

gued in the *Library Assistant*: "If I want a book I am justified in regarding *your* disapprobation, however reasonable in your own eyes, as irrelevant." But British librarians of opposite persuasion have allowed only married couples to borrow the *Kinsey Report*, and they have repeatedly justified their opposition to "inferior" children's books with a familiar refrain: "There is no ban on Enid Blyton, we just do not buy her books."

Thompson's book is a testament to the durability of that hearty British species, the writer of letters to the editor, but therein lies its not inconsiderable fault. It consists largely of quotations—from the daily press and library journals—whose mind-numbing repetitiousness makes the reader wish the author had chosen other, more readable means to document his case. The title is misleading; the book skips over the first four decades of the century in a scant ten pages.—Roger L. Funk, Assistant Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, American Library Association.

Lewis, Felice Flanery. *Literature, Obscenity & Law*. Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois Univ. Pr., 1976. 297p. \$12.50. (LC 75-42094) (ISBN 0-8093-0749-9)

Academic librarians usually feel themselves above the continuing battle between the censor and the advocate of intellectual freedom. By definition, they say, the academic library is the place where no censor is either welcome or effective. But, upon consideration, it is easy to identify many ways in which the supposedly seamless web of academic librarianship could be—and frequently is—breached. Every type of librarian needs to know as much as possible about the past history and likely future trends of both the publication of and judicial restraints on literary works dealing with sex.

It is rather surprising that Dr. Lewis (Dean of Conolly College, The Brooklyn Center, Long Island University) has herein written the very *first* book to deal with *all* "... works of imaginative literature . . . known to have been the subject of obscenity litigation in the United States . . .," as well as related judicial opinions. Despite

what the popular belief seems to be, Dean Lewis stresses the well-documented fact that "... censors have not discriminated between outstanding cultural contributions and . . . worthless pornography," although judges usually have, especially at the Supreme Court level.

In highly readable fashion Dean Lewis reminds us that a great many of our leading litterateurs—including Whitman, Dreiser, Cabell, Faulkner, Sinclair, Farrell, Caldwell, Hellman, Edmund Wilson, and O'Hara—have faced the censor's censure. The record is not one to make freedom-loving Americans proud, but it is useful to have it available through this volume. Nearly one-third of the book's text (seventy-eight pages) is devoted to detailed descriptions and/or illustrative quotations from fiction, poetry, and drama involved in American obscenity cases since 1890 (which, the author claims, was the beginning of both a sexual revolution in American fiction and of the first really substantial effort to censor by law and legal action such fiction without regard to literary merit).

Her book is comprehensive and clear but could have profited from more attention to the efforts of those groups and individuals who led the anticensorship fight—the American Civil Liberties Union (one brief reference) and the American Library Association (unmentioned), for example. There is a great deal included on the efforts of the so-called "antivice" groups.

But, as a pioneering and thorough work in a highly significant field for librarians and others devoted to intellectual freedom, it deserves a place on the shelves of every academic librarian and library.—Eli M. Oboler, University Librarian, Idaho State University, Pocatello.

Kochen, Manfred, ed. *Information for Action: From Knowledge to Action*. (Library and Information Science Series) New York: Academic Pr., 1975. 248p. \$12.50. (LC 75-3968) (ISBN 0-12-417950-9)

Among the fifteen papers in this collection there may be hidden a classic little essay that future information scientists will cite again and again. Unfortunately, such