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Shores, Louis. *Quiet World: A Librarian's Crusade for Destiny. The Professional Autobiography of Louis Shores*. Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1975. 309p. \$15.00. (LC 75-2220) ISBN 0-208-01477-2)

Louis Shores' professional career has spanned more than forty years at mid-century. He has, by his own count, been engaged in twenty "crusades" of which library education has been the overriding one, and the others which have most deeply engaged him have been for one race, basic reference, encyclopedia, library-college, media unity, and library history.

The main thrust of his work has been to move the library from an ancillary position to that as a primary instrument for independent learning. He defines the ultimate goal of the public library as independent study for all; he believes that reference librarians should initiate inquiry rather than merely answer the questions put to them; he has fathered the library-college which seeks to increase effectiveness of student learning through use of library-centered independent study, and he has vigorously promoted audiovisual unity with other library resources as a means to extending independent learning down into the secondary and elementary grades.

In Shores' account of his early life, the roots of his zeal for independent study can be readily identified. At the age of four his sister took him to the neighborhood branch of the Cleveland Public Library where a children's librarian brought him fairy stories and occasionally read with him. By the time he entered first grade he could already read, a fact which gave him superiority over his classmates. In high school he discovered for himself, as a means of dealing with an abstruse textbook on physics, the value of comparing authorities. In an economics class he made use of an encyclopedic overview to impress the pretty young teacher. Both these incidents, he says, contributed to the library-college learning mode. At the University of Toledo he was discontented with the class-centered curriculum.

Dr. Shores repeatedly says that he dis-

likes to "tell it as it is," by which he means that he eschews the grotesque in art, the sordid in literature, and defeatism in his outlook for the human race. If he does not actually believe in the perfectability of man, he at least believes man can save himself by his own intellect given the quiet and resources of our libraries.

A great deal is packed into this book, which perhaps accounts for the fact that in the first part especially the style of writing seems a little spare. However, there are some delightful bits such as the nine-year-old boy Walter-Mittying around his newspaper route or the Fulbright scholar Shores entertaining S. R. Ranganathan and introducing the subject of occultism rather than classification so that Mrs. Shores found the two men on the floor in lotus leaf fashion when she entered the living room. The pages on intellectual freedom are among the liveliest in the book.

Dr. Shores has a mystic feeling about his quiet world of the library, a feeling which comes whenever he enters the stacks and smells the mustiness of old bindings, that he has been there before—long before. Almost every adult has experienced this feeling of déjà vu and that librarian is a poor thing who in a silent stack cannot thrill to the sense of the continuity of man's mind and spirit.

This book is a fascinating chapter in the history of librarianship.—*Helen M. Brown, Librarian, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts.*

Lancaster, F. Wilfrid, ed. *Application of Minicomputers to Library and Related Problems*. Papers presented at the 1974 Clinic on Library Applications of Data Processing, April 28–May 1, 1974. Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois Graduate School of Library Science, 1974. 195p. \$6.00. (Available from Pub. Office—249, Armory Building, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL 61820.) (LC 65-1841) (ISBN 0-87845-041-6)

This is not so much a review as a whine; my major quarrel with this book is not with its content, format, intent, or expertise of the contributors; it is the fact that by the time you read this review, or get around to the book itself, the information in it will be two years old, and considerably out of date.