

cessive enthusiasm or fear. There is also considerable pragmatism. A 1978 article in the collection argues that austerity or reduced support is something library administrators should learn to accept and manage, rather than wait out until the next period of affluence.

The greatest value of the compilation, especially when read chronologically, is its recording of major trends: austerity, technology, and resource sharing.—*Richard W. Boss, Information Systems, Consultants Inc., Washington, D.C.*

The World of Books and Information: Essays in Honour of Lord Dainton. London: The British Library, 1987. 224p. \$37.50 (ISBN-0-7123-0125-9).

Maurice Line, in his foreword to this volume, suggests that Lord Dainton's "contribution to the library and information world must be one of the greatest ever made by a non-librarian." This contribution includes serving as president of the Library Association (1977); establishing

(while chairman of the University Grants Committee) a Working Party on Capital Provision for University Libraries, which resulted in the production of the famous (or infamous) "Atkinson Report" on size and funding of British academic libraries; and, most importantly, serving as chairman of the National Libraries Committee, which was directly responsible for the creation of the British Library in 1973. Lord Dainton became Chairman of the British Library Board in 1978 and served in that capacity for more than seven years.

The essays have little in common, other than the fact that they are all written by eminent librarians and other scholars who are among Lord Dainton's admirers and friends. One brief essay is a "personal" bibliography of Scottish mountaineering and a second discusses Welsh authors and their books circa 1500-1642. Most, however, are directly related to librarianship and scholarly publishing. Of potential interest to academic librarians in the U.S. are the essays on the functions of the li-

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brary in an "electronic campus" (by Lynne Brindley of Aston University); a description of the "role" of the British Library by Kenneth Cooper, its present chief executive; a discussion on the "gap between ideal and reality" in academic libraries (Brian Enright, University of Newcastle upon Tyne); a retrospective look at the Atkinson Report by J. Michael Smethurst of the British Library; Alexander Wilson's discussion on library preservation strategies; and Maurice Line's views on what might constitute a "universal library."

In physical appearance this is an attractive book although it is somewhat marred by careless errors (e.g., the title of Enright's article refers to "ideals and reality"). As to the contents, the heterogeneous nature of the contributions make it exceedingly difficult to appraise. I would judge it to be of limited appeal to librarians in the U.S. because of its almost exclusive emphasis on the British scene and the fact that, despite the eminence of the authors, many of the essays are quite lightweight. While they serve the intended purpose of honoring a great man they do not collectively make a profound contribution to the literature of librarianship.—F. W. Lancaster, University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign.

American Literary Magazines: The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. Ed. by Edward E. Chielens. New York: Greenwood, 1986. 503p. \$65 (ISBN 0-313-23985-1). LC 85-24793.

American Literary Magazines will be in two volumes, the subtitle indicating the scope of this first installment, leaving the substantial body of twentieth-century American literary magazines to volume 2. The editor, Edward E. Chielens, has previously published annotated bibliographical guides to information sources, *The Literary Journal in America to 1900* and *The Literary Journal in America, 1900-1950*, in 1975 and 1977 respectively in a Gale Research guide series.

The present work provides "profile" essays of usually no more than three to five pages, each followed by notes, a bibliography of information sources, and a publica-

tion history for (as the introduction puts it) "ninety-two of the most important" American literary magazines of the specified period, with another ninety-nine "less important titles . . . covered in an accompanying appendix." The editor readily acknowledges the difficulty in deciding "which magazines of the thousands published deserved coverage in full profiles," and, despite the pains he takes to explain and justify his choices, a number of inclusions and exclusions may strike some readers as capricious.

The exclusion of *Vanity Fair*, *Puck*, the *Philistine*, and similar journals "because they are being included in another book in this series on humor magazines" seems unfortunate (however defensible from the publisher's point of view) for a collection and its projected companion volume that "are intended as comprehensive sources of information" on their subject.

The claim for comprehensiveness works against other exclusions as well—or, at least, decisions to provide a profile or relegate a journal to the category of "less important titles." Choosing to include a profile of *Godey's Ladies Book* over its popular, long-running competitor, *Peterson's Magazine*, may be defensible, since the latter published fewer distinguished and subsequently less influential literary figures than did *Godey's*. However, it seems a bit eccentric to relegate *Lippincott's* magazine to the list of "less important titles" (actually an appendix entitled "Minor and Nonliterary Magazines," which includes very brief annotations for its ninety-nine entries). *Lippincott's* may have been ultimately less successful than *Scribner's* or the *Atlantic*, as its annotation claims, but it included among its contributors Sidney Lanier, William Gilmore Simms, Octave Thanet, Lafcadio Hearn, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Grace King, Henry James, and Anthony Trollope. *Lippincott's* published Oscar Wilde's "Picture of Dorian Grey" and introduced Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes to American readers. The decision not to profile *Lippincott's*, *Harper's Weekly*, *Colliers*, *The American*, or *Demorest's Monthly Magazine*, and numerous others that have varying claims to literary interest or significance could be left to the