

Review Articles

Recent Foreign Books on the Graphic Arts, Bibliography, and Library Science

Horst Kunze's *Bibliotheksverwaltungslehre* (Leipzig, VEB Otto Harrasowitz, 1956) is the first volume in a new series of "Lehrbücher für den Nachwuchs an wissenschaftlichen Bibliotheken." It is a comprehensive manual of administrative practices in scholarly libraries, based primarily on the existing situation in East Germany, but frequently drawing parallels with West Germany, the U. S. S. R., Western Europe, and the United States. Logically organized, annotated with references to the most important literature, and provided with a full index, Kunze's book meets the basic standards of both a textbook for beginners and of a reference work for experienced librarians.

For the non-German librarian, Kunze's book has two special virtues: (1) It provides a brief account of continental practices which vary from the Anglo-American, often with a brief historical note. For example, the traditional German abhorrence for non-lending reference libraries is explained. The background for the *Preussische Instruktion* and its development are summarized in concise and intelligible terms. The nature and function of union catalogs in Germany will be much clearer to American librarians who read the six pages on this subject. (2) The contrast with American practices, often brought out explicitly by Kunze, is enlightening and sometimes even suggestive.

Until the second volume of the second edition of the *Handbuch der Bibliothekswissenschaft* appears, Kunze's work will be the definitive treatment of library administration in Germany, and even thereafter. Kunze's lucid style and well-developed sense of logical organization will insure him a sizable audience for years to come. Wilhelm Krabbe and Wilhelm Martin Luther, two West German librarians, are the authors of

a similar book printed in 1953 in West Germany, *Lehrbuch der Bibliotheksverwaltungslehre*, an outstanding manual but nevertheless somewhat short of Kunze's book on several points of scope and of organization of material. Both Kunze and Krabbe-Luther should be available in American research libraries.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

A compact, well-organized manual for special library work is *Die wissenschaftliche Fachbibliothek* (Leipzig, VEB Otto Harrasowitz, 1956) by Joachim Brämer and Dieter Vogel. An outline of the organization into chapters provides some idea of the scope: personnel and budget, spatial arrangements and equipment, acquisitions, cataloging, arrangement of books on the shelves, publicizing the holdings, circulation and information services, cooperation with other libraries, statistics, evaluation of technical literature and related bibliographical work, records, reports, and photographic services. The bibliography is a useful selective list of German works on special libraries, with a few English and Russian entries; but it could have been far more useful if more works from the rich American literature on special libraries had been cited.

Brämer and Vogel have a firm grasp of their subject, and, while they direct their manual at continental practices in particular, there are many specific points on which their text is universally valid. The spatial calculations for readers, librarians, books, and furniture (p. 18 *et seq.*), the structure and maintenance of the classed catalog (p. 45 *et seq.*), and the notes on copyright (p. 121), are a few examples of sections that may be particularly valuable to us. Perhaps most impressive is the emphasis on special libraries in the countries with "people's democracies." Not only in East Germany but elsewhere beyond the Oder, special libraries are thriving, and many of them have developed unusually valuable collections and services.

SOVIET LIBRARIANSHIP

V pomoshch' rabotnikam massovykh bibliotek (Moscow, Gosudarstvennoe izdatel-

stvo kul'turno-prosvetitel'noi literatury, 1956; 489 pp.), edited by M. A. Potanova, is a representative collection of articles from recent volumes of the periodical *Bibliotekar'*. Librarians who do not follow *Bibliotekar'* regularly will find that this volume provides much insight into ideas, policies, and programs of Soviet librarianship. As in nearly all current Russian works in the field of librarianship, there is an excess of doctrinaire Marxism that has no special place in technical and scholarly works, but there is probably an equal amount of trite sentiment about the virtues of democracy in our library literature. The significant thing about this book is that it summarizes the present status of Soviet librarianship, and the resulting picture is one that suggests strongly the need for much more careful study of modern Russian library techniques than we have made in the past.

The various essays in this volume are in eight groups: (1) political and scholarly aspects of librarianship; (2) bibliographical studies of certain classical Russian authors; (3) the library and formal education; (4) rural library service; (5) problems of readers' advisors; (6) catalogs; (7) work with children and young people; and (8) library history of the U. S. S. R. The second group is an important contribution to literary history as a key to contemporary Russian ideas about some of the leading authors in that language. The sixth group, on cataloging, deserves special study by acquisitions workers and catalogers, particularly in libraries that acquire a number of publications in Cyrillic alphabets. On the whole, the entire book may be read with profit, for it opens many approaches to librarianship which are at considerable variance with our practices but which have much to offer to us.

DANISH ROYAL LIBRARY

The third volume (1956) of *Fund og Forskning*, the annual publication of the Danish Royal Library which is based largely on that library's holdings, contains thirteen articles, all provided with English summaries. Most of the articles deal with Danish subjects, but there are also many points of broader international interest. Palle Birkelund's article on Joergen Andresen Boelling,

royal librarian in 1861-62, refers to letters from Longfellow to Boelling now in the Royal Library. The Mozart bicentennial is celebrated with one article by Kaare Olsen on a leaf from Mozart's diary, now in the Royal Library, and with another by R. Paulli on the Widow Mozart (whose second husband was the Dane G. N. Nissen) and the Danish composer C. E. F. Weyse. H. P. Rohde, a tireless student of the history of bookbinding, has identified hitherto unknown bindings by Jakob Krause, Anthoni Ludwig (Krause's master), and Caspar Meuser (Krause's pupil). R. Edelmann, the Royal Library's authority on Hebraica, describes the Hebrew incunabula of Lazarus Goldschmidt (forty-four volumes and three fragments) acquired by the library in 1949. It should be remembered that the acquisition in 1932 of the great collection of Hebraica assembled by David Simonsen made the Danish Royal Library one of the outstanding libraries in this field. Henning Eilersen describes eleven other incunabula acquired by the library in 1943-56. Mogens Haugsted continues his article on Danish printers' marks begun in the second volume (1955) of *Fund og Forskning*. In this one he discusses the late seventeenth century, and in a concluding article he will discuss the eighteenth century. Ove K. Nordstrand makes his contribution to the history of the book with a valuable article on the first Danish books on illumination. Other articles deal with Struensee, Paul Martin Moeller and his biographer F. C. Olsen, Georg Brandes and his enemies who kept him from a professional appointment in Copenhagen, and two H. C. Andersen dedications. Like its two predecessors, this volume of *Fund og Forskning* is distinguished for scholarly articles of a high order, based on the resources of one of the world's greatest libraries.

DRESDEN

On two fateful nights in 1945 (February 13 and March 2) we managed to destroy the Japanese Palace in Dresden, home of the Sächsische Landesbibliothek, and nearly half of its collection. The tragic part of this tale is that neither of the great air raids was really necessary, for the Red Army was already hammering at the gates of Saxony.

In the ten years since the catastrophe, the library has reassembled its surviving holdings, restored some of its rariora (including the great collection of Jakob Krause bindings), and added over one hundred thousand new volumes. This story and much more appear in the quadricentennial jubilee volume, *Sächsische Landesbibliothek, Dresden* (Leipzig, VEB Otto Harrassowitz, 1956). In the four centuries since the founding by Elector August of Saxony, the library has developed some remarkable collections, many of which have survived the war, and, in the last century, an effective administrative organization.

The *Festschrift* covers catalogs, special collections, the *Buchmuseum*, and the history of the library. In the section on the catalogs there is a minute description of each catalog. The rules of the catchword catalog, compiled by Heinz Trepte, are especially interesting for non-Germans. In the section on special collections there are notes on the rich holdings in manuscripts, maps, and music. The section on the book museum also contains detailed notes on the current exhibit, ranging from block books (an *Ars Moriendi* of 1405) to oriental and American (Mayan) manuscripts. Twenty-eight Jakob Krause bindings and two bindings by Krause's pupil, Caspar Meuser, are displayed. The frontispiece shows a magnificent Krause binding of 1573. This *Festschrift* is a memorable and edifying volume, a worthy monument to a great library which was nearly destroyed but which has come back stronger than ever.

ARCHEOLOGY

A substantial series of scholarly studies in philology and history is the *Studier fra Sprog- og Oldtidsforskning*, sponsored by the Filologisk-Historiske Samfund of Copenhagen. No. 227 is Mogens Weitemeyer's *Babylonske og Assyriske Biblioteker* (Copenhagen, Branner og Korch, 1955. 104 pp. 10 pl.), a comprehensive history of Babylonian and Assyrian libraries that takes us far beyond the status of scholarly investigations represented in the well-known works of Milkau and Chiera. Weitemeyer summarizes the reports of investigations at each of the sites of major excavations, giving special emphasis to discoveries of all types of clay tablets.

The latter part of the study deals with actual archival and library organization (buildings, cataloging, shelving, clay tablets as votive offerings, divine protection of tablets, and organization for use). Maps, a list of symbols, an extensive critical apparatus, and photographs complete the work.

Weitemeyer traces the rise of the Babylonian-Assyrian clay tablet libraries to records of temple finances. General temple and palace archives gradually developed from this point. The latter are most commonly located in Assyria, but also private archives may be found. In general, Weitemeyer emphasizes the close connection between archives and the community's economic life. From the archives it was an easy step to the addition of literary, historical (chronological), and mathematical texts. The first libraries in the true sense came during the Isin-Larsa-Babylon period, when the Akkadian language and culture were supplanting the Sumerian, a time of much literary activity. Later on, collections of Sumerian-Akkadian literature were found beyond the limits of Babylon, in such places as Ashur, Ugarit, Tell-el-Amarna, and Hattusha, a reflection of the Assyrian policy of absorbing and perpetuating Babylonian culture. Weitemeyer concludes that these libraries not only served as guardians of tradition but also as instruments for spreading Babylonian culture to the Hittites, the Egyptians, the Hebrews, and the Aramaeans.

It is unfortunate that this exceptionally important chapter—indeed, the first chapter—in the history of libraries is in a relatively little-known language. The publishers should find it well worth while to bring out an English, German, or French edition. The book presents no new facts or ideas, but there is no other equally competent résumé of the subject.

SOVIET PERIODICALS

From the Institut Istorii Estestvoznaniia i Tekhniki of the Akademia Nauk S. S. S. R. comes I. U. A. Mezhenko's important bibliography of *Russkaia tekhnicheskaia periodiki 1800-1916* (Moscow, Izdatel'stvo Akademii Nauk S. S. S. R., 1955; 300 pp.). This work lists 415 technical journals published in Russian during the nineteenth century and up to the revolution. Mezhenko includes ex-

tensive bibliographical information about each entry, viz., dates of publication, editors, publishers, format and pagination (indicating changes during the entire history of the publication), indices, supplements, and objectives and policies. There are a number of facsimiles of title pages, first pages, and covers of some of the more important periodicals. The arrangement is alphabetical by title; and the indexes include a summarized alphabetical list of titles, a classified index, a topographical index of places of publication (with a surprising number in the provinces, outside of St. Petersburg and Moscow), a chronological list (with about 70 per cent falling in the short period between 1900 and 1916), an index of editors and publishers, an index of collaborators and authors mentioned in the various entries, an index of exhibitions, an index of congresses and conferences, an index of agencies and institutions, an index of copyrighted journals, and an index of learned societies.

Many of the periodicals listed by Mezhenko do not exist in American libraries, if a sample check of some fifty titles in various union lists, union catalogs, and lists of journals held by a few special libraries may be trusted. Whether they are needed here is open to question, since many of them are clearly secondary and local. On the other hand, the Russians have a special genius for publishing occasional important works in obscure organs. All of them, moreover, form a certain part of the background for the enormous technological advances of the Soviet Union in the last three decades. A careful study of the need for reproducing (if possible) those journals that American libraries do not have would not be a waste of time.

The over-all quality of the various titles contrasts unfavorably with post-revolutionary titles. A comparison of this list with Russian journals issued in the last three decades would be a significant chapter of cultural history.

UNION LIST

Josef Lomský is the editor of *Soupis cizozemských periodik technických a příbuzných v knihovnách Československé Republiky* (Prague, Nakladatelství Československé aka-

demie věd, 1955-56; 2 vols.), an important union list of technical and scientific journals in Czechoslovakian libraries. The two volumes include some eleven thousand titles with locations and holdings in all scholarly libraries in Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. From a practical standpoint, the list will be useful to western European and American libraries for the identification of many obscure central European and Slavic publications. Czech librarians have been remarkably zealous, however, in the collection of basic scientific literature, and the list also includes many unusual, often rare, titles from western Europe, Africa, and Asia. Czech libraries seem to be only fairly strong in North American scientific periodical literature, although all of the more important titles are on hand; and a noticeable deficiency is the paucity of Spanish and Latin-American journals. The editorial work has been meticulously accurate, and hardly any typographical errors may be found, despite the large number of languages represented in the list.

FESTSCHRIFTEN

Ulf Kjaer Hansen's *Danske Jubilaumskrifter; en Bibliografi og et Forsøg på en Vurdering* (Copenhagen, Einar Harcks Forlag, 1955; "Skrifter for Salgsorganisation og Reklame ved Handelshøjskolen i København," 18) is a guide to a body of literature that often contains basic source material. If, however, a quick check of eighty entries in the National Union Catalog is a dependable guide to their availability in this country, few American libraries own them. Only seven locations were found.

The Danes are great enthusiasts for anniversary volumes in all fields of human endeavor. Newspapers, restaurants, museums, banks, singing societies, dairies, soccer teams, and brandy distilleries are among the wide variety of honorees which may be found in this bibliography. Some of the titles are unimportant, but others, such as H. P. Rohde's *Dansk Bogillustration 1800-1890* or T. Vogel-Jørgensen's *Berlingske Tidende gennem to Hundrede Aar, 1749-1949* (1959: 3 vols.), are of greatest importance. Hansen lists over five thousand jubilee publications from 1723 to 1950. The arrangement is by year and alphabetically by author under each

year. Unfortunately, there is no author or subject index. Hansen's introductory essay on the development of the genre, its character, function, and content, and the volume of publication is a valuable contribution to the history of publishing. There is no English summary, a customary feature of other volumes in this series. The bibliography is, nevertheless, a reference work of considerable value and has a place in all large libraries.

ILLUSTRATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The publication of the fourth and final volume of Joachim Kirchner's *Lexikon des Buchwesens* marks the completion of a significant reference work, of which the last two volumes have no counterpart in modern times. The third and fourth volumes are a *Bilderatlas zum Buchwesen* and constitute a pictorial record of all aspects of the book, bibliography, and librarianship. To assemble a comparable graphic record of the book, it would be necessary to go through a collection of books and periodicals that may be found only in the largest libraries.

The first volume of illustrations (vol. III of the whole work) contained material on the book in general, book illustration, and bookbinding, amounting to 412 illustrations in all. The second volume of illustrations (vol. IV of the whole work) contains material on printing, paper, the book trade, libraries, and book collecting, 545 illustrations in all. The problem of selection was clearly a difficult one, and all such works are open to criticism. Kirchner, however, has surely attained his basic objective of adequate pictorial documentation of the book.

The section on libraries is especially significant, for it includes many exteriors and interiors not generally familiar to American librarians. The Jagiellonian Library in Cracow, the new University of Saarbrücken Library, and the Bulgarian National Library are a few which rarely appear in publications read by English-speaking librarians. There are several interesting examples of the old hall-library for such noble collections as the Austrian National Library or the St. Gall Stiftsbibliothek (but totally inadequate for a modern functional library).

The two volumes of the *Bilderatlas zum Buchwesen* should be required for study somewhere in the professional training of every librarian and bookseller. Without a graphic concept of the material reproduced in these two volumes, a bookman can be at best little more than an ambulant Univac machine.

SWEDISH PRINTING

Bengt Bengtsson's *Svenskt stiltgjuteri före år 1700; studier i svensk boktryckerihistoria* (Stockholm, Skolan for bokhantverk, 1956) is one of those distinguished Scandinavian doctoral dissertations which deserve a far better fate than interment in the compact bookstacks of MILC. The history of type founding in Sweden reflects, in general, the same trends that were dominant nearly everywhere north of the Alps. At the same time, however, the embryonic state of European industry and the problems of transportation compelled all printers to show considerable resourcefulness as type founders and even ink, press, and occasionally paper manufacturers. One of the most remarkable innovations was the creation of a runic alphabet by the learned antiquarian Johannes Bureus, around the beginning of the seventeenth century. Another unusual aspect of Swedish type founding was the work of Peter van Selow after 1618. He was originally employed to cut Cyrillic types for Sweden's new Baltic provinces, but soon he acquired a virtual monopoly on type production, both Gothic and Roman. In general, German influences were predominant in Swedish type design until the latter part of the seventeenth century, when Dutch influences became predominant.

Bengtsson's meticulous study has taken him not only to collections of early Swedish printed books but also to long-forgotten specimen sheets, estate inventories, and related documents. The text is richly illustrated with facsimiles, and there is an extensive English summary. Bengtsson's work is a cornerstone in Swedish typographical studies and a model for similar studies in other countries.

LITERARY DICTIONARIES

A series of recent German literary dictionaries deserves special attention, since the

entire group has relatively little duplication, and each volume has its particular use. The *Kleines literarisches Lexikon* (Bern, Francke, 1953), edited by Wolfgang Kayser, incorporates three earlier literary dictionaries published by Francke as vols. 15-17 of the well known "Sammlung Dalp," viz., *Literarisches Sachwörterbuch*, *Deutsche Literatur*, and *Weltliteratur*. The first 162 pages of this new edition constitute a separate dictionary of literary terms, genres, and concepts. The next 415 pages include an alphabetical bibliographical dictionary of world literature. The last twenty-five pages contain an index arranged according to national literatures, with a list of authors on whom there are articles under each literature and a few chrestomathies. Most of the articles in both parts of the dictionary proper contain references mainly, but not exclusively, in German. The articles are not signed, but the introduction lists the contributors in each field.

The *Kleines literarisches Lexikon* is handy, accurate, and authoritative. As a desk reference, it has no equal among single-volume works in small format. Quite naturally, the job of selection was the most difficult. The twenty American authors are well chosen (although there is the ubiquitous Jack London, a *sine qua non* for a European work dealing with American literature) and are given the right proportional space. There is an overwhelming proportion of German writers, but it is the announced intention of the work to be a dictionary of world literature and German literature.

LITERARY HANDBOOK

For students of classical literature who find the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* a bit too ponderous for desk use, the *Oxford Companion to Classical Literature* (1937) or the recent *Kleines Lexikon der Antike* (Bern, Francke, 1950; 2nd ed.; "Sammlung Dalp," vol. 14) by Otto Hiltbrunner are considerably more practical for ready reference. Hiltbrunner and the *Oxford Companion* cover essentially the same ground, but they use a large proportion of different entry words and thus supplement one another. Hiltbrunner has the useful feature of short bibliographies, missing from the *Oxford*

Companion and many short reference books of a similar type in English. Hiltbrunner covers all aspects of antiquity, including literature, history, art, philosophy, geography, and mythology. His chronological range extends from pre-Homeric times up to the sixth century A.D. Just as in the *Kleines literarisches Lexikon*, the most difficult problem in compiling the *Kleines Lexikon der Antike* was selection and limitation. Hiltbrunner met this challenge admirably, and the final result is a dependable but convenient work that should find a home not only in scholars' studies but also in libraries' reference collections.

MODERN LITERATURE

Two dictionaries of modern literature by Franz Lennartz have appeared in the series of "Kröners Taschenausgaben." The first is *Dichter und Schriftsteller unserer Zeit* (Stuttgart, Alfred Kröner Verlag, 1954; 6th ed. of *Die Dichter unserer Zeit*), with biographies of 273 modern German authors, and the second is *Ausländische Dichter und Schriftsteller unserer Zeit* (Stuttgart, Alfred Kröner Verlag, 1955), with biographies of over three hundred non-German writers. Much like such works as *Twentieth Century Authors*, these two books have compact, highly readable sketches of writers who have been productive in the last fifty years.

The volume on German writers is especially valuable. It covers many authors whose names appear frequently in the English-language press, but who are known only slightly outside of German-speaking countries. At the same time, we get new insights into the work of such well-translated authors as Franz Werfel, Stefan Zweig, or Lion Feuchtwanger. Lennartz includes not only belletristic writers but also journalists such as C. W. Ceram (Kurt W. Marek), travellers such as Heinrich Hauser, and other modern German writers in all fields who have enjoyed a wide readership. Lennartz' work is a useful and entertaining companion to twentieth-century German literature.

The problem of compiling the book on *Ausländische Dichter und Schriftsteller unserer Zeit* was a difficult one. In general, Lennartz' choices are felicitous, and he has omitted no major writer in any language.

The sketches range from one to ten pages and are written in an unusually spritely style for a reference work, but without the loss of dignity and perspective. Only belletristic writers are included. All their major works are mentioned in the text of the article, and a symbol is used to indicate whether German translations exist. This latter feature is quite valuable in the case of certain Slavic authors whose works have not been completely translated into English.

Together, Lennartz' two volumes are exceptionally useful for the study of modern literature. They are actually more than ordinary literary biographical dictionaries, since many of the articles are long enough to provide some critical perspective.

BILINGUAL DICTIONARY

To evaluate properly any bilingual dictionary requires constant use over a period of several years to ascertain its comprehensiveness, accuracy, adaptability to various types of reading matter, sense for idiom and syntax, and the utility of its special features. The late Karl Wildhagen's *English-German Dictionary* (Wiesbaden, Brandstetter Verlag, 1956; 6th ed.) assumed its present form with the third edition of 1946, and it has been widely accepted in German-speaking countries, although it is somewhat less well known in English-speaking countries.

The second volume, *German-English Dictionary* (Wiesbaden, Brandstetter Verlag, 1953) required eight years for completion by Will Héraucourt, and those who have used it for the past four years have found in it substantially the same qualities that distinguished the first volume. With the supplementary material, the second volume includes 1,345 closely printed, double-columned pages (as against 822 triple-columned pages in the English-German volume); and it is likely that no other desk dictionary with one volume for each alphabet exceeds it in scope. Like virtually all continental bilingual dictionaries, the Wildhagen-Héraucourt shows a definite bias towards British English; due attention is, nevertheless, given to American idiom and pronunciation. There is a high degree of idiomatic accuracy, and particular attention is given to specialized jargons. The vocabularies of

printing and bookbinding were checked in the Wildhagen-Héraucourt and in three other German-English desk dictionaries. None included all the less well-known terms, but the Wildhagen-Héraucourt contained a larger number of the more common terms than any other. Special sections in the German-English volume are given over to geographical names, abbreviations, weights and measures, and German paradigms. Of all the English-German and German-English desk dictionaries in print at present, the Wildhagen-Héraucourt may be given the highest recommendation.

PHILOSOPHY

With Hinrich Knittermeyer's revision of the second volume of Karl Vorländer's *Geschichte der Philosophie* (Hamburg, Verlag von Richard Meiner, 1955; 9th ed.) under the title of "Die Philosophie der Neuzeit bis Kant," the first postwar edition of this now classic history of philosophy is two-thirds complete. The ninth edition of the first volume appeared in 1949 under the editorship of Erwin Metzke and with a concluding chapter (mainly on Nicholas of Cusa) by the late Ernst Hoffmann. A final volume, "Nachkantische Philosophie bis zur Gegenwart," to conclude the set, will appear early in 1958 under the editorship of Professor Knittermeyer. Vorländer's great work is probably the most convenient of all short histories of philosophy, and the slow process of revision of *Überweg* makes Vorländer a fundamental piece of furniture in any philosopher's study or scholarly library. Most valuable of all are the carefully selected bibliographies of secondary literature to accompany the lists of critical editions. At the same time, however, the narrative part of the history is compact, accurate, and well adapted to ready reference.

The entire text and bibliographies have been completely revised from the prewar edition. Special attention should be given to the revision of Hoffmann's pages on Nicholas Cusa. Hoffmann's monumental edition of Nicholas and the recognition of Cusanus as one of the last German mystics have necessitated this chapter. Knittermeyer's detailed treatment of the life and teachings of Kant is a special feature of his revision of the second volume.