

***Books, Libraries, Reading & Publishing in the Cold War.*** Ed. Hermina G. B. Anghelescu and Martine Poulain. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, The Center for the Book, 2001. 297p. alk. paper, \$25 (ISBN 084441056-X). LC 2001-41208.

A collection of essays written primarily by librarians, *Books, Libraries, Reading & Publishing in the Cold War* is an interesting, problematic foray into a chapter of history that continues to influence political and cultural life in the twenty-first century.

Published by the Library of Congress's Center for the Book, the essays were originally prepared for a conference organized under the auspices of the International Federation of Library Associations and held in Paris in June 1998. The essays also appeared in the winter 2001 issue of *Libraries & Culture: A Journal of Library History* (vol. 36, no. 1).

The essays reveal an extremely uneven level of scholarship in terms of (1) research, (2) writing (or editing and/or translating), (3) knowledge of current historical understandings of the period under examination, and (4) self-awareness. Several essays are well researched. Boris Volodin, for example, offers an insightful examination of the published and unpublished library science research conducted in the Soviet Union under various regimes from the 1920s through the 1980s in his essay, "Foreign Libraries in the Mirror of Soviet Library Science during the Cold War." Edward Kasinec's essay, on the other hand, is a seemingly unreflective reminiscence of a personal experience, which, of course, is not without value for that precise reason.

The unevenness of the writing, editing, and/or translating is unfortunate because lines of argument in a few essays are quite difficult to follow. Thierry Crepin's essay on comic book publishing in France and Istvan Kiraly's essay on secret library collections in Romania are two examples.

Essayists' attempts to grapple with the complexities of the Cold War range from

concerted to none. For example, in her preface to the book, editor Martine Poulain, in noting the ideological dimensions, tensions, and manipulations of the Cold War, writes, "The free world, decimated by war, was seeking the rebirth of new ideas and the emergence of freedom of intellect." From a critical U.S. perspective (and in any discussion of the Cold War, the U.S. is usually regarded as a key figure in the "free world"), this statement rings naïve at best. The U.S. was not decimated by war, and it was first and foremost interested in weighting the balance of Cold War-era power in its favor, harnessing intellectual energies and products as one means to that end. With the end, of course, justifying any measures used, be they assassination, the overthrow of democratically elected governments, lying, the arms race, or the covert funding of ideologically acceptable authors, publishers, and think tanks.

Although the "other side" of the Cold War equation, the Soviet Union, has been gone from the world scene for more than a decade, the motivations that initiated the Cold War, the techniques and agencies that promoted it, the critical capacities stunted by it, and the benefits accrued by its advocates are all still very much a part of global politics today, and it is the responsibility and challenge of scholars to dig deeply, not only into archives, but also into one's own mind-set and experience. The Paris essays begin to scratch the surface of the stories to be told about books, libraries, reading, and publishing during the Cold War; but most of these authors do not even seem to be aware of current historical research into this period. Fortunately, some are.

Jirina Smejkalova's essay, "Censors and Their Readers: Selling, Silencing and Reading Czech Books," offers a valuable model for future scholarly work within librarianship for her insightful, nuanced definition of censorship:

I find it impossible to treat censorship as the oppressive exercise of centralized power by clearly defin-

ing “others” as the clerks of the special department of the Ministry of Culture in a Communist government or as agents of “American cultural imperialism.” ... Who decides on the inclusion or exclusion of certain texts? It is important not to forget that the banned texts do not disappear ... I understand censorship to be a time-related category, a far-reaching phenomenon closely related to the process of canon formation embedded within a web of social institutions.

Indeed, essays by Istvan Kiraly and Valeria D. Stelmakh describe conditions of publishing and libraries in former Soviet countries that lend credence to her definition. Unfortunately, the essays offering examinations of the U.S. experience limit their examinations to McCarthyism and U.S.I.A. libraries and offer no new insights for anyone with a passing familiarity of library history. (Readers curious about this perspective of “canon formation” as an important element of the Cold War are advised to read Frances Stonor Saunders, *The Cultural Cold War: The CIA and the World of Arts and Letters* (New York: New Press, 1999).

A new generation of library historians has an exciting road ahead, and this reviewer recommends beginning the journey at the source of the four subject headings given this book, which, despite its *many* shortcomings, deals with the Cold War in both the “East” and the “West,” although one would not know it from LC’s subject headings: 1. Books and reading—Communist countries—Congresses 2. Censorship—Communist countries—Congresses 3. Cold War—Influences—Congresses 4. Libraries and communism—Congresses. So, where is Censorship—Capitalist countries—Congresses? What about Libraries and capitalism—Congresses? These headings are proof positive that Cold War mentalities are alive and well (or maybe just on automatic pilot) at least in the cataloging department of the Library of Congress. And if there, where *else* might they be lurking?

Recommended for all library and information science collections for *critical* examination.—*Elaine Harger, W. Haywood Burns School.*

***The Future of the City of Intellect: The Changing American University.*** Ed. Steven Brint. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Univ. Pr., 2002. 353p. alk. paper, cloth \$55 (ISBN 0804744203); paper \$24.95 (ISBN 0804745315). LC 2002-1560.

I have long felt that college and research librarians, to be effective in their work, must understand the contexts in which academic libraries function. This is easier said than done, given the complexities of our libraries and the responsibilities we have for maintaining connections with our multiple and varied constituencies—faculty, students, staff, administrators, visiting scholars, vendors, consortiums, professional organizations, and so on. Beyond knowing specific operational aspects inherent within our profession, we need to understand the dynamics of higher education. This includes the internal and external forces of change that influence our current *modus operandi* as well as the demographic, economic, and technological pressures that dictate our future.

In this book, Steven Brint has done a marvelous job of presenting the thinking of a number of notable scholars on the future of the American university. It is a captivating volume destined to be the focus of much discussion in academic circles as its distribution spreads throughout higher education. College and research librarians would be well served by becoming conversant with the issues raised in this book.

*The Future of the City of Intellect: The Changing American University* grew out of a conference held at the University of California, Riverside, in February 2000. The papers delivered at the conference are presented here, substantially revised based on input from attendees and discussions during and subsequent to the conference. The title of the book refers to Clark Kerr’s famous work, *The Uses of the University*, and plays on his metaphor of