

and family purchasers, the publisher of course makes available its yearbook, but librarians will probably be more pleased to observe the sustained attempts being manifested to keep the basic work revised and updated. We wish *Collier's* all success in this effort.—D.K.

The Cornell Library Conference: Papers Read at the Dedication of the Central Libraries, October, 1962. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Library, 1964. xiv, 148p. (64-13711).

This slender volume contains the ten papers read at the Cornell dedication in the autumn of 1962. There are contributions by six librarians: Sir Frank Francis, Stephen A. McCarthy, Ralph E. Ellsworth, William S. Dix, Raynard C. Swank, George H. Healy; two professors: Lionel Trilling, and Steven Muller; one academic administrator: W. R. Keast, and one architect: Charles H. Warner, Jr. The papers vary in length, quality, and content but have a unifying theme which is libraries and graduate and undergraduate education, libraries and international affairs, and library development in the future—topics that are seasonable as well as perennial.

The paper by Sir Frank Francis, "Let the Past and Future Fire Thy Brain," is long, circuitous, and tranquilizing. Director McCarthy, in "The Cornell Library System," briefly described the development of the Cornell library system and revealed plans and hopes for the future. Mr. Warner concisely related the agony and ecstasy experienced in designing the Olin library and re-designing the Uris library. W. R. Keast, in "The True University of These Days Is a Collection of Books," explored the sweeping educational potential of the undergraduate library if use went beyond study hall and reserved reading functions. Professor Trilling, in "The Scholar's Caution and the Scholar's Courage," was critically concerned with the current quality of graduate studies in the humanities. Ellis Worth's "Libraries, Students, and Faculty," rebuked librarians for some current practices, universities for wasteful duplication of curriculums, and endorsed the humanities. Muller, in "Shrunken Globe, Swollen Curriculum," reviewed the internationalization of the American university curriculum and described the bur-

dens and responsibilities this revolution has brought to the libraries. Dix, in "The Research Library and International Affairs Programs," spoke of library methods used to meet the challenge of the internationalized university. Swank, in "International Values in American Librarianship," defined librarianship as an "international affair in its own right" and discussed those aspects of American library practice which he considered valuable for export to developing nations. George Healey, in "Yes, But What Does a Curator Do?" gave answer to the question in a clever and delightful manner.

It is a significant event in the world of higher education when a most pressing educational problem is solved by large-scale investment in library buildings. It becomes more so when a private university with a strong tradition for academic excellence elects to demonstrate this evidence of long-range planning and faith in the value of quality education in this tangible manner. This book may be considered a memento of two pleasant days, or a reminder of the courage and foresight of the Cornell University administration.—Cecil K. Byrd, *Indiana University*.

Library Buildings of Britain and Europe—An International Study, with Examples Mainly from Britain and Some from Europe and Overseas. By Anthony Thompson. London: Butterworths, 1963. xii, 326p. \$21.

This is a comprehensive work on library buildings. Since they are so richly documented, Anthony Thompson has successfully coordinated a large portion of the mass of available information and has presented it in a systematic and readable form. This reviewer agrees with the author when he says that he has tried to do the almost impossible—to illustrate with plans and photographs selected good examples of the main types of libraries, chiefly British, with a number from Europe, plus some notes on several outstanding exemplary buildings in the United States and British Commonwealth. He has produced "a systematic study of the whole subject, to serve not only as a reference book for students of librarianship, but also as a guide for librarians intending to build, and as a book on libraries for architects" (p. xi).

Anthony Thompson writes as a librarian who, after varied experience in university and special libraries and after much preliminary study of the planning and design of library buildings, spent five years at intensive documentation at the library of the Royal Institute of British Architects. From his point of view, Wheeler and Githens produced the only systematic, comprehensive, and well illustrated book on library buildings, *The American Public Library Building*, 1941. Mr. Thompson frequently refers to this volume and in his introduction he expresses regret that he did not have a full-time architect-collaborator.

In a brief review of this monumental work attention can best be called to the original form of documentation adopted by the author by giving an outline of the contents of the volume.

Part I is a summary of the problems and tasks of creating a library. It is a definite statement of nine subjects: (1) functions and services of libraries; (2) the planning process; (3) the site; (4) the plan; (5) exterior and construction; (6) interior finishes and decoration; (7) equipment and furniture; (8) accommodation and capacity; (9) cost. Selected general references are included.

Part II is devoted to an analysis of existing buildings. Section A contains a brief history of library buildings. It is introduced with summaries of libraries: in Classical Antiquity, in the Dark Ages, and in the Middle Ages. Then follow brief sketches of separate libraries in chronological order.

Section B consists of examples of modern buildings since about 1920. These are described systematically using the outline shown as Part I above. Many of these descriptions are in detail, with photographs and plans on two uniform scales, 1:300 or 1:600. They are divided into four types: (a) six national libraries and the Library of Congress Annex; (b) twenty-seven public libraries—seven branch, thirteen central, and seven county—including the Enoch Pratt free library and the public library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County; (c) twenty-six libraries of educational institutions—four school, six college, and sixteen university libraries. The college group includes the libraries of Georgia Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and

Rice Institute. The group of university libraries includes Harvard's Lamont library, the undergraduate library of the University of Michigan, and the libraries of the University of Iowa, Wayne State, and Maryland; (d) five storage libraries are described, one of which is the Midwest Inter-Library Center.

Thus, Anthony Thompson has made an original contribution to knowledge in perfecting a new form of documentation for libraries. He has produced a truly systematic, comprehensive, and well illustrated work with international coverage. His work merits intensive study by every type of library building consultant, by librarians who are to plan a building, and by architects who are interested in qualifying as library architects.—A. F. Kuhlman, *Joint University Libraries*.

Microcopying Methods. By H. R. Verry. London: Focal Press, 1964. 175p. \$10.50.

H. R. Verry is a well known British consultant on documentation and reproduction and the writer of a column on the subject in the *Revue Internationale de Documentation*, but his latest book is a disappointingly shoddy production. Billed (in Verry's own column) as "a comprehensive survey," it is incomprehensive, incomprehensible in spots, seriously out-of-date, and carelessly edited. The chapter called "The History of Microfilm," for example, is devoted almost exclusively to a retelling of the familiar story of René Dagon and the pigeons; the section on "Tests for Permanence" makes no mention of the widely used ASA standard test; and the only consideration given to copyright problems is a reprinting (as Appendix II) of the Royal Society Declaration of 1949. The publication date is July 1964, but much of the material has not been updated since 1961 or 1962. No mention is made in the chapter on "Rapid Selector Devices" of systems developed since 1961, such as Walnut, CRIS or Miracode, and the chapter on "Microfiche" describes it as "a sheet of film generally 7.5 cm. x 12.5 cm. (3 x 5 inches) in size." The section on "Standards" lists ASA standard Z38.7.17-1946 (which was replaced in 1961 by PH5.6-1961), and PH5.2-1957 (which has been replaced by PH5.2-1963), and it omits entirely a number of other pertinent stan-