Selected Reference Books of 1960-1961

By CONSTANCE M. WINCHELL

LIKE THE PRECEDING ARTICLES in this semi-annual series, this survey is based on notes written by members of the staff of the Columbia University Libraries. Notes written by assistants are signed with initials.

As the purpose of the list is to present a selection of recent scholarly and foreign works of interest to reference workers in university libraries, it does not pretend to be either well-balanced or comprehensive. Code numbers (such as A34, 1A26, 2S22) have been used to refer to titles in the Guide and its Supplements.

INCUNABULA


An additional 196 volumes have been added in this new listing of fifteenth century books in the Hanes collection, making a total of "732 items from 324 printers, 57 cities and 9 countries." Titles are grouped by country, town, and printer, then by date, and the Proctor number is indicated. There is an author index, an index by printers and places, and a "concordance" to Hain and similar bibliographies.—E.S.

MICROFORMS


An attempt to list "all that is available in microform from domestic (U.S.A.) commercial publishers," this volume covers much the same ground as E. M. Tilton's Opaque Microforms (N.Y., 1959), but includes a slightly longer list of publishers and is, of course, more up-to-date; theses and dissertations are here omitted whereas some are included in the Tilton list. Books are listed by author, journals by title, and newspapers by state, city, then title. Price, publisher, and microform are indicated in abbreviated form. If put on an annual basis, this could become a very useful listing.—E.S.

LIBRARIES


Between 1931 and 1954, 51 volumes, A-Dezw, of a new printed British Museum Catalogue were published but production was slow and expensive, and since 1954 nothing has appeared. Now a new photolithographic process permits photographing of the "Reading Room Catalogue" without further editing but including handwritten additions and corrections. It is hoped that eight volumes can be shipped every two months until the catalogue is completed in 1967. At that time v.1-51 will be redone to conform to the same terminal date of 1955.

The Catalogue will then be a complete record of printed books in the Library of the British Museum, which have appeared from the fifteenth century to the end of 1955 in all languages except the Oriental. The coverage of 20th century works is impressive. Bibliographical information is generally more complete than that in the 19th century catalogue (A32) and for new cataloguing includes publisher, paging and size, which were previously omitted, and as in the 20th century catalogue (A33) I and J, and U and V are filed as separate letters rather than interfiled.

The page is neat and clear in spite of some unevenness of inking and the few manuscript notations do not detract from the general good appearance of the work. The probability of having this extremely important catalogue completed in such a comparatively short time is a prospect welcomed by librarians everywhere.


1 CRL, January and July issues starting January, 1952.

Some 4500 museums and related institutions are listed in this extensive directory. Included are museums of art, history and science; historic houses and societies; planetariums, zoos and botanical gardens; university and college museums; and libraries with collections other than books. Part I lists institutions by state and city. Entry gives name, date of founding, address, telephone, director, major collections, activities, publications, governing authority, visiting hours, and admission charges. Part II lists museums alphabetically by name; Part III, by executive officer; Part IV, by category. There are also lists of Association members and of museum associations abroad. A subject index adds to the volume's usefulness.—R.K.


This is a world-wide list of book publishers arranged by country and alphabetically by firm name within a country, giving address, telephone and, coded by letter, fields of publication. Also included are a list of publishers’ associations and a short selection of international booksellers. Headings and explanation of abbreviations are given in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. There is no introductory matter. Running heads for countries in the principal list would have facilitated use of this catalog.—R.K.

Dissertations


The task of finding out "what has been done" at the doctoral level in the field of Russian studies has been considerably eased by Professor Dossick of New York University’s School of Education with his list of 960 dissertations completed in American, British and Canadian universities. In listing them he has set up twenty-three subject divisions, some of which present the revealing negative evidence of no completed dissertation. Going beyond what one expects from such lists, the compiler has added useful introductory comment, many footnotes, and a varied supplementary bibliography for each subject. These additions for out-number the dissertation titles and are made up of a selection of primary and secondary sources brought together under the relatively modest headings: "Aids to Further Research" or "A Few Standard References." Lacking an index of any kind, the material has to be approached through the Table of Contents at the front.—E.B.

Periodicals


Librarians who frequently encounter problems in the verification and location of Russian and Soviet periodicals will welcome this new German union list. Its particular merits are (1) its broad interpretation of the term "periodical" to include newspapers, yearbooks, calendars or almanacs, and numbered series, as well as the regularly appearing journals; (2) its geographical and linguistic scope: all periodicals published within the boundaries of the Russian Empire or of the U.S.S.R. and translations of these abroad, but only Russian language publications of Finland and Poland during the time when they were a part of the Empire; publications by the emigration, and by official and semi-official Russian or Soviet groups; (3) its chronological coverage, from the earliest periodicals through 1956.

It is a disadvantage to American users that all entries appear in a German variant of the transcription from Cyrillic used in most European countries. For example, a is used where the Library of Congress system uses ts; ja in the place of ia, or ya. On the other hand, this can be helpful when working from a German reference. Transcription from Bashkir, Kalmuck, Kazakh, Tadzhik, Tartar, Ukrainian, Uzbek, and White Russian is covered by additional Latin letters in the main transliteration table. Another table transcribes Armenian and Georgian characters and a third table Arabic (with Persian and Turkish variants).

As a union list its primary object is location of specific numbers of periodicals in libraries of the Federal German Republic and West Berlin. In this respect it is generally far more precise than the well known American lists where complete holdings are not always specified. Catalogers will recognize that this list, painstaking as it is, cannot be a final standard for many of the complex works included. As to format, it is unfortunate that a work so valuable for its scope should be so hard on the eye. The dates and volume numbers giving bibliographic descriptions are often hard to distinguish from the dates and volume numbers representing library holdings. To further confuse the situation, the numerical symbols representing forty of the larger German libraries are lacking in a simple
mnemonic device such as the Library of Congress uses; this is of course not the fault of the compilers. In spite of these disadvantages the completed work with its many cross references will be a valuable aid in the hands of an experienced user.—E.B.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS


This 50-year index covers more than forty thousand papers contained in almost twenty-seven hundred volumes of Parliamentary Papers. It follows the general arrangement of the 1852-1899 volume (i.e., under subject headings the papers are listed by type: Bills; Reports of Committees; Reports of Commissioners; Accounts and Papers), but citations include the session numbers unfortunately omitted from the earlier cumulation. There is no numerical index. Though compiled from the decennial indexes, each paper was examined and the numerical accuracy of its references checked. A new feature is the list of bills by short titles, with direct numerical references. In addition to information on the form, use, and method of compiling the present index, the Introduction provides a kind of brief guide to Parliamentary Papers in general.—E.S.


The last previous edition of this standard handbook (Guide F5) appeared in 1939, so that of late it has been in many respects less useful than Boyd (Guide F3), last revised in 1949. (It is now in order to hope for a new edition of the latter, as the two works, although similar in purpose, are quite different in arrangement and have accordingly long been used together by librarians and others concerned with U.S. document materials.) The new Schmeckebier follows the old closely in scope and pattern, with much of the text unchanged. There are two entirely new chapters, one on government periodicals, the other on reproduction of documents in microprint. Particularly useful are the accounts of recent changes in such standard items as the Document Catalog, the Monthly Catalog, the Congressional Record and others, and the listings of new titles and series. Index, format, and typography are good.—J.N.W.

ECONOMICS


Contents: v.1, 1886-1924.

First of a five-volume work designed to index the English language materials in some eighty-five "major professional economic journals published during the period 1886-159." (Intro.) Listings include articles, signed editorials, obituaries containing biographical or bibliographical material, and special subject bibliographies.

Arrangement is in two parts, a classified index and an author index. In the first section, material is arranged in a numerical classification scheme of twenty-three classes and almost seven hundred subclasses developed by a committee of the Association. In the author section, in which only personal authors appear, writings are listed in chronological order under a writer's name. In both parts full bibliographical information is given: abbreviated titles of journal, volume, paging, and date. The index refers to class numbers; the complete classification schedule is given and will appear in each volume. To help the reader locate material on a particular country, a scheme of geographic symbols is used in a class that carries a geographic breakdown. A pleasing two-column page with well defined divisions and running heads is used.—R.K.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY


Published by the NFSAIS, 301 E. Capitol Street, Washington 3, D.C.

Prepared at the Library of Congress, this bibliography—a compilation of abstracting, indexing and title-announcement services originating in the U.S. [as of May 1960] covering the fields of science and technology" (Intro.)—manifests the virtues one begins to take for granted in publications from that source: a concise yet thorough introduction setting forth scope, aims, limitations, etc.; completeness of information; cross references and indexes; and clear layout. Included among the 462 titles are 14 for psychology, anthropology, and related studies, and 188 for medicine. Services appearing in magazines are included, as are some nonscientific serials which consistently include significant although small listings of scientific literature (e.g., Dissertation Abstracts, Vertical File Index, Population Index). Titles are arranged
under broad subjects; for each is supplied in-
formation about publisher, address, date begun,
frequency, number, and kind of entries sup-
plied yearly, price, subjects covered, and L.C.
call number (when catalogued by L.C.). There
is a title and a subject index. The files on which
this useful work is based are being maintained
with the hope of keeping it up to date and
possibly extending it to cover services originat-
ing in all parts of the world.—E.J.R.

THEATER
The London Stage, 1600-1800; a Calendar of
Plays, Entertainments & Afterpieces, Together
with Casts, Box-receipts and Contemporary
Comment. Compiled from the Playbills, News-
papers and Theatrical Diaries of the Period.
Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Press,
1960-.

Contents: Part II. 1700-1729, ed by E. L. Avery.
2v. $50.

First of the set to be published, these two
volumes constitute Part II of a projected five-
part work "designed as a comprehensive reference
for all persons interested in London stage his-
tory during the Restoration and Eighteenth-
Century periods." The extensive introduction
includes sections on the varied aspects of theater
history in the 1700-29 period; e.g., the play-
houses and their management, advertising, cos-
tumes and stage devices, repertory, actors, the
audience, and contemporary criticism. The calen-
dar itself is arranged by theatrical seasons and
provides a day-to-day list of offerings at the
various theaters, together with casts when
known, and incidental comment (time of per-
formance, receipts, benefits, and similar details).
Operas and concerts are included in the calendar
for this period, but may be omitted from sub-
sequent volumes. Although continuously paged,
these volumes are separately indexed. There are
both author and title entries for theater pieces,
but no index entries for names of actors and
actresses. However, an historical note precedes
each season's calendar and includes the known
rosters of the individual companies.
A monumental undertaking, the set is sched-
uled for completion over the next five years.
Meanwhile, the available volumes make a usable
and valuable addition to the reference collect-
on.—E.S.

LITERATURE
Dictionnaire des personnages litteraires et
dramatiques de tous les temps et de tous les
A companion volume to the Dictionnaire des
oeuvres de tous les temps et de tous les pays
(Supplement 3R7), this work identifies and de-
scribes, in an alphabetical arrangement, charac-
ters of fiction, poetry, music, and drama. His-
torical persons are included only if they have
become literary subjects. Selection has been
limited to the more memorable characters of
literature to allow for long treatment in prefer-
ence to inclusion of more names with mere
identifications. Entries range in length from a
paragraph to several columns. Cross references
are made to works analyzed or cited in the
Dictionnaire des oevres. Articles are signed
with initials and contributors are identified in the
"Index des collaborateurs." A three-column
page is used; type is small but clear. Many il-
ustrations, some in color, add interest.—R.K.

Gerstenberger, Donna Lorine and Hendrick,
George. The American Novel, 1789-1959; a
Checklist of Twentieth-Century Criticism.

Fourth in the publisher's series of checklists of
criticism and explication, this work follows the
general pattern of the earlier volumes for
poetry, short fiction, and the English novel, but
with two significant variations: 1) under indi-
vidual authors there are sections not only for
individual works, but for general critical studies
and bibliographies; and 2) there is a special
section for criticism of the American novel as
a genre. Complete citations for books referred
to in the checklist are provided in a bibliogra-
phy at the end.—E. S.

Kristeller, Paul Oskar. Catalogus translationum
et commentariorum: Medieval and renaissance
Latin translations and commentaries. An-
notated lists and guides. Washington, D. C.,
Catholic Univ. of America Pr., 1960-.
v1- 1-.
$7.50.

At head of title: Union académique interna-
tionale.
This volume is "the first of a series that will
list and describe the Latin translations of ancient
Greek authors and the Latin commentaries on
ancient Latin (and Greek) authors up to the
year 1600 . . . [and] is intended to illustrate the
impact which the literary heritage of ancient
Greece and Rome had upon the literature, learn-
ing and thought of . . . the Middle Ages and the
Renaissance." (Pref.)

In this issue, extensive lists of the extant
Greek and Latin authors (most of whom the
series intends to treat) are followed by a first
group of bio-bibliographical sketches on nine
specific classical writers. These include annotated
records of the treatment, translation, and in-
fluence of their work on the writers of the Mid-
dle Ages and the Renaissance, with location of
manuscript copies, lists of printed editions, rele-
vant scholarly literature, etc.

Such chapters will appear as they are com-
completed rather than in any alphabetical or chronological sequence and “alphabetical indices of ancient authors will be added when necessary.”


Intended primarily for professors at small French colleges lacking extensive library facilities, this guide should, as the preface suggests, prove helpful to the non-specialist and to students and teachers of French literature at institutions outside France. It provides a basic bibliography for the whole range of French language and literature, listing (with introductory remarks and many annotations) author and subject bibliographies, critical and standard editions of authors’ works, anthologies, works of criticism, etc. There is a list of periodicals in the field, a list of publishers, and one of recordings of literary works.

Having only the second edition at hand, it is impossible to judge the extent of the revision; certainly a fair number of 1959 and 1960 publications have been added, and there is a new appendix, “Contribution de la critique étrangère” (pp. I-XXXII).—E.S.


The immediate prose fiction background out of which the English novel grew is traced in the four hundred titles herein assembled for the specialist. The compiler lists year by year the prose fiction by native authors or translators which was first published in England between 1700 and 1739 (Richardson’s Pamela appeared in 1740). Information given for each item includes full title and imprint, price (where available), later editions to 1739, and at least one library location if possible, here or abroad. The checklist includes three times as many such titles as does the CBEL.—E.J.R.


“Though the compilers do not claim to have located all the diaries, manuscript originals, letters, and marginalia of all American writers, they are indicating here the scattered whereabouts and extent of thousands of such manuscripts pertaining to approximately 2,350 American writers.” (Introd.)

Writers’ names are listed alphabetically, followed by Library of Congress symbols for nearly three hundred participating libraries (including several publishers’ collections) holding manuscripts of creative works, journals or diaries, letters to and from the author, special collections relating to the author, etc. Type and extent of each library’s holdings are shown by one or more “category-symbols” with, when possible, indication of the number of pieces. No further attempt is made to assess the collection, but despite the brevity of the listings this should prove an invaluable aid to literary scholarship.

—E.S.

**Biography**


An alphabetical directory of about 1500 persons who have made “some significant contribution to the history of Wisconsin” (Introd.), this volume was compiled under a board of editors composed of Wisconsin college and university professors and was sponsored by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Coverage is from the earliest years of exploration to the present, but no living persons are included.

Entries are short, averaging 200 to 300 words and carry bibliographies which cite not only published materials but also the WPA manuscripts which served as the nucleus of the compilation. Cross reference is made from names mentioned within entries to their alphabetical listing. Contributors are listed but not otherwise identified; entries are not signed. Material is set in a two-column page of pleasing typeface.

—R.K.


Prepared by a group of eminent scholars, it is expected that this new Italian biographical dictionary will include some forty thousand biographies of Italians from the fifth century to the present day, exclusive of living persons. The first volume contains about one thousand sketches, each signed by the writer and each including a bibliography of source materials. The length of the articles ranges from one to several columns and the bibliographies are often quite extensive. The plan is to publish about two volumes a year, so that it may take twenty years to complete, but it is encouraging to see at least the beginning of a much needed “Dictionary of National Biography” for Italy.

A good complement to Matthews' *American Diaries* (Guide R232), this volume is similar in arrangement to Matthews' *British Autobiographies* (Supplement 2518) and much more comprehensive than the Lillard *American Life in Autobiography* (Stanford, 1956). The latter, a more personal book, grouped nearly three hundred autobiographies by occupation with descriptive annotation and did not aim for completeness. This new bibliography lists 6,377 autobiographies published before 1945. Certain classes of material were excluded, such as manuscript autobiographies, diaries, autobiographies appearing only in newspapers or periodicals; included are autobiographies of authors born in the United States who lived abroad. Arrangement is alphabetical by author; a subject index offers approaches by occupation, geographical area, or historical period (e.g., athletes, hunters, professors; Armenia, New England States; Civil War, World War I). The brief annotation for each book includes a library location. It should gladden the hearts of students, researchers, and librarians to have this book in which "for the first time American autobiographies have been caught up in a comprehensive net."—E.J.R.


This is a substantial biographic directory for leading personalities of the Soviet Union, by the organization which produced the *Biographic Directory of the USSR* (Supplement 3837). The first 24 numbers, or folders of looseleaf pages, provide approximately 500 biographies. The German articles are signed and are longer than the ones which appeared in the English directory, averaging two columns for each biographee. Also, a list of the principal printed sources of information is provided. Each page has the copyright year, and recent pages are dated with the month as well. Supplementary pages are issued in some cases to bring a previously published biography up to date. The defect of the work so far is that the transliteration key printed on the covers is entirely inadequate. This could be remedied by interim indexes. The authors, many of them refugees, are providing a valuable register of biographic information in a Western language, utilizing a variety of Soviet printed sources supplemented by materials in the files of the Institute.—E.B.


"Advisory editor—A. W. Haslett, M.A."

Without doubt an international, up-to-date list of scientists engaged in nuclear energy research is a welcome reference book; this enlarged edition includes 983 pages in two volumes (1st ed., 1959, 684 pages), with ten to fifteen biographies per page. It should be of particular value to U. S. libraries for identifying foreign scientists. Nevertheless the omissions and wide variation in quantity and type of information given are puzzling; surely all cannot be explained away by citing security reasons. For example, Drs. Tsung Dao Lee, Chen Ning Yang, and Polykarp Kusch, all Nobel Prize winners, are still not included. The noted Japanese physicist Hideki Yukawa has been added, but only an address and title are given. The awarding of the Nobel Prize for Physics is often not included in the information given for a scientist. Indeed, quantity ranges from only the affiliation and address to thirty or forty lines which include publications. This unevenness does not negate the work's value, but it raises questions about standards of inclusion and sources of information. At over $25 for this edition with a third, 1961, edition announced for publication it does seem that revisions could include information available from such standard reference works as the *World Almanac* and *American Men of Science.*—E.J.R.

**Genealogy**


Written by the editor of *Burke's Peerage* . . . , this handbook of European genealogical sources is intended for the American inquirer who has ascertained his first immigrant ancestor and who wishes to trace that ancestor in Europe. A general introductory section is followed by chapters devoted to genealogical research in individual countries, with accounts of the types of records and sources available in each, and often including addresses of archives and conditions under which the inquirer may write for specific information. Apart from its usefulness in genealogy collections, the handbook should prove helpful to scholars searching for family records and biographical data. Though there is a detailed table of contents, no index is provided.—E.S.

**Atlases**


A collection of maps produced in the USSR has been photographed in color and bound together to provide for that country an atlas of
maps on a larger scale than is generally available. There are 95 plates covering 86 per cent of the country's territory. The dates on the maps are generally 1956 to 1958. Most are of the territorial-administrative type showing also "railroads, roads and passes, water features, forest vegetation, spot elevation, and coordinates." Scales vary from 1:500,000 to 1:3,100,000. The plates are arranged alphabetically by transliterated title. There is no index other than a general key to the sequence of plates and therefore it is important to know that a seven-volume gazetteer published in 1959 may be used for index purposes, although this is not mentioned in the introduction to the atlas. It is the U. S. Board on Geographic Names' Gazetteer No. 42, U.S.S.R. and Certain Neighboring Areas, Office of Geography, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., 1959. This is part of a depository series for most large libraries and also may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents at $8. per volume. The atlas contains many of the maps referred to in the gazetteer and place names may be located by coordinates, or by territorial division listed in the gazetteer by code number. Because of its size and detail, the atlas will be used primarily for advanced research rather than average reference purposes.

—E.B.


The issuing agency describes this as "a specialized atlas designed to aid research workers faced with problems of interpreting current information on Communist China in the light of its complex administrative structure. It will be less useful to people who are interested in an atlas primarily for locational purposes." Other warnings are given in the introduction as to the provisional nature of the information and to the linguistic pitfalls. Considered by the non-specialist for its apparent merits as a reference tool, the atlas appears to fulfill its defined purpose with admirable clarity and the overall impression is that of a well-organized, adequately indexed, and clearly printed volume. The introductory pages provide four tables of administrative units and commentary, a comparative key to the Pinyin system of romanization from Wade-Giles and Yale, and standard abbreviations of Chinese characters. The atlas is arranged in such a way, however, as to be intelligible to people unfamiliar with Chinese characters. Of the twenty-nine plates the first four are maps of the country as a whole, using romanization only; the other twenty-four plates are devoted to provinces and autonomous regions. In these the basic map has Chinese characters, some of which are coded clearly by arabic numerals keyed to a chart on the same page. There is a master index of administrative names by first and second syllables at the end of the volume.

—E.B.

History


The long awaited appearance of this successor to the 1931 Dutcher (Guide V2) is, of course, of considerable interest to students and to librarians. (Its importance to historians will doubtless receive detailed discussion in due time.) Arrangement of the new work is generally similar to that of the old, with most chapters devoted to geographic or political areas, within a chronological pattern; a few chapters are topical, such as "General Reference Sources," "History of Religions," and "The World Wars." Within each section materials are arranged, as practicable, by form, e.g., bibliographies, general and specialized histories, biographies, government documents, and various others. In coverage the principal innovation is an increase in the proportion of material on areas other than western Europe.

Despite the impressive total of titles included, the list is admittedly and necessarily selective, and although many older titles are included, many others from the earlier edition have been dropped. Accordingly, the librarian interested in identification and verification will need to use both editions. Many of the annotations seem excellent, but among others there are various inconsistencies of length and degree of analysis. Finally, it is a matter of serious regret that much of the copy was prepared so long prior to publication (1957?), that works appearing since that time are excluded from some sections but appear, at least in part, in others. Format is good, and index references to specific item numbers will prove a great boon.—J.N.W.

Bibliotheca Americana Vetustissima. Ultimas adiciones (en dos volúmenes); Comentario critico e Indice general cronologico [by] Carlos Sanz. Madrid, Suarez, 1960. 3v.

Of these volumes the first two offer "final additions" to the Bibliotheca Americana Vetustissima, continuing the Harrisse listing (Guide A143) of works relating to America published between 1492 and 1551, and adding a section of "Antecedents bibliogr^ficos del descubrimiento de America." Works are chronologically presented, with detailed bibliographical information, descriptive notes, and numerous maps and facsimiles; some rare items are reproduced in full. The third volume is a general chronological
index providing, in tabular form, brief bibliographical information and references to the Harrisse volumes, to the two volumes of final additions, and to two other works by Sanz (Henry Harrisse... 1958, and El gran secreto de la Carta de Colon... 1959) which include additions to the B.A.F.—E.S.


Designed not as a union catalog of manuscripts but as a guide to direct the searcher to the most useful source for his need, this seems to be a remarkably full and detailed inventory, thoughtfully planned and carefully executed. Papers of thousands of individuals and organizations are located by name, as are collections by subject (e.g., labor, railroads), and by provenance (e.g., Indic, Icelandic, etc. manuscripts). Arrangement is by depository, geographically listed. Actual description of holdings is in textual form, the materials in each depository grouped by category or type, with individual names, when relevant, then being listed alphabetically. Whenever possible, the nature and extent of each collection are indicated. Following the listing for each depository are references to any published guides to the individual collections, including periodical articles as well as separately published works. An extensive index (130 pages) analyzes the collections described. Reference is given only to page, however, so that a good deal of scanning is often necessary to locate an individual item. Otherwise, one can only admire and welcome this excellent tool.—J.N.W.


The surprising lack of a comprehensive, up-to-date bibliography on the age of the Crusades makes this compilation particularly welcome. Herr Mayer has assembled over 5000 book and periodical references (in Chinese, Hebrew, Arabic, as well as the western languages) which appeared before 1957-58. The classed arrangement includes, besides the main topic of the Crusades to 1453, such useful peripheries as the period's ecclesiastical, legal, economic, social, and intellectual history; numismatics; topography; genealogy; archaeology; histories of knightly orders; etc. Full bibliographic details, marginal headings, and an index of authors, translators, and editors enhance the work's clarity and usability. —E.J.R.


An earlier edition of this work appeared several years ago under the title Repertoire des mediévistes d'Europe (Paris, Desclée, 1954?) 95p.). The present volume is considerably expanded, listing nearly seventeen hundred scholars. Information given consists only of name, present occupation and address, speciality and publications since 1954, including articles as well as books. A list of institutes and centers of medieval study is appended, and there are indexes by city of residence and by subject specialty.—J.N.W.


A great deal of factual information on 103 countries and the United Nations is to be found in this one volume. Part I is arranged alphabetically by country, with the information for each under fifty arbitrary headings treating those matters mentioned in the sub-title. A bibliography generally substantial and up-to-date, follows each national listing. Part II is a 250-page account of the history, organization and operation of the United Nations and its affiliated agencies. Thirty-two pages of colored Hammond maps of world geographic and political areas complete the volume. Articles are unsigned, although an alphabetical list of contributors, many of them of scholarly repute, indicates much of the authorship, albeit inconveniently.

It is obviously useful to have this amount of current national and political information readily available, and the work seems particularly suitable for purchase by individuals and small libraries not possessing a good collection of recent encyclopedias and general and specialized yearbooks. In those larger libraries where standard reference sources abound, the librarian and the reader will probably continue to prefer them to the Worldmark volume. Too much of the material in the new work seems thin and superficial (and pedestrian in style), doubtless the result of the fragmented arrangement under such a multitude of topics. Discussions of more substance under fewer headings would seem to have been a wiser editorial plan, especially for the smaller countries. There is no mention made of the plans for future editions or revisions, without which the principal virtue of the work—the currency of its information—will in a short time be largely lost.—J.N.W.