Science and Technology, by John F. Harvey.

The growing national role of information science and technology is well demonstrated by the developments reviewed in these two chapters. Much of the emphasis in Chapter 13 is placed on “information networks,” and the chapter concludes “the progress attained . . . in the development of an efficient national information system is impressive.” The concluding chapter reviews the activities of professional societies and summarizes the educational programs being created in universities throughout the country.—Robert M. Hayes—UCLA.

The American Printer, 1787-1825. By Rollo G. Silver. Charlottesville: Published for the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia by the University Press of Virginia, 1967. xii, 189p. $7.50 (67-22310).

Here is an important book. Recent years have seen a healthy increase in the quantity and quality of specific studies within the historical American printing industry—accounts of particular printers, or of printing in particular communities or in particular circumstances. The number of comprehensive comparative studies, however, which examine printers and printing horizontally, “across the board” as it were, has remained quite small. Studies of the latter kind, of course, are more difficult to make and require men of greater breadth of learning to prepare them.

Nevertheless the book here being reviewed is such a study, and its author is such a man, and therein lies its importance. It is one of the few attempts thus far made to generalize a comprehensive printing history out of documented scholarly studies and sources, instead of from the reminiscences and memoirs of old printers which, although interesting, are often inaccurate of fact and sometimes misleading of spirit.

Although this book unquestionably succeeds in establishing its claim to a place of significance, it is not truly a definitive history of printing in America during its designated period. The narrative moves smoothly through a well integrated whole, but the book remains rather a series of meaningful and fascinating, carefully researched, documented, interconnected essays in the history of American printing. The book opens appropriately, for example, with the best account thus far written of the conditions of apprenticeship in the printing trade. There are also essays—again the best done to date—on such subjects as: early labor organizations for journeymen printers; the handling of government printing contracts on the federal, state, and territorial levels; the business minutiae of operating a printing office; and there is an excellent account of early American typography and illustration. There are also essays which have been attempted before, such as the technical details of press construction and operation, and the movement of the press across the western frontier. In the judgment of this reviewer, they have never been better told.

In addition to its six chapters, the book also includes as an appendix a selection of examples of the sizes of some forty editions (250 to 5,000 copies) issued by Mathew Carey between 1792 and 1813. There is a full index and thorough documentation. Twenty-four fine plates illustrate and embellish the text, and—as readers are coming increasingly to expect of volumes published for the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia—the book is handsomely designed. It is highly recommended to all libraries and readers having an interest in this subject.—D.K.


The Research Triangle has been the subject of a number of articles and news releases but Dr. Wilson here provides the most up-to-date and complete account of its development. This study should be of particular interest to librarians because of the vital role that university libraries have played in making the Research Triangle one of the most successful of the industrial research parks. Dr. Wilson makes it clear that the Research Triangle is more than a research park. The park itself consists of five thousand acres near three great univer-
sities—Duke University at Durham, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University at Raleigh. The author describes in considerable detail the work carried on by the Research Triangle Institute (a research and consulting organization) and shows the relation of the Institute to the three universities which own it, but operate it as a separate unit. The Institute has had significant influence in bringing about the cooperation of the three universities and governmental, industrial, and financial organizations of North Carolina in promoting research for the solution of many of the most pressing problems of the state, the Southern region, and the nation. The relation of the Institute to the Research Triangle Foundation and to the other fifteen research organizations which are located in the Research Triangle Park also is described.

The first buildings were erected in the Research Triangle Park in 1959, but the acquisition of land, planning, and promotion began with the appointment of the Research Triangle Committee by Governor Luther H. Hodges in 1955. The concept of a research center, however, which would utilize the brains, talents, and libraries of the three universities was formulated in proposals as early as 1952. Dr. Wilson has emphasized particularly the role of the universities in the development and growth of the Triangle as well as the part which the Triangle has played in strengthening the universities.

This study explores in greater detail than any previous article the contributions of the late Professor Howard W. Odum of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Romeo H. Guest, president of a contracting firm, in the development of the Triangle. Both of these men, and Dr. Odum particularly, had the dream of a regional research center years before it was established, and Dr. Wilson points out that Guest dramatized the idea by coining the name Research Triangle.

Success does not come easily to science parks; a recent article in Industrial Research points out that only about one-fourth of the 126 science parks in the United States and Canada are successful. Undoubtedly one of the essential ingredients in their success is the easy access by researchers to good research libraries. It was not the purpose of Dr. Wilson’s study to explore the role which nearby university libraries have played in the success of the Research Triangle, although it is certainly implied in the booklet. There is, however, need for a detailed study of the role of research libraries in a science park. A case study of how libraries in the Research Triangle area have cooperated to bring about easy access to research materials and of how much they have contributed to the Triangle’s success would be useful. A limited number of copies of Dr. Wilson’s booklet are still available and may be obtained by writing to: Research Triangle Institute, Attention: George R. Herbert, Director, Box 12194, Research Triangle Park, N.C. 27709.—I. T. Littleton, North Carolina State University.