

more profitably on something else.—*Cathleen Flanagan, University of Utah, Salt Lake City.*

Gebhardt, Walther, comp. *Special Collections in German Libraries. Federal Republic of Germany incl. Berlin (West)*. By Commission of Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1977. 739p. \$67.30. LC 77-22288. ISBN 3-11-005839-1. (Title page also in German: *Spezialstände in deutschen Bibliotheken. Bundesrepublik Deutschland einschl. Berlin (West)*. Im Auftrag der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft.)

Following the destruction and dislocation of libraries during World War II, the need for a catalog to the special collections in East and West Germany has become imperative. Hans Praesent's *Die Bibliotheken (Deutsches Reich)* published in the Minerva Handbücher series in 1929 is, of course, out of date. Richard C. Lewanski's *Subject Collections in European Libraries* (1965) covers 6,000 libraries and does not adequately describe any one collection. Walther Gebhardt's work now fills the gap for the Federal Republic.

The 877 collections are arranged alphabetically by city. In addition to informing the reader about loan privileges and copying facilities, the compiler usually lists the approximate size of the collections and their significant features. Gebhardt cites articles and bibliographies when they are available. More than 200 pages are devoted to a concordance and an index. The concordance enables the researcher to scan subject headings, names, and concepts and thus easily find a particular field. For example, ninety subject headings and names appear under "military science." Generous listings are available in other subject areas.

In spite of the losses resulting from the war, German libraries still contain vast resources. To cite only a sampling: The municipal library of Baden-Baden has 400 volumes on hot springs and baths. In Berlin the researcher may consult more than 5,000 concert programs from the Gewandhaus in Leipzig. One library lists an uncataloged collection dealing with the poet Wieland as weighing "3 Zentner" (i.e., 330.75 pounds).

In Munich, a former Gestapo library contains 10,000 volumes on Judaism, and an archive in Koblenz has 2,000 tape recordings from the Nazi period. There are still a dozen Judaica collections in West Germany. Several libraries have more than 10,000 funeral sermons each. One museum has 4,000 volumes devoted to the history of bread; another specializes in Till Eulenspiegel books and memorabilia. And even German libraries are now beginning to collect comic books.

One need hardly detail the superb collections in philology, philosophy, and the natural sciences, which made Germany the leader in *Wissenschaft* until 1933. Seminary and cloister libraries still contain numerous manuscripts and incunabula.

Gebhardt has not slighted the German researcher looking for foreign collections. Listed are depository collections of the RAND Corporation, U.S. government publications, and UN reports. Similarly, the compiler identifies libraries having microfilms of early American imprints and those listed in the catalogs of Pollard and Redgrave and Wing.

A few minor criticisms: the list of abbreviations is inadequate. The price of the volume puts it beyond the reach of researchers on a grant. One wonders about the publisher's motive in issuing the volume with a German and an English title, when only the introduction is in English. Nevertheless, this volume is vital in any reference collection.—*Kurt S. Maier, Leo Baeck Institute, New York.*

Davis, Cullom; Back, Kathryn; and MacLean, Kay. *Oral History from Tape to Type*. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1977. 141p. \$8.95. LC 77-4403. ISBN 0-8389-0330-8.

Baum, Willa K. *Transcribing and Editing Oral History*. Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1977. 127p. (+ 33 1/3 RPM record). \$6.75 (\$4.50 to AASLH members). LC 77-3340. ISBN 0-910050-26-0.

Two recent additions to the literature of manuals on how to do oral history are testimonials to the growing professionalism of this relatively new technique, which preserves for the future the memories of