

search collections and scholarly work of large public libraries as they may relate to his major theme.

Davies argues that public libraries, founded by nineteenth-century upper- and middle-class philanthropists convinced of the perfectibility of humankind, eager to uplift the masses, and persuaded that reading was intrinsically virtuous and refining, were, like other educational and cultural institutions, started by similar people and for similar reasons (lyceums, athenaeums, literary and scientific societies, mechanics' institutes), paternalistic and elitist. Being neither initiated by the people they were endeavoring to improve nor, as it turned out, heavily patronized by them, libraries suffered from the contradiction between the high aims of their founders and the low level of their use. Most people simply did not read, and even fewer would read serious books. So public libraries, unlike scholarly libraries with their ready-made and motivated clientele, resorted to "nonbook" activities to attract the populace: classes, festivals, exhibitions, lectures, contests, excursions, slide shows, performances of plays, film showings, concerts, even karate demonstrations. The object was thus to stimulate somehow the reading of books, and failing that, to make libraries "centers of culture" or "social and entertainment centers"—all without evidence of success and in face of a perpetually small reading public and competition from more powerful and more efficient purveyors of culture, social services, and entertainment. Unable or unwilling to confront these realities, public libraries remain anachronistic institutions on the nineteenth-century uplift model, mindlessly emulating the long gone lyceums, et al. They would do well instead to confine themselves to a perfectly respectable and useful role as specialized agencies dealing with books and with information gleaned from books.

This is an awfully simple solution to a not-so-simple set of problems, and therein is the basic limitation of Davies' book. The subject is bigger and more complex than his slender treatment of it, so that the strength of his views makes the book thesis-ridden. As a work of history, it is a sketchy survey, mildly provocative, slightly idiosyncratic,

and highly opinionated. This is too bad, as Davies does have something to say.—*Phyllis Dain, Associate Professor, School of Library Service, Columbia University.*

Faculty Status for Academic Librarians: A History and Policy Statements. Compiled by the Committee on Academic Status of the Association of College and Research Libraries. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1975. 55p. \$3.50. (LC 75-29403) (ISBN 0-8389-5455-8)

The object of this booklet, compiled by the Committee on Academic Status of ACRL, is to make available basic documents related to faculty status for academic librarians. It includes the "Standards for Faculty Status for College and University Librarians" (adopted by ACRL in June 1971); the 1974 "Statement on Faculty Status of College and University Librarians" as drafted by a committee of the ACRL, AAC, and AAUP; and a "Model Statement of Criteria and Procedures for Appointment, Promotion in Academic Rank, and Tenure for College and University Librarians" (approved by the ACRL in 1974).

It is good to have all of this material now available in one place. A special addition to this volume is the essay by the late Arthur M. McAnally, "Status of the University Librarian in the Academic Community," reprinted from the 1971 volume, *Research Librarianship: Essays in Honor of Robert B. Downs* (Bowker). As a review of the literature, it is excellent; and what he says is eminently sensible, especially about the evolution of librarian faculty status. As a brief summary of future developments, it is particularly interesting since four years have passed; and the budget situations at many schools now make some of his possibilities seem more elusive than ever, particularly the nine-month year. What he does emphasize is that the whole question of faculty status is complex and interrelated with many factors.

All library faculties or departments should reread the June 1971 ACRL "Standards for Faculty Status for College and University Librarians" and apply the criteria to themselves. How many can say "We do!" to all nine standards? Finally,

the "Model Statement of Criteria" would be useful to any library setting up by laws and personnel procedures.

All in all, this collection is useful to have at hand and will be referred to again and again.—John V. Crowley, Assistant Director, Milne Library, State University College, Oneonta, New York.

Anderson, Charles B., ed. *Bookselling in America and the World: Some Observations & Recollections in Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the American Booksellers Association*. New York: Quadrangle/The New York Times Book Co., 1975. 214p. \$9.50. (LC 74-24294) (ISBN 0-8129-0539-3)

Delavenay, Emile. *For Books*. (Unesco and its Programme) Paris: Unesco, 1974. 74p. \$1.00. (Available from Unipub, Inc., P.O. Box 433, New York, NY 10016) (ISBN 92-3-101147-2)

The booktrade and book distribution are essential to the intellectual universe of which libraries are also part. Yet, all too many books we see about bookselling focus on a single facet: the lore of the antiquarian book shop and the memoirs of famous rare bookdealers. One, therefore, turns with considerable anticipation to two new volumes promising to deal more broadly with this important phase of information exchange. The collection edited by Anderson, a well-known bookdealer and former ABA president, is an "olla podrida" of presumably original essays and selections from previously issued materials. In the former category, John Tebbel and Sigfried Taubert offer short histories of American and world bookselling respectively. These are followed by brief sketches of the association since its founding in 1900 by former *Publishers Weekly* editor Chandler B. Grannis and a glimpse of best-sellers over the same period by Alice Payne Hackett. The other items are snippets and snappets by such bookdealers and book lovers as Sylvia Beach, H. L. Mencken, and Adolph Kroch.

My initial expectations were dampened by the fact that Anderson's book is more a keepsake of an event than a serious work. Although a memorial, it was put on the market for a price, and thus we are entitled to rate it for content and utility. Some-

times, it is difficult to tell what is original and what is not. Large chunks of Tebbel's otherwise rather good piece are quarried—almost word for word—from his monumental *History of Book Publishing in the United States* (1972-). Taubert draws heavily on his earlier studies for his text and all his illustrations from his fascinating *Bibliopola* (1966). His essay proper is weakened by its nation-by-nation structure. This fragmentary approach is of doubtful validity. It leads, for example, to his offering a section on the Australian/New Zealand trade but none on those of the more important Lowlands, Switzerland, and Italy. Hackett merely updates her earlier chronicles on best-sellers and provides none of the insight or depth afforded by works like those of J. Hart and F. L. Mott on the subject. Somewhat more informative is Grannis on the association and its activities. One would dearly like to know more about the ABA as a trade lobby, how it applies pressures, and to what ends; also, which types of bookdealers wielded organizational strength and how. I was particularly intrigued by the several passing references to the expansion of the chain bookstore phenomenon and dearly wanted to know more about it.

Commemorations of the personal bookstore ("gentlest profession," "the happiest fraternity") are a recurring theme in the collection and must be pronounced unobjectionable in themselves. I for one have always rather enjoyed the treacly, nostalgic evocations of Christopher Morley and company. But, to strike a rural parallel, we ought not allow the persistent and haunting dream of "family farms" to shield us from the reality that the large-scale, corporate agribusiness is fast becoming the characteristic mode in agriculture. So, too, it appears that the number of full, personal bookstores may be declining with the growth of the chains which monotonously stress best-sellers and remainders as well as self-service. Is not this concentration-in-distribution, if true, a potentially ominous development in the free exchange of ideas? Librarians and others must remain vigilant to changes in this trend.

Anderson's collection, then, is less a handy compendium of current bookselling than a mish-mash of materials mostly available