
In 1975 the American Association for State and Local History began the publication of a series entitled A Bibliography on Historical Organization Practices. As one of the most important historical agencies in North America, AASLH offers these compilations, in part, to further its own goals of "advancing knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of localized history in the United States and Canada."

Previously published volumes cover such topics as historic preservation, conservation, and interpretation of museum collections. This latest volume is an appropriate addition to the series. Its compiler, Rosemary S. Reese, worked from the premise that except for large historical agencies whose staffs have specialized knowledge about most of the articles under their care, many curators, antique dealers, and private collectors need guidance in identifying and cataloging artifacts.

Documentation of Collections is divided into six sections: collections documentation, artifact collections, decorative arts collections, fine arts collections, folk arts and crafts collections, and historical organizations. The last lists eight agencies, both national and international, that through their programs and publications offer assistance to whoever is involved with museum work and connoisseurship. The annotated citations, instead of referring to the process and technology of manufacturing, consider the objects only as objects.

No pretense is made to all-inclusiveness; such a work would be both physically unwieldy and difficult to use. Rather, Reese has carefully selected the most valuable books and articles with the hope that researchers will consider them as jumping off points for further study. A very complete index, consisting of nearly 20 percent of the volume's pages, should lead the reader to any specific reference.

The sources listed in Documentation of Collections are valuable for museum personnel and the lay public for at least four reasons: they are useful in putting together and staging exhibitions; they help in determining monetary values for insurance purposes; they provide for both casual and detailed study of art objects; and they are instructive in the care, maintenance, and conservation of materials that may be considered antique. As a bibliographic tool, this compilation should be considered as a standard in its field for many years. Neither a museum nor an interested researcher would go wrong in consulting it in any effort to examine problems encountered with objects from our cultural heritage. - E. Richard McKinstry, Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware.


Marshall Lee's Bookmaking has long been recognized as a basic text for neophytes seeking a knowledge of how a manuscript becomes that physical object—a finished book. The first edition (1965) was limited to the design and production aspects of bookmaking; the second edition adds the editing function, thus making the book even more useful than before. Only the marketing and advertising aspects of the book trade now lie outside the purview of this basic manual, and even those topics are touched upon from time to time as they affect editing, production, and design.

In order to accommodate the material on editing, the book has been reorganized, with the original book now largely forming "Part I: Design & Production." Much of the text of that part remains the same as in the earlier edition, but wherever new technology has been introduced into the industry (and that has been considerable over the fourteen-year interval) the text has been completely rewritten and new illustrations provided. Some topics have been treated in a different order, contributing to greater clarity, and one, "Co-Productions," has been added.

Some readers may initially question the fact that the new "Part II: Editing" occupies only some 75 pages as against 370 pages for Part I, but the answer to that criticism probably lies in the very technical nature of
much of the material on composition, typography, printing, etc., which requires detailed explanations and considerable illustrative material. This reviewer feels that the treatment of editing is as full as necessary. Lee writes in an admirably clear style, and he holds the reader's interest throughout some very technical and detailed material. The book retains the same handsome design of the original edition.

This reviewer has long felt that most librarians need to know a good deal more about the products that they spend a lifetime buying than they usually do. While this book was written primarily as an introduction for beginners in the book industry and from the point of view of an insider, it can also be recommended to librarians as the best starting point for gaining a background knowledge of bookmaking.

It presents a happy medium ground between the very simplified presentation of Howard Greenfeld in his excellent Books: From Writer to Reader (Crown, 1976), written for young adults but suited for all ages, and the very specialized technical manuals such as Victor Strauss' Printing Industry (Bowker, 1967), which often deal with only one aspect of the subject. (Strauss is also now somewhat out of date because of the many new technical innovations within the industry.) Lee's only rivals in the past have been considered to be Hugh Williamson's Methods of Book Design (Oxford, 1956) and Sean Jennett's Making of Books (Faber & Faber, 1951), but both of these are British in origin and therefore limited in their usefulness to North American readers, although Jennett offers much more in the way of historical background than Lee.

In summary, this is the best book currently available on bookmaking in the U.S.—Richard K. Gardner, University of California, Los Angeles.