EUGENE P. SHEEHY

Selected Reference Books of 1970-71

INTRODUCTION

This article continues the semiannual series originally edited by Constance M. Winchell. Although it appears under a byline, the list is actually a project of the Reference Department of the Columbia University Libraries, and notes are signed with the initials of the individual staff members.1

Since 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 AA71, 2BD89) have been used to refer to titles in the Guide to Reference Books and its supplements.2

GUIDES


With the compassion for the beginning library school student awed by the inclusiveness of Winchell’s Guide, Professor Cheney has written this textbook as “an introduction to selected sources of bibliographical, biographical, linguistic, statistical, and geographical information.”—Pref. The titles included have been chosen on the basis of their importance in general American reference collections, and emphasize English-language sources; the cut-off date for publication is September 1970. The main body of the work is arranged by type, in accordance with traditional methodology of introductory reference courses. Additional features are a brief introduction to “reference/information service,” an appendix of guidelines for reviewing as used by the ALA Reference and Subscription Books Review Committee, a list of readings, and an index.

In view of the author’s distinguished career in reference work and bibliography, this work has been awaited with interest by instructors of reference courses: they will find much to applaud, as in the excellent review of statistical sources (including 1970 census data). However, some may be disappointed, as was this reviewer, by certain omissions. Surely, the Monthly Catalog and the Checklist of State Publications do not constitute an adequate introduction to U.S. government documents. And why is there no mention of Benet, Commager, Langer, or many other handbooks and manuals used daily by general reference librarians? Perhaps in her next edition Cheney will be less discursive on the whys and hows of making dictionaries and encyclopedias, and more inclusive in the area of government publications and in regard to handbooks and manuals. Until that time, Fundamental Reference Sources faces stiff competition from Basic Information Sources, the first volume of William Katz’s Introduction to Reference Work.

-D.G.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Contents: v.1–2, Poets and men of
letters. Ed., with introductions, by A. N. L. Munby. £6.50 per v.

It has been noted that sales catalogs of private libraries are of interest for various reasons: for the light they shed on the owner's interests and literary influences, and for the clues they give for tracing the peregrinations of a particular book or manuscript. This new series reproduces sales catalogs from British and American collections, both public and private, many of them showing the sale prices and the names of purchasers of individual items. Twelve volumes are projected, each to contain six to twelve catalogs, and each to be edited by an authority in the field.

These first two volumes present a selection of catalogs of the collections of such famous authors as Lord Byron, Macaulay, Thomas Love Peacock, and Oscar Wilde, along with equally interesting catalogs of the libraries of less well-known figures such as Lady Blessington and Thomas Day. Brief introductory notes provide background information on each of the sales, point out items of special interest, and sometimes provide references for further research. Future volumes will include catalogs of the collections of scientists, politicians, antiquaries, architects, book collectors, and actors. This promises to be a useful as well as a truly fascinating series.—E.S.


On spine: VLB.

Contents: Bd.1, Autorenalphabet; Bd. 2, Titelregister.

The Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels is to be commended for inaugurating this new series of "German books in print." Listing some 152,526 titles taken from the catalogs of participating publishers, this first issue of the VLB is based on title listings on machine-readable copy. The closing date for entries was June 21, 1971, but an addendum is bound at the end of each volume listing titles announced for publication between June 21 and July 14. One cautionary note to users: entries for monographic series or festschriften are under the name of the series or the title of the festschrift in the author index with no entry under the name of the editor or the person honored. These items are, however, cross-listed in the title volume.—E.M.

Periodicals


Contents: v.1, Gazety Moskvy, Lenin­grad, i stolits soiuuznykh respublik. 277p. 1r., 48k.

When completed, this should be the definitive bibliography of Soviet periodical literature appearing between 1917 and 1960. Volume 1 devotes itself to the publications of Moscow, Leningrad, and the capitals of the Soviet Republics, with 1,697 entries; subsequent volumes are to deal with periodicals from other Soviet cities and populous areas. Compiled from the holdings of the major libraries and archives of the Soviet Union as well as from existing bibliographies, the entries are arranged alphabetically under each city by the most recent version of the title in Russian or Russian translation. There are numerous cross-references for title changes and other bibliographic vagaries. Indexes are plentiful and include one for Russian titles, one for non-Russian Soviet and foreign-language titles, and a third listing the journals by subject. Abbreviations of organization names and words are spelled out in two additional lists; these are followed by a bibliography of bibliograph-
ic sources utilized. A single criticism: since the preface specifically mentions that the work is created for "scientists, bibliographers, and librarians," the lack of library and archival locations for the journals is regrettable.—E.L.

Poole’s Index to Periodical Literature. 
*Cumulative Author Index for Poole’s Index to Periodical Literature, 1802–1906.* Comp. and ed. by C. Edward Wall with the technical assistance of Edward Przebienda. Ann Arbor, Pierian Pr., 1971. 488p. $49.50. 77-143237.

This computer-produced companion volume to *Poole’s Index* and its supplements (Guide AF119) will be welcomed wherever nineteenth-century periodicals are used. Listing alphabetically the more than 300,000 names that appear in parentheses in *Poole’s*, it cites for each name the volume, page, and column in *Poole’s*, without indication of title or subject of the article. Users should note the compiler’s guidelines on form of entry and also take his advice on checking variant spellings or versions of a name “to the limit of one’s imagination” since entries have been indexed (with their many inconsistencies) as they appeared originally. It is expected that a supplement to this index will establish standard form for a name and give reference from all variants. A triple-column page in small computer type is readable, has good indentation and useful heads.—R.K.

**Government Publications**


More than a mere explanation of indexes and catalogs required for the use of British documents, this new guide "sets out to describe, within the context of the parliamentary and governmental processes from which they derive, all the different categories of British official publications."—Pref. In so doing, it provides a framework which aids in understanding a complicated subject. After a chapter on British government, there follow sections on such materials as parliamentary papers, debates, acts and measures, committee and tribunals of inquiry, royal commissions, and command papers. Librarians will be grateful for the short bibliographies throughout, the concordance of command papers, identification of royal commissions, the table of regnal years, the list of reference works published by HMSO, and the chapter on obtaining British official publications. An index makes for ease of use.—R.K.


Mr. Rodgers’ exhaustive list (1,300 entries) of serial publications which have appeared in the House of Commons Sessional Papers since 1900 comes as a welcome aid to the researcher in British documents. Details of the publishing history, such as earliest and latest date of issue, relationship to other publications, and information about non-parliamentary publication when it occurs, together with reference to the subject headings used in the *General Indexes (Guide AH58)*, increase the usefulness of the work. Arrangement is alphabetical by issuing agency (except for Irish publications which are listed separately at the end). Titles appear in alphabetical order under the sponsoring agency, and are numbered consecutively. The brief summary of the origin of each major agency, noting the principal changes in its responsibilities and titles as well as the relationship of one agency to another, is another useful feature. A combined subject and agency index
completes the work. Academic and large public libraries will find this a valuable accession.—J.S.

Biography


Editors of the DNB have established an enviable record for prompt publication of the decennial supplements. Although this volume has been slightly longer in preparation than its predecessors, it nonetheless puts to shame American performance in supplementing the DAB. Included are 760 biographies of “men and women who for a significant period of their careers were British subjects and died between 1 January 1951 and 31 December 1960.”—Pref. In his fascinating preface (full of contrasts, parallels, and juxtapositions) E. T. Williams notes that this volume follows the pattern of its immediate predecessor, differing in three regards: “Nobody was killed in battle; there are more scientists and engineers to be discovered here; and there are more women.” The continued practice of inviting contributions, whenever possible, from those who knew the biographees personally is advantageous and valid, yet the frequent recurrence of “private information” and “personal knowledge” in lieu of references to published and manuscript sources of information may often prove frustrating to the reader desiring fuller details.—E.S.

Philosophy


schacht, [1971—]. Bd.1— .76-565781. Contents: Bd.1, A–C.

More than 700 scholars have contributed to this completely revised edition of Rudolf Eisler’s Wörterbuch der Philosophischen Begriffe (Guide BA30). Some of the items in the older work—those dealing with psychology, for example—have been dropped, some have been expanded, and much new material has been added. The articles, ranging in length from a few sentences to several pages, treat the historical development of philosophical terms and concepts in a very scholarly manner. Documentation is abundant and up to date. An index and list of abbreviations is to be included in each volume. It should be noted that articles on individual philosophers are not within the scope of this dictionary, although schools of thought based on the teachings of a single man are discussed.—N.S.

Literature


By using a double-column page and employing letter symbols such as are familiar from the Granger and Ottemiller indexes, some 4,700 citations drawn from about 500 books and relating to more than 1,400 authors are compressed into this small volume. Arrangement is by name of the author considered, followed by a key to the symbols for books analyzed. Each passage cited runs to at least six pages, so the user is assured of substantial length although he is not given the title of the essay or specific context of the passage. Critical studies predominate; significant biographical content is indicated by the letter “b” in parentheses following the page reference. A high percentage of
the books cited were published in the last twenty-five years. Not all of them are analyzed in the Essay and General Literature Index, and some editions of individual authors' works are cited for their biographical notes or critical introductions.—E.S.


Because contemporary reviews of American fiction for the period indicated have not previously been accessible through standard reference works, this attempt to direct the researcher to just this type of secondary source material is welcome. Although it is by no means a comprehensive listing of reviews published during the period, it does cite reviews of works of several minor authors and of some titles by major authors not previously listed elsewhere. “Critical review” has been broadly interpreted to mean “any effort to evaluate the substantive or artistic achievement of the author.”—Pref. Citations for the reviews have been drawn from thirty-two periodicals of the period. The body of the work is arranged alphabetically by author or identified pseudonyms and initials. Access to reviews of unidentified anonymous or pseudonymous titles is provided through the appendix. There is an index of titles.—B.W.


A Companion to Shakespeare Studies edited by Harley Granville-Barker and G. B. Harrison first appeared in 1934. The New Companion is not a mere revision and updating of the earlier volume, but essentially a new work. The plan is the same—chapters by scholar specialists on a variety of aspects of Shakespeare's life, times, and works—and both British and American contributors are represented. Even though the chapter headings range a bit more widely than in the earlier Companion, selectivity was necessary, and the editors refer users to Shakespeare Survey no.17 for discussion of some of the topics omitted. The essays are presented as summaries of important developments in Shakespearean scholarship and research rather than as bibliographic surveys, but appended notes and reading lists provide a selective guide for the student and general reader.—E.S.

Répertoire Analytique de Littérature Française; Revue Bimestrielle d'Information Littéraire et Bibliographique. v.1, no.1—, jan./fev. 1970—. Bordeaux, 1970—.

On cover: RALF.

“Publiée avec la participation de la Section de Langue et Littérature Françaises de la Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines de l'Université de Bordeaux.”

This publication represents an interesting attempt to solve one of the most pressing problems that confronts students of French literature: the difficulty of obtaining up-to-date bibliographic information. The editors promise a time lag of only two to three months between the publication or distribution of a book or article in France and its listing in RALF, as opposed to one to three years for the major annual literary bibliographies. The format of Répertoire is still changing, but issues have included citations to books, articles, proceedings, and essays in collections, both French and foreign, classed by broad subject areas. These listings are also available on cards, grouped by century. Descriptive annotations accompany many of the items; a few books are treated in full-length critical reviews. To date, each number has included at least one bibliography on a special top-
ic, such as sixteenth-century utopias or nineteenth-century periodicals.

Despite this abundance of material, the long-term reference value of RALF is unclear. Because of the broadness of the subject classification and the absence of indexes it is difficult to locate specific authors or topics. In addition, more than a year's accumulation of cards would be very tiresome to sift through. Possibly librarians will want to keep only the most recent issues in the reference collection and scrap the cards after arrival of the annual MLA bibliography for the corresponding period, although a comparison between the coverage of the latter and the Répertoire will have to be made. At present it appears that the main advantage of RALF is its promptness and frequency. Because of the slowness of transatlantic mails American scholars may not be able to profit fully from this aspect, but they will nevertheless find it easier than before to keep up with new developments in the field of French literature.

-N.S.

**Education**


Not since Monroe's *Cyclopedia of Education* (1911-13; Guide CB34) has there been a multivolume encyclopedia of American origin for the field of education. This new work, then, answers a definite need. "In more than 1,000 articles, it offers a view of the institutions and people, of the processes and products, found in educational practice. The articles deal with history, theory, research, and philosophy, as well as with the structure and fabric of education." —Pref. Emphasis is on American education, but attention is given to comparative education, exchange programs, and the educational systems of more than 100 countries. Biographies have been kept to a bare minimum, "largely because the detail of educators' lives is not consistently relevant to education" (Pref.), but individual contributions to educational thought and practice are dealt with.

In general, entries run to several pages, and closely related articles by different contributors are often grouped for convenience of use. Articles are signed, and include bibliographies. The encyclopedia is intended for all adults engaged in some way in educational practice or decision-making and, except where the subject matter dictates otherwise, articles are written in nontechnical language. The separate index volume offers a "Directory of Contributors" and, in addition to the detailed subject index, includes a "Guide to Articles" which lists each article in alphabetical sequence, followed by a list of see and see also references to related entries.—E.S.


This impressive bibliography on "the child himself, the school, the immediate milieu . . . , the larger community . . . [and] the culture of various minority groups" (Intro.) has for its central emphasis the black child, with lesser coverage for other groups. Materials listed, with full bibliographical details, include books, articles, dissertations, government documents, and research reports of the last seventy years. Spot-checking shows that about three-quar-
ters of the entries carry imprints from the 1960s. There are twenty-four divisions on such subjects as the black woman, school organization, Spanish-Americans, educational deprivation, the world scene, Afro-American studies, colleges, and social conditions. The longest, "The American Scene" (125 pages), is subdivided by state and has separate sections for New York City and Chicago. Reference features that will further recommend the work to librarians are its long list of periodicals, a section of nearly 250 bibliographies, and an author index.—R.K.

Sociology


To identify and define some of the most relevant terms used in the various disciplines concerned with solving the "urban problem" and to add his own insights and opinions is Mr. Abrams' aim in this work. He chooses terms from the vocabularies of "housing and city planning, land economics, real estate, public administration, architecture, social welfare, transportation, public law and government, race, and a variety of other aspects of urban life...." (Pref.) and defines most of them in an informal, personal manner, but often with a keen sense of etymology and usage. Along with the selected specialized terms, he includes common ones such as "city" and "house," introduces some unexpected terms such as "lunch" and "tourist cabin," notes the professional twist of words such as "use," and sometimes devotes a page or more to concepts such as "prejudice" or "general welfare." The definitions are lively and infused with the author's concern for the urban plight: his glossary is part essay, but it is generally well informed.—M.M.

Blake, Judith, and Donovan, Jerry J. Western European Censuses, 1960; an English Language Guide. Berkeley, University of California, Institute of International Studies, [1971]. 421p. $3.25 pa. (population monograph ser., no.8) 77-634274.

As part of the International Census Documents Project at the University of California, the authors have produced a guide to the availability and content of the 1960 census volumes issued by the governments of Western Europe (including Greece, but not the rest of the Balkans). The guide furnishes "the titles and page numbers of all statistical tables in every volume of every census...; a detailed glossary of technical terms that appear in more than one volume of that census...; [and] a bibliographically correct entry for every volume" (Intro.) based on the form of entry used by the Library of Congress. Excluded from the work are all censuses of housing and preliminary reports of population counts. Researchers will be pleased to learn that the compilers are working on a similar guide for 1970 Western European censuses. Since a uniform English terminology has been established, as well as the format and the frequency of the censuses of each country, one hopes that the new volume will appear promptly in order to provide more current use.—E.M.


Documents as early as the 1688 British "Bill of Rights" and as recent as the 1967 "Declaration on Elimination of Discrimination against Women" are included in this collection of sources on human rights. About a third of the more than fifty declarations, conventions, protocols, etc., stem from United Nations standard-setting and implementation, but there are documents showing fundamental rights in national legal
systems and others illustrating developments in specific geographical areas. Introductory notes for each document usually offer some historical background, plus useful bibliographical references. A subject approach to the documents is provided through the index.—E.S.

**Political Science**


This new almanac, synthesizing much scattered data, is designed to provide "all important information on the strategic situation and defense posture" (*Introd.*) of all nations of politico-military influence. Arrangement is geographic by area. After a short regional survey, for each nation there are given "power potential statistics," i.e., area, population, armed forces, GNP, annual military budget, heavy industry production, merchant marine and civil air strength. Then follow summaries of defense structure, politico-military policy, strategic problems, military assistance, alliances, and inventories of armed forces' strength, organization, and armament. Statistics reflect late 1969 information; where firm recent data were unavailable, estimates were made. Information has been gathered from unclassified sources, principally "standard references, periodicals and daily newspapers" (*Introd.*), and U.S. government documents, but no list of sources appears. Contributors (with indication of their qualifications) are identified and their contributions named. A glossary of equipment designations and an index are appended. Periodic revised editions are planned.—R.K.

**Atlases**


In addition to general updating of information, several innovations distinguish Hammond's "New Census edition" atlases from the "New Perspective edition" of a few years ago: a smaller page size (recommending the volumes for more convenient home and office use), the inclusion of postal zip code numbers for U.S. communities, and three new sections of historical maps representing biblical, world, and United States history. (The "Universe, earth and man" section is here replaced by a similar one entitled "Environment and life.") As in the earlier edition (*Suppl. 1CK21*), an index with population figures (incorporating 1970 census data for the U.S., as well as for Mexico, the Soviet Union, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) accompanies each political map. There is also an index of more than 100,000 names for the world map section; U.S. zip codes appear in both indexes. Small topographical maps, reproductions of flags, and tables of salient facts about each country are again provided with the political maps. Despite the smaller page size, maps of all but the largest and most populous political units are fairly uncluttered, legible, and generally attractive.

While the Medallion atlas is probably best suited for the general reference collection (and has considerable appeal for the home library), numerous variations in price and inclusiveness are available: they range from a deluxe Hallmark edition (2v., boxed, $39.95) having the same content as the Medallion, but with a slight rearrangement of sections, to a Headline version (50p., $1 pa.) with a further slight reduction in page size and without index. Librarians feeling the current budget pinch will do well to consider the Ambassador edi-
tion (480p., $14.95) in which all the good, world map features of the Medal­lion are intact, although the “fringe benefits”—the environmental and his­torical sections—are omitted.—E.S.

AREA STUDIES


This bibliography will almost certainly serve as a major source of documenta­tion for students of African civilization. It has been compiled from the bibliographic card services of three European research institutes, from various publications of the International African Institute in London, and from a number of journals not adequately cov­ered by existing indexes. Most of the articles cited have appeared within the last ten years, and French and English are the predominant languages (though practically every other European lan­guage is represented). Files of more than 1,500 periodical titles have been gleaned. Arrangement is by country or area, then by subject. Emphasis is on the social sciences, but some items of a tech­nical nature have been included. Cita­tions to about 3,000 African literary works are listed in an appendix. Entries vary widely in format and amount of bibliographic information, depending on the source from which they were taken; some are annotated.

It is unfortunate that the increasing­ly important field of African studies must be served by such an unattractive, unwieldy, and unsystematic bibilografia­phy. Some entries are nearly illegible, there are no running heads, subject headings are not uniform, and there is no indication as to which years of a giv­en periodical have been indexed. There is no other single listing, however, that is so extensive. Not only will this work spare scholars the task of scanning many other indexes, it will often furnish them with citations to elusive ma­terials that might otherwise have es­caped attention.—N.S.


Comp. under the auspices of the Orientalists’ Group, Standing Conference of National and University Libraries; sponsored by and edited at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.—t.p.

Entries for about 60,000 Asian publications acquired by British libraries since the beginning of 1965 are listed in this main entry catalog. Emphasis must be placed on the word “acquired,” since this means that usefulness of the catalog is not limited by a beginning date: many early imprints are to be found along with very recent materials. The term “Asian publications” here re­fers to “works published in all lan­guages in Asia outside the Soviet Union, and to those published in non-European scripts in North and North-East Africa.”—Pref. Periodicals and works of pure science and technology are omitted. With the exception of the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies (which publishes its own cata­log) and the Bodleian Library, all of the major British oriental collections are represented among the sixty-five con­tributing libraries.

Working from accession lists submitted in a wide variety of forms, the edi­tor has endeavored to achieve as much consistency as possible in matters of ro­manization and forms of entry. Multi­ple variant spellings of many names have been brought together under a sin­gle bracketed form in order to save the catalog user the trouble of checking all of the variants. Numerous see and see
also references have been provided throughout, and helpful introductory notes explain the editor's practice in handling works from specific areas or in particular languages, as well as variations in romanization. Annual supplements are planned.—E.S.

SCIENCE


More a statistical handbook than an encyclopedia in the accepted sense, this work contains "a variety of water resources data, facts and statistics" (Pref.) drawn from widely scattered sources. It includes information on climate, hydrology, surface and ground water resources, water use and needs, quality, constants and conversion factors, and information on water resources agencies. Material is presented in tabular form, the only text being the accompanying explanatory notes. Special attention has been paid to dating the information used, with distinction made between the date of the table and that of the data it contains. A source of information appears for each table, but often such citation is to an agency rather than to an agency publication. Citations to trade publications, however, are fuller, giving author's surname, title of book or journal, publisher (in the case of monographs), and date of publication. An index of subjects adds usefulness.—R.K.

REFERENCES

1. Diane Goon, Rita Keckeissen, Eileen McElvaine, Mary Ann Miller, Janet Schneider, Nancy Schroeder, Barbara Wendell; School of Library Service, Evelyn Lauer.