

ter Asheim on "Current Problems and Prospects in American Library Education," and Herman Fussler on "Some Aspects of Technology and Change in Relation to University Libraries." These papers deserve a wider reading audience than this volume is likely to attract.

If the platitudes and rhetoric of amity, usually generated by a conference of this sort, can be ignored in some of the papers, publication of the *Proceedings* was justified. There would not seem to exist a more useful single volume containing a summary of current thinking on research libraries in both nations. The papers are recommended reading for all whose interests gravitate toward research libraries, information access, and (most especially) the international aspects of librarianship.—*Cecil K. Byrd, Indiana University Libraries, Bloomington.*

Franklin, Colin. *The Private Presses*. Chester Springs, Penn.: Dufour, 1969. 240p. \$17.50.

This brief but appealing work treats the activity of fine printing in England from the late nineteenth century to the Second World War, as created by private presses which were owned or controlled by individuals who put their own stamp on the products. Although Mr. Franklin refers frequently to the works of these presses as representing a movement and does show interesting influences and interrelations among them, his book is essentially composed of separate sketches, each devoted to a selected printer and press. His approach in presenting these rather discrete essays is not unlike that which he attributes to bibliophiles, of whom he says: "Collectors look at their things with love, preserve them worthily and show them to those who can appreciate."

Recognizing that "accounts of books can be tedious to read," Mr. Franklin concentrates upon lively sketches of the printers and the general tenor of their production. He does make good and generally succinct analytical comments on specific books and he provides some interesting allusions to the tastes of the times, as in his amusing account of the arts and crafts movement of guild socialism, although he does not attempt a fully unified narrative nor a developed critique of printing style. But Mr. Franklin has a nice eye for typography and

a well-cultivated taste in approaching it so that he is able to draw from the books themselves a sense of their printers and the purposes of their presses. This allows him to make some sharp comparisons:

Morris had merry pleasure from most of the Kelmscott books—the medieval world he loved, the old poems and stories. There is aesthetic gaiety in some of the Vale Press books, French charm in Eragny, and Hornby's press could be domestic, entertaining, homely as well as serious. Nothing less than a fixed moral vision governed the taste of the Doves Press; with Cobden-Sanderson at the heart of it . . .

Upon occasion Mr. Franklin finds a need to take issue with the idea of judging these works by what he once calls "the awe of the sale room," yet he himself seems quite affected both by book prices and by the names of collectors, and the work concludes with a so-called Bibliography by David Lincoln whose only real contribution is the furnishing of auction prices. Indeed, Mr. Franklin himself addresses his last chapter to the collector's concerns rather than ending on a summation of typographic history or an analysis of the art of bookmaking. Yet, despite some disparity in purpose and tone, here is a useful, lively, and perceptive study.—*James D. Hart, University of California, Berkeley.*

Schlebecker, John T. *Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets on the History of Agriculture in the United States . . . 1607-1967*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: American Bibliographical Center-Clio Press, 1969. Paper \$5.50. Cloth \$15.00.

This is an updated version of the classic *A Bibliography of the History of Agriculture in the United States*, by Everett E. Edwards, published in 1930 as U.S. Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous publication no. 84. The biennial Eunice Rockwell Oberley Award was presented to Mr. Schlebecker in June 1971 for his work.

It is a listing of 2,042 histories, government reports, biographies, and literary works which portray farming and rural life in all parts of the United States from the earliest settlement through 1967. Except for its subject, the new work differs considerably from the Edwards bibliography. For

instance, because of the vast amount of material currently being published, references to periodicals and documentary sources were omitted, except for those in narrative form.

There is a difference also in its arrangement, which is a single alphabetical list by author. In his introduction, Mr. Schlebecker cites avoidance of the duplication of entries as the deciding factor for this choice. The reader, however, will regret the absence of the subject, period, and state subdivisions of the 1930 work, and that it was not possible to devise some way, such as brief citations referring to the primary entries, to retain the more convenient topical arrangement.

This drawback is partially compensated for by an extensive title and subject index, consisting of useful entries such as Nineteenth Century, Southwest, and New Deal as well as the names of works included in the main alphabet. The index would have been improved by further breakdown of subject headings such as "Federal farm aid," which may require the reader to refer back to as many as 200 separate entries, and also by an alphabetical rather than a random arrangement of subdivisions under headings such as "Biography," a procedure followed inconsistently in some instances, e.g. under the heading "Autobiography." Another factor which must be kept in mind is that the names of authors listed in the main alphabet are not repeated in the index, except as a secondary author or editor of another work.

The choice of titles is interesting and varied enough to satisfy almost anyone. Nevertheless, in spite of the author's reluctance to use the term preliminary or selective, the bibliography must be considered representative rather than complete, and additional titles for inclusion will immediately come to mind. There are, for example, the highly interesting *Rural Life* studies issued in the 1940s by the U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which describe the diverse cultures of six rural communities. Perhaps the difficulty is in applying the yardstick for inclusion, that at least half of the work must be about farming.

Approximately 15 percent of the entries are annotated, a particularly helpful feature because of the way the bibliography is organized. A few errors have crept into the

annotations. For example, the time and locale of Gladys Hasty Carroll's *As the Earth Turns* have been incorrectly attributed to late nineteenth century in the state of Connecticut, whereas the mixture of automobile and horsedrawn traffic on the roads, and the introduction of a minor character who was a commercial pilot, dates the story much closer to its copyright date of 1933, in a setting which is clearly Maine.

The introduction states that 71 percent of the titles included are new since 1930. It is probable that most users will consider the Schlebecker work as supplementary rather than as a replacement for the earlier bibliography.

Recommended for students of agricultural history and for everyone who enjoys reading about country life.—*Catharine J. Reynolds, University of Colorado.*

Nemeyer, Carol A. ***Scholarly Reprint Publishing in the United States.*** New York: Bowker, 1972. 272p. \$12.50.

Reprinting of older books and journals is a publishing phenomenon which thrived in the United States particularly in the 1960s because of the enormous educational growth, the subsequent need for instant libraries, and the free and rather indiscriminate flow and use of funds.

Carol Nemeyer estimates that between 85,000 and 120,000 titles in hard copy and probably several millions in microform have been made available again by a highly diversified group of approximately 300 American publishers. It is a market of indeed staggering proportions, which has created considerable confusion both with producers and buyers, especially when the economic conditions began to change about two years ago.

To uncover and describe typical aspects in the motivation and activities of these publishers was the main objective of Nemeyer's survey, done between 1968 and 1971 as work toward a doctoral degree at Columbia. For practical reasons numerous limitations had to be set on the scope of the survey; so many in fact that it is sometimes hard to distinguish which generalizations touch upon the nature of the reprint trade and which were predetermined by the choice of limitations. One of the most severe restrictions of the survey is Nemeyer's (under-