to further it.

This third conference, in Kyoto, dealt with the theme of "Inter-library Networks: Prerequisites for Sharing Resources." Again, there was much talk by Japanese participants about impediments to cooperation among themselves, not to mention internationally. The disparate goals of university libraries and the independent endeavors of

the scientific and technological communities were stressed repeatedly. Most importantly, Japanese universities were shown to be clinging to the costly and inefficient system of maintaining separate "central" libraries and faculty laboratory libraries, side by side. (But there has been one startling and heartening break in this pattern at Keio University, where the two types of libraries have recently been integrated into one organic whole.)

It was remarked bluntly by professors Hosoye and Tsuno, of Hitotsubashi and Tokyo Universities respectively, that some prominent librarians in the Tokyo area have "little intention of cooperating with other libraries"; and Yasumasa Oda, distinguished systems librarian of the National Diet Library, observed that "unfortunately, Japanese librarians have not been as concerned with standardization as they should be" and progress toward participation in broad cooperative programs had therefore been impeded. These, and other similar expressions, were seen as symptomatic of a widespread lethargy and reluctance to give up older attitudes and practices and move toward cooperation.

In contrast is the description by Takahisa Sawamoto, of Keio University, of a cooperative program among agricultural libraries in Japan—certainly one of the most encouraging evidences of progressive planning and of the beginning, at least, of a valuable experiment. With this should be mentioned the important paper by Yoshinari Tsuda, also of Keio, in which he reported on the well-organized network of Japanese medical libraries, already in operation.

Speaking for the United States, Douglas W. Bryant described eloquently some of the major programs of research library cooperation, depicting in some detail the Research Libraries Group. It seems regrettable that Joseph Becker's bold proposal for an experiment between Japan and the United States through a project for a binational library and information network in some specialized field of common interest was apparently considered a bit too advanced for serious consideration by the conferees. Perhaps it can be retrieved sometime in the future.

Yet, despite evidence that Japanese libraries still lag discouragingly behind their

THE PRECIS INDEX SYSTEM:

Principles, Applications, and Prospects

EDITED BY HANS H. WELLISCH

This is the first practical introduction, in one volume, to explore PRECIS (PREserved Context Index System) which is an innovative approach to subject indexing and subject heading construction. The eleven papers in this collection, originally presented by lecturers from the United States, England, Canada, and Denmark during the International PRECIS Workshop held at the University of Maryland in October of 1976, describe and evaluate the system for librarians, indexers, and subject specialists. The papers are divided into three distinct groups: those in Part I explain the principles of the system; Part II contains reports on research projects and comparative studies with traditional indexing systems; and Part III presents papers dealing with the practical applications of PRECIS.

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"The presentation of PRECIS and the enthusiasm of its practitioners are impressive."—Mr. Edward J. Blume (Subject Cataloging Division, Library of Congress).

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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