Until 1920, Squire processed materials, campaigned to have some staff assigned to him, and urged the printing of a music catalog (which finally appeared in 1912). He gained the support of the administration and built the framework that his distinguished followers, W. C. Smith and King, would use in shaping the world's finest music library.

We may hope that Alec Hyatt King will complement the present volume with one that describes the work of Smith, as well as the major events and achievements of his own tenure.—Guy A. Marco, Library Development Consultants, Washington, D.C.


This book is a definite contribution to the literature on library buildings. It is a book for all library planners, for academic and public librarians, and for special librarians, as well as for architects, engineers, and designers. The authors state early in the book that it is primarily for the design and planning of small to medium-size public libraries serving from 200 to 2,000 people per day. However, the information in the book is prepared in such an enlightening manner that it is beneficial to those planning large urban central library buildings, academic library buildings, or even school and special library rooms.

The authors declare what they believe to be the performance objectives for the readers of their book, which are that the reader should be able to "prepare a library improvement program," "recognize library functional relationships," "critique an existing library building," "interview and select an architect and consultant," "evaluate the work of a library design team," "evaluate proposed library sites," "critique schematic designs for libraries," and "improve energy conservation, graphics, seating, and lighting in existing libraries as well as in library plans."

From there the authors proceed in a simple, straightforward, factual arrangement of their information. For example, lists are often used, such as, where to purchase materials, information on suppliers and manufacturers, and twenty-five energy conservation tips. Further, the whole work is liberally supplied with photographs and line drawings to express design features. The book ends with a selection of case studies of actual library space programs.

The book is clearly not an intellectual effort on the theory of library construction or space planning. On the other hand, it is a straightforward handbook on how to plan for library space utilization and how to design for functional use of space.

While generally the work consists of practical information, it is noted, however, that if not directly in the text, then generally through illustration and photographs, unusually high priced or expensive furniture is specified. On the other hand, general practitioners using this book should be able to discern this for themselves.

The book could have been more efficiently produced. Unusually wide margins are used (¾-inch inner margin and 2½-inch outer margin). Also as an example of waste space, page 264 contains a simple two-line caption for a drawing on the facing page 265. Thus, through some economy of space in the layout of the book, the information could have been presented in about 25 percent less space than was used. On the other hand, the format that was employed does add to the attractiveness of the book and its simple use.

On the whole this book is valuable to all library planners and should be added to the collection of any practicing librarian or library collecting information on library buildings.—Hal B. Schell, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.


In this book, which covers censorship attempts in the United States over a ten-year period, the author, L. B. Woods, presents evidence showing that censorship is on the increase. Woods gives the following reasons for having done the study. The principal reason, he says, was that empirical knowl-