

Newberry and his benefactions. These are the charming *Diary* of Julia Rosa Newberry, published 1933 but covering a few years before and after the fire, and "An Early 'Friend' of Libraries" by George B. Utley, published in *The Library Quarterly*, July 1942, and available in reprint form. The "friend" is Mark Skinner with twenty entries in the index of the volume under review.

We have been unduly severe, perhaps, in pointing out these blemishes. Serious blemishes they are, but after all they are only blemishes on a study which is a real contribution to our understanding of the culture of our early Middle Western states and more specifically a history of library development in an important and typical state of this region. Librarianship has often been criticized, and rightly so, for its failure to create a scholarly literature. Happily the criticism is beginning to lose force. But, for this very reason, it is important that all who aspire to aid in this process should meet, in the highest degree, the high requirements for genuine scholarly writing. This requires accuracy, common sense, imagination, breadth of view, clarity, and conciseness. Industry, though essential, is a subordinate virtue.

A work of scholarship must necessarily be judged, if judged at all, on such a basis. While we regret to have found much to criticize adversely, we do want in conclusion to express to Miss Spencer the thanks of the many who are interested in the beginnings and the development of things literary and cultural for bringing together so many widely-scattered and deeply-buried facts and presenting them in so well organized a manner. We hope that other cities and regions may have the benefit of like study and research following in the pioneer footsteps of Miss Spencer and

will find an historian as conscientious and interested.—*Carl Vitz, Minneapolis Public Library.*

*American Standard Reference Data and Arrangement of Periodicals; Approved June 7, 1943.* American Standards Association, 29 W. 39th St., New York. 4p.

The first edition of this code appeared in 1935 as the *American Recommended Practice, Reference Data for Periodicals*, after having been approved by a general conference of publishers and librarians organized under the procedure of the American Standards Association. Work on the revision was started in 1940 by the A.S.A. Committee on Standardization in the Field of Library Work and Documentation, under the sponsorship of the American Library Association, with a committee representing fifteen library and publishers' associations.

The new code is about twice the size of the original. The rules have been expanded to greater detail and provide the solution for many more special problems. It is a manual for the person who gets out the periodical and it aims to note systematically the more or less mechanical details (usually taken care of by the managing editor) which make for the efficient handling of periodicals by all who use them or make them available for the use of others. These are such details as how to take care of volume numbers, issue numbers and date, title pages, contents, index, information which should be given under the masthead, errata slips, changes of policy, changes of title, mergers, suspensions, etc. The section on supplements of various kinds and one on society publications are entirely new.

The committee is to be congratulated on the large amount of material they have put compactly into a small space. However, the effort made to secure compactness has given the new edition a more formidable appearance. Its plan would be more readily seen if the original headings "Individual issues" and "Individual volumes" had been retained. In some cases paragraphs might have been better arranged so that the emphasis would be on the main point. Also some of the terminology might be clearer. For example, there is a section headed "Bibliographic information." In a work that is primarily bibliographic, what special phase would one expect to find there? It is asked that title page and index be sent to libraries "without notification." The point is that libraries should not have to request them. On the whole the new layout is an improvement and the boldface captions are an aid to quick consultation.

A very few of the details asked for seem inconsequential or an unattainable luxury. For example, for reasons of finance, there can be little use in asking popular periodicals to avoid printing advertising and text on the same page. The point is that, if text and advertising are mixed, the pagination should be carried through, but a section which contains advertising only should not receive page numbers. This paragraph could have been rearranged to put the more important part first and would be more likely to be approved by publishers. Also, is there any objection, except aesthetic, to advertising on the back of the title page?

It was said of the first edition of the code that it covered every aspect of its field and little more could be desired. In practical use a great deal more has been found needed and there are still a few

omissions. No effort has been made to standardize the size of periodicals or the type page, and while ample provision is made for the numbering of loose plates, so that they will not be lost, nothing is said about folding larger illustrative material well within the margin so that it will go safely through the trimming when the volume is bound.

It is hoped that the code may be widely distributed and find a place on the desk of every editor and publisher of periodical material. It has long been recognized that, far from being ephemeral, periodicals are the source for much of the most important material of research. The weightiest scientific and social theories are based on minute experiments, and with few exceptions the full story is to be found only in the original periodical article.

Use of the code by those responsible for the make-up of periodicals will take very little of their time and in many cases will simplify their work. The practical usefulness of the details asked for on the spine or cover of each issue is obvious. The details of history asked for are always known to the editor as the issues are being published and too frequently are so commonplace to him that he does not think it important to record them. Yet these are the details which are unobtainable later or obtainable only after a long and costly search. They are an absolute necessity to research libraries endeavoring to make a complete set available.

If publishers will see that the code is followed it will result in a great saving in the cost of day-by-day handling of periodicals and a still more noticeable and welcome saving when the volumes are made up for binding and finally cataloged.—*Helen Grant Cushing, The H. W. Wilson Company.*