

plague us now, as they plagued his country.

In addition to a description of the solutions to provision of scientific literature quickly to those who need it, the festschrift contains some chapters not directly related to his endeavors, but as tribute offerings in his honor. Particularly useful to this reviewer were those of Donald Urquhart's successor, M. B. Line, on "Demystification in Librarianship and Information Science," and B. J. Enright's "Bibliochlothanasia: Library Hygiene and the Library."

Since a festschrift is a very personal kind of work, a review of it may be excused for being personal also, if only because the reviewer had the opportunity in 1964 with other ARL Board members to meet with Dr. Urquhart, and to have a personally conducted tour of the young NLLST and an explanation of its origins, its workings, and a glance into the future. The only regret remaining is that a continuing personal association could not have developed on that base. But Seattle is a transpolar flight from London and Boston Spa. A substitute in the form of reading, as they appeared, of most of Donald Urquhart's library and information journal articles, is only second best to continuous dialogue with him.

One can only envy those individuals in the United Kingdom and his European colleagues who had the privilege of closer and more intimate professional association.

Having once been ill served by the publication of a book in poor format, this reviewer can comment on the poor format of this festschrift in honor of Donald Urquhart. The type face is so small that it takes some dedication to the task, or extreme interest in Donald Urquhart, to read the fine print and to turn the stiff pages. Yet it was worth the effort to work through to the end because the subject is worth that effort.—*Marion A. Milczewski, Director of Libraries, University of Washington Libraries.*

Duckett, Kenneth W. *Modern Manuscripts: A Practical Manual for Their Management, Care and Use.* Nashville, Tenn.: American Association for State and Local History, 1975. 375p. \$16.00. (LC 75-5717) (ISBN 0-910050-16-3)

It is a pleasure to begin this review by saying that Ken Duckett has indeed written

a very good book about manuscripts. As its title indicates, it is about modern manuscripts, and its "scope is limited to manuscripts of the seventeenth century to the present." The preface points out that the book is a manual "directed toward the novice curator" and that "it is intended to serve as a practical guide, not as an exposition of theory." The author is considerate in pointing out that his research terminated on January 1, 1974, and that he was, therefore, unable to include information which appeared after that date.

The book is organized so that after an introduction by William T. Alderson, the executive secretary of the American Association for State and Local History, and a preface by Duckett, the first chapter presents a "Survey of Manuscript Collecting." It is followed by chapters on administration; acquisitions: the mechanics and ethics; physical care and conservation; establishing bibliographic control; information retrieval: automation, the computer, and microphotography; nonmanuscript material; use of collections; and public service. These nine chapters are followed by three appendixes, the first of which presents plans for a records center carton and for a flat-storage manuscript box; the second is a table of equivalents (cartons, Hollinger boxes and other containers, and their cubic-foot capacities; pages per box or per other container; carton and container weights; reduction ratios and reel/cassette viewing times); and the third is a perpetual calendar. These appendixes are followed by a "Directory," which is a guide to associations, publications, equipment, supplies, and service; by "Facsimilies—a list of items more commonly reproduced"; and then by the notes, which are quite excellent. After the notes comes a "Glossary of Selected Terms," then an extensive bibliography (twenty-five pages, with the items listed alphabetically by author). The volume concludes with an index.

The book is well written, accurate, and useful. Duckett's suggestion that it is "directed toward the novice curator" is far too modest an appraisal. There is much here that will be of value to all curators, from the most experienced to the beginner, for while the beginner will get his start here,

the experienced professional will find this both an excellent place to review or to "brush up" and to begin an extended study of a particular phase of his vocation. A minor annoyance to this reviewer is the form in which the notes appear: only author, title, and the particular page or pages are listed. To get the full citation involves an unnecessary, separate trip to the bibliography, where the author entry must be checked.

This minor matter aside, Fred C. Cole and the Council on Library Resources (who supported the research); the Association for State and Local History, which published the volume; and most of all Ken Duckett, are to be congratulated for producing this very fine addition to library and archival literature.—*Clyde C. Walton, Northern Illinois University.*

Cowley, John, ed. *Libraries in Higher Education: The User Approach to Service*. Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1975. 163p. \$11.50. (ISBN 0-208-013710-7)

Libraries in Higher Education is not, as the title implies, a study of libraries in all institutions of higher education, but is actually a series of essays by the staff of the North London Polytechnic reflecting the special concerns of polytechnic libraries. The British polytechnic institution as it stands today exists as a counterbalance to the university in the British system of higher education. First defined in a 1966 White Paper, entitled *A Plan for Polytechnics and Other Colleges*, which initiated their formation through amalgamation of colleges of commerce, technology, design, and art, the polytechnics have swiftly evolved into institutions which satisfy the utilitarian needs of society, offer scheduling more flexible than that of the universities in order to meet the needs of the mid-career student, and now are beginning to move toward research and the liberal arts.

The introductory essay in the volume by the editor gives a brief survey of the evolution of the polytechnic as an institution; but it is somewhat difficult for the non-British librarian unfamiliar with the traditions of British higher education and its attendant acronyms.

The volume proper is divided into two parts: "Promoting Library Use" and "Subject Specialisation." Part one includes chapters on "Organising for Reader Services," "Public Relations and Publicity," "Non-print Media," and "Teaching Library Use." While these essays are sincere descriptions of the working situations of librarians attempting to render quality service with insufficient funding, they tend to be reiterations of topics that have received more extensive and better treatment elsewhere in the professional literature. That is, they spring from the need for polytechnic librarians to describe services they render, but they do not dwell on the polytechnic experience per se as much as on the problems that beset librarians everywhere.

The last essay in part one, "Teaching Library Use," is of particular interest because it does attempt to delineate the British experience and the polytechnic approach to library instruction. In this article Nancy Hammond discusses the two distinct types of reader instruction that have developed in the polytechnic: that of the tutor-librarian responsible for all library instruction throughout the institution and that of the subject specialist who teaches in his or her area of expertise in addition to other duties.

The second part of this book, "Subject Specialisation," outlines the activities of the subject specialist: provision, exploitation, teaching library use, and professional awareness. The specialist is a member of the library staff designated to develop one or more aspects of a library's collection and the array of services connected with it.

While *Libraries in Higher Education* gives some insight into the polytechnic situation, its lack of focus on the specific experience and emphasis on general library problems undercut its usefulness. As source material for students it is of minimal value because of its scanty unclassified bibliography and omission of bibliographical footnotes and index. Because very little literature exists on the polytechnic library, this volume will provide an elementary introduction to the subject until a more comprehensive study is written.—*Kathleen M. Heim, Director of Public Services, Rebecca Crown Library, Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois.*