

brarians who either teach the history of the book or who are called on to do occasional presentations to classes on book history, have here a useful collection to consult. Graduate students should find most of its articles suggestive of any number of topics and approaches to help them sort out methods and design their research. More illustrations would have been welcome, and I am sure that many will wonder as to the professional identities of the contributors: they are nowhere identified. Nonetheless, like other volumes in this British Library series, the present one is well worth perusing by anyone interested in the history of the book.—*Michael T. Ryan, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

Antiquarian Books: A Companion for Booksellers, Librarians, and Collectors. Ed. Philippa Bernard with Leo Bernard and Angus O'Neill. Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Pr., 1994. 461p. \$79.95 (ISBN 0-8122-3268-2).

There are a great many published aids for booksellers, book collectors, and librarians, guiding them through the maze of buying and selling books, describing and preserving them, calling attention to their most arcane attributes, and otherwise providing aid and comfort to bibliographical tyros as well as to those more seasoned in the art of bibliophily. Others are more specialized in subjects such as bibliography, the use of rare book catalogs, the practice and management of rare book and special collections in libraries, directories of booksellers, book collectors and librarians, and so forth, all claiming some expertise in guiding the knowledgeable and the gullible alike.

The latest contribution to this field is *Antiquarian Books: A Companion for Booksellers, Librarians, and Collectors*. This volume is organized alphabetically with comparatively short entries for most subjects, but with longer, more discursive contributions by a variety of experts for the more important topics, as selected by the editors. For example, there are contributions by Mirjam Foot on fine

bookbinding, John Kerr on book auctions, Anthony Rota on bookselling in a changing world, and H. R. Woudhuysen on bibliography. The coverage is wide-ranging, but with special focus on entries broadly relating to bookbinding, bookplates, and collecting English books on any number of topics.

Several articles are aimed specifically at assisting booksellers as business people, particularly those on cataloging (with a charming section on the "personal touch"), and booksellers as publishers. A piece on computers for booksellers is unhelpful to those hoping to automate their business, take advantage of electronic cataloging, or in any other way adapt to the rapidly changing world of electronic data management and applications to the antiquarian book trade. There is also very little on autographs and manuscripts, and the entries on the broader topics of techniques of book illustration, copy-right, and incunabula, provide adequate, if not authoritative, coverage that a reference guide of this nature might be expected to provide.

The editorial policy concerning selection of entries for repositories and individual collections of rare books (especially those in institutions) seems inconsistently applied. There is, for example, an entry for the Osborne Collection of children's books at the Toronto Public Library, but not for the Opie Collection at the Bodleian Library at Oxford, or the Ball Collection at the Pierpont Morgan Library; there is an entry for the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, but not the Newberry Library in Chicago. The presence of bibliographies, or the lack of same, at the end of entries seems also curiously inconsistent. Readers of the volume will appreciate several useful appendixes, including one for Latin and other foreign place names, an explanation of the system of Roman numerals, a list of the earliest surviving imprints by place, and a selected list of booktrade directories. The proofreading is good, with a minimum number of the inevitable errors.

With the exception of a creditable entry for American first editions (especially

for literary subjects), the focus in this volume is for British booksellers and book collectors. American booksellers and book collectors, not to mention librarians, will find the extensive references to English books, institutions, and collections somewhat limiting. The volume retains, however, a real utility in the convenient manner in which the entries

are arranged and cross-referenced. Despite its limitations, this volume will be useful indeed for booksellers, particularly those just getting started and those with a particular interest in British rare books more generally. It will be of less utility for most librarians.—William L. Joyce, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

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John M. Budd

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