Review Articles

Medieval Monastery Libraries

Die Bibliotheksräume der deutschen Klöster im Mittelalter, von Edgar Lehmann. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 1957. 50p., xx plates. DM 19.80. (Deutschen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin, *Schriften zur Kunstgeschichte,* Heft 2.)

The study of history of libraries and librarianship has naturally only a limited number of devotees. To these Dr. Lehmann's study is of considerable interest. Appearing in a series specializing in the history of art, the treatment of mediaeval German monastery libraries is nevertheless broad in scope and yet scholarly enough to satisfy the most demanding critic.

The narrative part of this study is divided into two main chapters. The first deals with Romanesque libraries (eighth to thirteenth centuries, or broadly speaking the early and high Middle Ages). During this period libraries developed from small collections in chests *(armaria)* to small rooms found at times in close connection with the scriptorium. Concern with safety and protection against moisture was common then, as it is today, and collections of manuscripts received the kind of care given to relics or holy vestments, in or adjoining the church, often on upper floors, sometimes even in fortified towers. Storing and reading did not take place in the same room during this era.

The second chapter covers Gothic libraries (thirteenth to sixteenth centuries, i.e., the late Middle Ages). Under the influence of universities and the new secular or private libraries, special areas and separate buildings came into their own rights; storage and use were combined in one and the same spot. Among points detailed by the author we find that the chaining of manuscripts was largely limited, at least in Central Europe, to monasteries in larger towns where it seemed necessary to protect them against non-resident readers. Throughout the volume, the influence of monastic orders on the development of libraries is discussed and thoroughly documented.

This volume deals preponderantly with German libraries, but constant comparison with English, French, and Italian libraries enhances its value beyond local or national interest.

Pages twenty-nine through forty-seven contain a list (including bibliographical and historical notes) of mediaeval monastic library buildings. Incidental information is included, e.g., under Augsburg we read that a library room was "moved to get away from the noise of laymen." Plans of various monastery libraries and photographs of exteriors and interiors are shown on twenty plates illustrating examples from 820 to the sixteenth century. This study is valuable to the historian; it is carefully written and will probably remain "definitive" for a good long time. We noticed that the author did not have access, according to his own statement, to the second edition of John Willis Clark's, *The Care of Books* or James Westfall Thompson's, *The Medieval Library.* We observe with regret that political frontiers often are also intellectual barriers.—*Rudolf Hirsch, University of Pennsylvania Library.*

Books Are Being Read

Books Are Being Read. By Nora E. Jones. Los Angeles: University of California Library, 1959. 46p. (UCLA Library Occasional Paper Number 8.)

In connection with plans for building a research library and for converting the main library into a college library, the staff of the UCLA Library conducted a questionnaire study of students' reading and use of the library. By administering the questionnaire to several large classes, the investigators obtained a sample of 1140 students apparently representative of the total student body. The students were questioned about such matters as the frequency of their visits to the university library, the departments they used, the number of books they borrowed, the number they read, their success in using the card catalog, their other sources for books, and their attitudes towards the library.