published in 1970. The compilation of the bibliography is an outgrowth of work Evans has done for courses he has taught in the administration of modern archives. Although the author modestly subtitles his volume, "A Select Bibliography," it is the most comprehensive single source of English-language publications on archival theory and practice in the U.S. The book is broadly divided into four major sections: (1) archival administration, (2) archival functions, (3) American archival agencies, and (4) international archival developments. Each chapter begins with a list of basic readings on a general topic, followed by bibliographic citations on related subtopics. Within each subtopic, entries are arranged chronologically by date of publication and printed in paragraph format. Each topic has a decimal notation to which the index of authors and subjects is keyed, a system that is both accurate and easy to use.

The heart of the book is the section dealing with archival functions. Here the user has easy reference to chapters on appraisal, preservation, arrangement, description, automation, and reference service for archival material. In addition, the section includes information on nonprint material such as still and motion pictures, sound recordings, cartographic records, machine-readable records, microphotography, and oral history.

Evans' *Modern Archives and Manuscripts* is a standard reference for any college; its comprehensive list of books, articles, proceedings, and published sources through December 1973 is the starting point for information about archives. The fact that it will receive frequent use makes it regrettable that the book was published only in a paperbound edition.—*Nicholas C. Burckel, Director of Archives and Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin–Parkside, Kenosha.*

Metcalfe, John. *Information Retrieval, British & American, 1876–1976.* Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1976. 243p. $10.00. (LC 75-29154) (ISBN 0-8108-0875-7)

The book's strengths are obvious. Because Metcalfe possesses a reasonable understanding of information retrieval as it developed since the mid-twentieth century,

the reader will find the last three of the book's eight chapters most useful. Here the author analyzes H. E. Bliss and S. R. Ranganathan, "Pre-Coordinate Indexing with Permutations and Combinations," and "Post-Coordinate Indexing and Mechanization" in a discourse sufficiently supported by existing source materials.

But the strengths of the last three chapters contrast sharply with the striking weaknesses of the first five. Metcalfe judges early information retrievalists like Melvil Dewey and Charles A. Cutter not on the basis of problems confronting them in 1876, but on the basis of problems confronting contemporary catalogers in 1976. Such tactics make for poor history, and as a history this book has serious shortcomings. For example, analysis of the Dewey and Cutter systems derives almost exclusively from secondary sources. The author visited no manuscript collections to bolster his research.
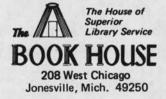
Particularly distressing is Metcalfe's prac-

tice of arriving at conclusions which, though challenging existing schools of thought, are supported only by citations to the same authors he is disputing. Then there are conclusions which are supported by no evidence at all, such as Metcalfe's belief that Herbert Putnam's predecessor as Librarian of Congress, John Young, was more responsible for LC's existing thought patterns on information retrieval than Putnam (p.91–92).

The book has similar shortcomings in style and accuracy. All too often the reader finds individuals discussed in the text introduced by last name only. On pages 62–63, Metcalfe begins the first three sentences of one paragraph as follows: "As Comaromi said . . ."; "As Comaromi says . . ."; and "Comaromi said. . . . " Such tense-hopping and structural monotony is hardly indicative of scholarly writing. On page 90, Herbert Putnam is appointed Librarian of Congress on April 5, 1899; yet on pages 108–9, the date curiously jumps to April 5, 1900. Perhaps this might be passed off as mere oversight, but Metcalfe cites the latter date to show how much Young had accomplished with LC information retrieval before Putnam had arrived. Similarly, in Metcalfe's discussion of Bliss and Ranganathan, the reader is informed twice (p.152 and 168) of Ranganathan's habit of reading his rival's books between ten and midnight to put himself to sleep.

Except for the last three chapters, the book is hardly worth the reading effort.— *Wayne A. Wiegand, College of Library Science, University of Kentucky.*

Verona, Eva. *Corporate Headings: Their Use in Library Catalogues and National Bibliographies.* A Comparative and Critical Study. London: IFLA Committee on Cataloguing, 1975. 224p. $18.00. (Available from Canadian Library Association, 151 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P5E3.) (ISBN 0-903043-05-X)

As a part of the effort to bring about international standardization of the conventions of bibliographic control, the IFLA Committee on Cataloguing (now the IFLA International Office for UBC) commissioned Dr. Eva Verona to undertake a study of the current usage of corporate authorship in various countries. Seventy-three (!) codes are compared, many of which have appeared after the 1961 International Conference on Cataloging Principles.

Verona has gone beyond the stated objective in also offering her own views, interpretations, and recommendations throughout the text. Thus the work covers more ground than its title and subtitle indicate.

A study of this type is bound to become rapidly dated. However, the inclusion of Verona's comments and analyses of cataloging problems, such as the evaluation of the current German code (RAK), with its interesting approach to personal and corporate authorship (Verfasser/Urheber), are of lasting value and will likely lend permanence to what would have otherwise been a "state-of-the-art" presentation of corporate authorship problems in various cataloging codes.

The work is recommended to all those who are interested in the theoretical aspect of cataloging.—*Ake I. Koel, Associate Librarian for Technical Services, Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut.*