

# Recent Publications

## BOOK REVIEWS

***Northwestern Approaches: the First Century of Books.*** By R. D. Hilton Smith. Victoria, B.C.: The Adelphi Book Shop Ltd., 1969. 67p. \$6.50.

This I know. Any book about the Pacific Northwest is a collector's item. *Northwestern Approaches* passes muster for other reasons, too. It is something in the nature of a bibliography printed and published in British Columbia, and issued in a limited edition of 750 copies. The book derives from a series of lectures given to the students of the University of British Columbia School of Librarianship in 1966. Mr. Smith devoted his talks to "books written by the explorers of British Columbia and its approaches during the century which began with Bering's first voyage and ended with Sir George Simpson's second journey to the Columbia." This meant no inhibition, however, for "British Columbia and its approaches" virtually covers the Pacific rim.

The book contains tidy thumbnail accounts of major explorations conducted from Russia, Spain, Great Britain, France, and the United States during the hundred years, 1728 to 1828. Mr. Smith's repertory of books arising from these explorations includes works that any librarian or schooled layman must take cognizance of if he wishes to reside and live long in the Pacific Northwest. Regionalism is inexorable, and nobody in the Pacific Northwest can afford to be a landlubber. To survive, one must be conversant with Captain Vancouver's ship, the *Discovery*, and know that Captain Cook had a *Discovery*, too, as well as a *Resolution*. *Northwestern Approaches* provides a key to these and approximately forty other never-to-be-forgotten ships, including the *New Hazard* of Stephen Reynolds, the *Astrolabe* of La Pérouse, the *Neva* of Urey Lisiansky, and the *Argonaut* of James Colnett. Furthermore, Mr. Smith would never forsake rele-

vant place names. A cursory examination of his check-list and index evokes such memorable names as Vitus Bering of Bering Sea, Robert Gray of Gray's Harbor, Simon Fraser of Fraser River, and George Vancouver of Vancouver Island, along with Alexander Mackenzie, David Thompson, Otto von Kotzebue, John Jewitt, and Baron de Lesseps.

The longest chapter in *Northwestern Approaches* has to do with British land and sea explorations conducted, it is so hard to believe, during the height of the American Revolution. Mr. Smith's narrative contains sufficient historical chronology to place each bibliographic entry in a proper perspective.

*Northwestern Approaches* should be as acceptable to *aficionados* of Pacific Northwest Americana as it can be useful to compatriots who wish merely to acquire a hazy impression of early explorations and voyages. The narrative is clear and easy on the mind. Since Hilton Smith is an experienced librarian and alert bookman, he is nicely attuned to British Columbian. He has enriched his presentation with twelve judiciously chosen illustrations. Dr. Samuel Rothstein originated the library school lectures and contributed a Foreword to them.—Harry C. Bauer, University of Washington.

***Junior College Libraries: Development, Needs, and Perspectives.*** By Everett LeRoy Moore, ed. (*ACRL Monograph*, No. 30). Chicago: American Library Association, 1969. 104p. (68-56370).

*Community Junior College Libraries: Development, Needs, and Perspectives* should have been the title of this publication. This brief volume is a collection of nineteen papers submitted at the Conference on Junior College Libraries held at the University of California, Los Angeles, June 21-24, 1967. Except for Ralph S. Emerick, Director of the Library at Stephens College, who represented the private junior college library, all the program

participants were either from or directed their remarks specifically to the new public community junior college library.

Reiterated by the conference speakers was the fact that an open door admissions policy and low tuition assures the community college a heterogeneous student body, and this in turn necessitates a commitment to comprehensive education. Courses of study must be provided for adult education, the college transfer student, technical-occupational training, and there must be cultural programs for the community. The conference recognized the magnitude of the undertaking and the responsibilities it placed upon the library.

Repeatedly expressed was the view that the goals of such institutions could not be achieved by traditional methods or by emulating four-year institutions. The call was for creativity, perception, innovation, and experimentation.

The community college library indeed faces a tremendous task if it is to supply materials for students with such varied educational abilities and goals. Traditionally, college libraries have been used by the scholar and the researcher. The community college library's aim is to reach all segments of its heterogeneous student body and not have the library isolated from the learning processes.

Speaker consensus was that the goal of the library should be to become truly a learning resources center. This would mean joining books and periodicals with TV and radio, films, filmstrips, slides, tapes, records, microforms, and graphics, and providing audio-tutorial approaches, programmed learning, dial access listening, or any other media that would stimulate the individual learner. The reviewer agrees that the library should be a learning resources center, but is troubled that many of the papers gave the impression that simply combining the proper quantities of software and hardware with a librarian willing to use the equipment or work with an A-V specialist would *ipso facto* make the library a dynamic institution. In this regard the remarks of Norman E. Tanis, Director of the Library at Kansas State College, were refreshing. "Much of the current innovation in education is like an

end-of-season sale in an audiovisual supply shop or in a warehouse for cut-rate computers, 'His' and 'Hers' talking typewriters, wet and dry carrels, or a Marshal McLuhan environment. There is a good deal more to a junior college library than the proper mixture of hardware and software." A student can shut his eyes during a film or block out sound as easily as he can refuse to open a book.

Although it suffers from some of the usual generalizations and redundancies inherent in conference proceedings, the book is recommended to librarians and other educators primarily because it spells out promising approaches to solving the problems of the developing community junior college library.—Linda Osterman, *Peace College*.

**Special Libraries and Information Services in India and in the U.S.A.** By Jibananda Saha. Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, 1969. 216p. \$5.

Shri Saha wrote the first part of this book as Chief Librarian (and business manager, thanks to his Columbia Library School training) of the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta; the second part resulted from a three-month travel grant supplied by the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research. While in the United States Saha visited our *gurus*, Robert Hayes, Don Swanson, and Jesse Shera. He made the necessary pilgrimages to our temples of documentation, NASA, the National Library of Medicine, the Library of Congress, Crerar, and Project Intrex, plus such lesser shrines as Bell and Esso, Smith Kline and French, and Lockheed Missiles and Space Company, and three different IBM sites.

My chief regret about this book is that Saha is not a more vivid writer. I would have liked to know what we look like through Indian eyes. I treasure Eric Jantsch's OECD report "A Study of Information Problems in the Electrotechnical Sector" if only for such sentences as: ". . . one of the most surprising incidents on his tour, when, at Douglas Aircraft . . . he was received by a circle of nice motherly ladies who turned out to have designed and to run one of the most ad-