and shrug with scientific precision” (p.64). Surely this phrase is exaggeration for effect, but just as surely some readers will be angered by Katz’ forthright opinions.

New to this edition, and occupying more than one-third of the second volume, is a lucid discussion of “Reference Service and the Computer.” This section may be of greater value to reference librarians who have been working for some time than to students, because Katz consciously attempts to allay the fears of those who “believe automation will destroy the traditional library—not to mention eliminating their positions in the tradition” (p.123).

Much that was valuable in the earlier editions has been shaken out to make room for new material. The most fruitful use of this first-rate work will be in conjunction with the first and second editions.—Thomas Gaughan, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.


The title of this book is misleading, for what we really have here are suggestions on how to solicit special collections materials. Little in the literature to date has discussed in a systematic way the process of acquiring manuscripts for institutional collections. What has appeared has tended to be the personal accounts of private collectors or the amusing tales of Mr. X collecting on behalf of Mr. (or Institution) Y. Neither Kenneth Duckett’s *Modern Manuscripts* (AASLH, 1975) nor Robert Clark’s *Archive-Library Relations* (Bowker, 1976) provides any extensive guidelines for solicitation.

The present work falls somewhere between the systematic and the anecdotal treatment. The author “presents a practical approach to a collecting program without expenditure for acquisition,” yet at the same time unashamedly celebrates the active program he initiated, and presently fosters, at the University of Oregon library. His emphasis throughout is on collecting special materials (manuscripts, as well as books, oral history, photographs, etc.) for libraries, particularly university libraries.

Slightly more than half of the book is text, devoted to practical suggestions for planning a collecting program, developing and maintaining donors, negotiating for materials, and transporting and receiving collections. The author offers many solid ideas on collecting areas and on how to develop leads, or sources of donations.

He tells us how to initiate donor interest through correspondence, how to visit the potential donor, how to sort and pack the donor’s gift, and how to maintain interest in the institution once the donation has been received. One chapter is devoted to handling gifts of books from donors of manuscripts. Another sums up what the author feels are the personal and professional qualities essential for a successful solicitor.

The remainder of the book consists of appendixes—with samples of solicitation letters, deeds, collection inventories, and examples of the internal paperwork necessary to re-create negotiations at a later date (field notes, name cards, reminder files, etc.)—a brief bibliography, and a subject index.

Two case studies, based on the author’s experience, serve as examples of the total approach to solicitation—from selection of the subject to the use of the collection. Both studies, as well as numerous other examples, emphasize personal and family collections. Little attention is focused upon the solicitation of organizational records or on the special negotiating techniques essential in acquiring this type of collection. Fortunately Virginia Stewart’s article “A Primer on Manuscript Field Work” (The Midwestern Archivist 1:3–20 (1976) ) thoroughly covers this important aspect.

With the author’s emphasis on solicitation for university libraries, this work will appeal most to that audience. Museum curators and archivists with imagination could apply some of the author’s suggestions to their work. However, at the price of this volume, they would be wiser to wait for a more comprehensive treatise by specialists in their own fields.—Susan F. Sudduth, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana.

Library History Seminar, 5th, Philadelphia, Pa., 1976. *Milestones to the Present: Pa-