

useful for anyone engaged in research in librarianship or book publishing.

R. R. Bowker Co. is advertising this work as the *International Bibliography of the Book Trade and Librarianship*, a much better English title than "The Literature about the Book—and Librarianship," which was the title provided by the publisher, Verlag Dokumentation. The ads are misleading, however, because it is not made clear that this tool requires some knowledge of German to be useful. Incidentally, this particular work comprises volume two of a ten-volume series entitled "Handbuch der Technischen Dokumentation und Bibliographie."—*Guenter A. Jansen, Suffolk Cooperative Library System.*

The Enduring Desert; a Descriptive Bibliography. Elza Ivan Edwards. Foreword by Russ Leadabrand. Los Angeles: The Ward Richie Press, 1969. 306p. \$27.50.

E. I. Edwards is not new to the field of desert bibliography. His first desert bibliography appeared in 1940 under the title, *The Valley Whose Name Is Death*. Then followed *Desert Treasure* (1948), *Desert Voices* (1958), and *Desert Harvest* (1962). The present volume is an expansion of selected material which appeared in the author's previous works with additional material added, including periodical articles, pamphlets, and ephemera.

For each item presented in this publication the author has provided an annotation which is descriptive of the work and its contents. However, there seems to be little attempt to critically evaluate each item, and often the author's own personal reactions are included. The predominance of the items listed are historical or biographical with few entries in the sciences or natural history. Aside from these minor strictures, the work as a whole is not only delightfully interesting to read, but has a wealth of material which can be found in no other source on California desert lore.

The author is unquestionably familiar with his material. The annotations may discuss all or part of the book and in most cases are sufficient to let a reader know if he wishes to examine the work.

The Enduring Desert is not wholly limited to desert subjects, as there is an abun-

dance of material on other western subjects, particularly the gold rush, mines and mining, railroads, etc. This nondesert material is easily accessible through the extensive index. In addition, a supplemental reference section lists books containing only incidental desert mention and a record of journals and diaries. The volume must also be classed as an example of modern fine printing for which The Ward Richie Press is often noted.

The Enduring Desert might best be described in the words of Russ Leadabrand from the foreword:

Readers . . . will find *The Enduring Desert* a rich and satisfying experience. There is material here for a hundred monologs on desert history, folklore and traditions. . . . Go now and enjoy *The Enduring Desert*. Read it at leisure as you would savor a fine wine or a rich steak. You'll find the rewards are without number.

—*A. Dean Larson, Brigham Young University.*

The Plateglass Universities. Michael Beloff. Cranbury, N.J.: Associated University Presses, 1970. 208p.

Establishing university campuses is a familiar activity in the United States; it has also been an academic preoccupation in Britain as discussed in this book. The "Plateglass" universities are institutions opened in the 1960s to make room for the rapid increase of students. Traditionally, few university degrees were earned in Britain, and in recent years efforts have been made to increase degrees by establishing new campuses and by grants to students.

The new universities are scattered about the English countryside. Most are near the coast, and some of the seven are near ancient cathedral towns or other historically important centers. They are the first universities to be established with government funds rather than private backing. They have been able to grant degrees from the start and have not been controlled by other universities. Differing from "Oxbridge" with medieval roots or "Redbrick" in the centers of the industrial revolution, the new universities have developed an architectural style and educational élan that the author feels is caught by the term "Plateglass."

The first years of an institution are the

experimental years in Beloff's view, and an early examination will reveal the developing character. Similarities are discussed first, with later chapters trying to detail the individual character of the schools. Residence is an important feature of all, as is indicated by the choice of sites, and in this way they are more like Oxbridge than the civic universities. Lord Snow's concern for the two cultures has had its impact on the curricula which depart from the traditional British practice of narrow specialization. The author suspects that the innovative spirit may successfully contest the eminence of Oxford and Cambridge which has withstood previous challenges.

The lack of library collections in all the "Plateglass" universities is the most telling criticism in this book. A restriction of educational budgets has slowed building and equipment spending, but there is also a question of priorities. Beloff states: "The basic problem has less to do with a lack of sophisticated laboratory equipment than with a lack of that primary academic commodity—books." In spite of the experimentation, "one cannot draw a new map with blunt pencils."

Few aspects of life on the various campuses are missed. There is a wide variation in the organization of faculties. Student housing arrangements vary from almost random placement to close association in the college. Regulation of students differs as does student involvement in administration. Instructional programs may be tutorial, seminar, or lecture-oriented. Many ideas have been adopted or adapted from American experience. It is somewhat difficult to see each of these universities as unique as the author tries to do, but they have been allowed to develop freely in their own ways.

The problem of student unrest is given ample space and impartial coverage, although the author observes that some are at the university to learn and some to teach. This activity has had its effect on the support and acceptance of the new universities by the nation; much of the publicity has been sensational and has obscured their real academic progress. Still, Beloff feels that the dynamic qualities of these schools may bring a redefinition of the role of universities and a realization of the role of

higher education in producing innovative individuals.

The author, an Oxford don with American teaching experience, develops a fascinating series of pictures which seem to catch the spirit as well as the facts. Some words and passages will be difficult for American readers not familiar with British higher education. Even though this is not a book of deep analysis of curricula and theory, it gives enough insight into the new universities so that the reader can understand their problems and potentials.—*Jack E. Hibbs, Bowling Green State University.*

The United Nations Library: Its Origin and Development. Doris Cruger Dale. Chicago: American Library Association, 1970. 236p. \$10.00.

This adaptation of an impressive dissertation seeks to trace the history of the United Nations Library "from its birth in 1945 to its maturity in 1961." The author says she "has attempted to answer nine questions which relate to the basic problems and divisions of the library." There is some question as to whether she has really answered the questions in the text though she has listed the questions and given a summarized answer in the conclusion. A sketchy history of the League of Nations Library in Geneva and UNCIO Library in San Francisco is traced and gives important insight into the predecessors of the United Nations Library.

This work, very readable at times and very tedious at times, should be interesting to all librarians. Surely the time has arrived to give attention to how some of our important libraries have developed and grown. Perhaps it would be good also to examine some of these libraries to see if they have been performing commensurate with the investment of human endeavor. This book will certainly enable us to take a good look at all significant facets of the United Nations Library except performance.

The author often takes the reader to the brink of revealing the political machinations that have troubled the United Nations Library through the years, and then drops him. In other words, Dale seems more interested in being inoffensive than in reveal-