

forth by the Smithsonian study (Ellen McCrady, "Temperature and RH Guidelines Challenged by Smithsonian," *Abbe Newsletter* 18:44, 1994).

The assignment of precise years of life for a given set of environmental readings could be easily misread or misunderstood. One cannot state that a book housed consistently in an area of 72 degrees Fahrenheit with an RH of 50 percent will have a useful life of thirty-three years, even though this is the PI value given for these readings on the chart. The authors correctly point out that PI is "general" and "is not meant as a predictor of the useful life of any object." Would an administrator or casual listener at a presentation catch this qualification? The temptation exists to hold these PI and TWPI values in years as absolutes.

There are some other very important qualifications described in *New Tools* regarding the PI values. These values are assessed only for "short-lived" materials such as acidic paper and acetate film, although as noted, alkaline paper would benefit from improved conditions. Further, the value is determined by chemical deterioration alone. Even though the study is concerned with environmental conditions, mold growth and vermin infestation are not considered here. Certainly there are other preservationists who would cringe at the finding that, according to the TWPI, storage in a basement is better than storage in a closet. Finally, although the values "assume" that all organic material deteriorates at the same rate, the authors state that this "assumption is . . . not strictly true."

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded IPI a grant to test these new concepts of PI and TWPI using the PEM. I look forward to seeing the results and to learning which institutions were chosen to take part in the research. As presented in *New Tools*, the process would best serve larger insti-

tutions where the commitment already exists to maintain a strong, influential, and permanent preservation program. Smaller institutions may want to stay with the simpler, thermometer/hygrometer method to monitor and record storage conditions.—*James W. Mason, San Francisco.*

Remer, Rosalind. *Printers and Men of Capital: Philadelphia Book Publishers in the New Republic.* Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Pr., 1996. 210p. \$34.95, alk. paper. (ISBN 0-8122-3337-9.) LC 95-51384.

This succinct, but thorough study explores the economics of the production, marketing, and distribution of books (not newspapers, periodicals, or job printing) in the United States from the 1790s to about 1830. Using Philadelphia as a case study, the author focuses on the people producing books during this period and their transformation from low-risk printers to entrepreneurial publishers (e.g., Mathew Carey). The book trade in Philadelphia, the republic's capitol during the 1790s, is known for its variety of output during the 18th century, and abundant specific evidence survives in the form of correspondence, account books, city directories, and the books themselves.

All too often, we do not stop to examine how and why a book was produced. Remer explores the process at a time of transition from reliance on the trade overseas to self-sufficiency, from the general to the specialized, from craftsman to middle-class merchant, from local to broader markets—and before railroads and banks. She discusses financial risks, patronage and politics, choice of texts, the decline of journeymen, competition and cooperation, wholesaling, credit and bankruptcy, exchange and commission, sources of type and paper, relationships with binders, how accounts were kept, development of new markets, preachers and peddlers as distributors in the back country, and

adoption of new technologies such as stereotyping. She also addresses relevant contextual issues such as the country's economy, the growth of nationalism, and the opening of the West.

Although Remer, Assistant Professor of History at Moravian College, developed this study from her UCLA Ph.D. dissertation, it bears none of the marks of the unworked dissertation. Rather, it is well written and organized, and excellently documented—with thirty pages of useful footnotes plus a separate full bibliography (too often lacking in current scholarly monographs); and includes six well-chosen illustrations and an index. She makes full use of recent studies in the history of the book, the North American Imprints Program database at the American Antiquarian Society, and the many original records in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Although at first glance Remer's subject may appear narrow, its inclusion in Penn's *Early American Studies* series signifies that knowing how books were made available in the new republic leads to a deeper understanding of its culture. Her work offers academic librarians an opportunity to compare similarities in the emergence of print culture in the United States with the emergence of electronic culture two centuries later. She clarifies the difference between the mechanical activity of printing and the intellectual and economic process of publishing, sometimes confused even by librarians. Collection developers are offered evidence about "American" editions (often abridged, updated, or supplemented) of works from England and the continent, and about the kinds of unassuming best-sellers that today's scholars recognize as primary sources for study. Local history curators will find answers here to often puzzling questions about local and regional imprints (varying publishing statements, printers in other locales, why bindings differ). In short, Remer provides a wel-

come contribution to our understanding of the dissemination of information and ideas.—*Elizabeth Swaim, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.*

Valuing Local Knowledge: Indigenous People and Intellectual Property Rights. Eds. Stephen B. Brush and Doreen Stabinsky. Washington, D.C.: Island Pr., 1996. 337p. \$50 cloth (ISBN 1-55963-378-6); \$30 paper (ISBN 1-55963-379-4). LC 95-38484.

How are intellectual property rights, indigenous knowledge, and biological diversity related, both philosophically and economically? This collection of essays, developed from a conference at Lake Tahoe in 1993 on intellectual property rights and indigenous knowledge, provides an excellent entree into the breadth and complexities of the issues surrounding these ideas. For those of us overwhelmed with the extension of copyright issues into the electronic realm, this volume will help to put that part of the problem into proper perspective as these authors deal with issues raised by collective rather than individual knowledge.

The immediate background to this volume is the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity which was signed with much fanfare at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 (not by the United States, which waited until Earth Day) to take effect in December 1993. Implementation, however, was left to individual nations and courts of international law. A potentially incompatible agreement, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, was signed in December 1993 in Uruguay at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades (GATT) talks. The Society for Applied Anthropology, a section of the American Anthropological Association, organized the Lake Tahoe conference, which was sponsored by the Ethics and Values Studies Program of the National Science