

dates of the photographs, origin of the collection, physical description, subjects, arrangement, caption data availability, finding aid availability, and restrictions are all briefly and clearly described. The book's introduction further outlines the content of these fields, and gives general information on access and photoduplication services.

Given the broad scope and sheer size of these collections, the data in these fields is necessarily concise. Yet neither clarity nor informativeness suffers, for the author describes each collection with a consistent style, and uses a carefully controlled vocabulary effectively. This provides a comfortable consistency of descriptive form that makes usage of the guide easy, and immediately highlights features of each collection, rather than obscuring them.

A particularly successful use of controlled vocabulary is in the description of photographic processes. Various processes both commonplace and contemporary, and exotic and historic, are described with precision, using terminology that has increasingly become standard, in part through the development of the MARC-VM format, which was used as the basis for the surveys conducted within NMAH for the development of the guide.

The book concludes with three indexes: a creators index, which lists the photographers or entities that produced or assembled the images in each collection; a forms and processes index, which locates examples of physically distinct types of photographs (such as albumen photoprints, or collodion wet plate photonegatives); and a subject index, created using Library of Congress topical terms for graphical materials. The subject index is useful, since images related to certain subjects may reside in various collections located in separate NMAH divisions. The forms and processes index will be especially appreciated by anyone having an interest in the development of photographic technique. The more exotic variant processes (such as the bromoil process variant of the ubiquitous silver gelatin photoprint) are clearly noted. Widely used processes are not used as index terms except for general headings, or to establish headings for the

variant processes. Indexing is keyed in all three indexes to collection number, not page. This only slightly impairs the usefulness of the indexes.

This book will lead a researcher into an acquaintance with a splendid array of photographic treasures. From the images created by noted photographers such as Matthew Brady, Eugene Atget, Andre Kertesz, and Richard Avedon in the Division of Photographic History; to the 11,300 images in the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana in NMAH's Archives Center; to the Pullman Company Negative Collection in the Division of Transportation, the researcher becomes acquainted with a vast and heretofore virtually unknown resource of great artistic, technical, and informational value. This first volume of a planned five-part set admirably succeeds as a guide to this photographic treasure trove. Researchers can look forward to the other four volumes to do the same for the photographic collections housed in the Smithsonian Institution's other museums and facilities.—*Mark J. Cedeck, John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library, St. Louis Mercantile Library Association.*

Wiegand, Wayne A. *"An Active Instrument for Propaganda": The American Public Library during World War I.* (Beta Phi Mu Monograph, No. 1) New York: Greenwood, 1989. 193p. \$39.95 (ISBN 0-313-26702-2). LC 88-38489.

Wayne Wiegand's *"An Active Instrument for Propaganda": The American Public Library During World War I* marks the beginning of the Beta Phi Mu's (the International Library Science Honor Society) new series of monographs. In his wisdom combined with thorough research, Wiegand demonstrates in this study the involvement of American public library community during World War I. His detailed introduction covers an overview of the history of the public library prior to World War I. Also covered in the introduction, without going in broader detail, are topics such as the founding of the American Library Association (ALA) in 1876, the public libraries' adoption of the Dewey Decimal Classification, the publication of the

periodical indexes such as the *Poole's Guide to Periodical Literature* in 1848 that yielded to the publishing of the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* in 1900.

Wiegand postulates that public libraries shared in an ideology of reading, as he puts it, "good reading begets good social behavior and bad reading begets bad social behavior" but as an emerging social class, libraries worried about stability and order of a society "sorely tested by the effects of industrialization, urbanization, and immigration." Wiegand recognizes two problems unique to the library profession during this period: one was that libraries owned no monopoly on reading matters. They were unable to force the American public to use their libraries. Second was that new forces in the cultural, intellectual, and literary worlds pressed for changes in the traditional canons and consequently, as he posed, "librarians found the footings upon which they based their professional power shifting under their feet." Wiegand carefully shows in his study how both large and small public libraries in America played various roles during World War I. They solicited, acquired, and disseminated whatever information governmental agencies wanted to get to the American people.

Chapter one deals with how the war broke out in Europe in August 1914 and recounts President Woodrow Wilson's initial proclamation of American neutrality and caution to remain "impartial in thought as well as in action." It also recounts the general drift in attitude for the Allies in 1917. Chapters two and three extensively treat the shift in attitude of the American public library community, that is, how they supported the rest of their compatriots when the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. Also covered is how local and national public library chapters initiated various actions of support for the US government. Chapters four and five deal with the censorship role played by the public library during war time. Chapter six covers the public library between 1917-18 and the education of immigrants, including the americanization movement. Chapter seven summarizes the entire book.

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Wiegand concludes, "For the American public library community, World War I represented an exhilarating experience that constituted a capstone to the public library movement in progressive America." This book, "*An Active Instrument for Propaganda*": *The American Public Library*

During World War I is the "mecca" of all recorded public library history that I can think of. Considering its scholarly content and depth of research, Wiegand deserves to be congratulated for his efforts.—*Felix Eme Unaeze, New Mexico State University Library, Las Cruces.*

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