

should be of interest, therefore, to prospective specialists and novices, rather than to experienced practitioners already involved in maintaining the delicate balance between custodianship and exploitation. If nothing else, Cave's *Rare Book Librarianship* reminds those beyond the pale that even today, in the time of the "now" generation, some of us continue to regard our professional responsibilities as threefold in nature—to the past, to the future, as well as to the present.—*John F. Guido, Head of Rare Books, Archives, and Special Collections, State University of New York at Binghamton.*

Edwards, Ralph M. *The Role of the Beginning Librarian in University Libraries.* ACRL Publications in Librarianship no. 37. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1975. 120p. \$6.50 (LC 75-30693) (ISBN 0-8389-3167-7)

"What do librarians do when they are doing well as librarians?" Out of this general perspective the author conducted a study of beginning librarians in eight University of California libraries to learn about the nature of their work. Among other questions he asked them, "Which of the tasks you are asked to perform on your present job would you define as less than professional?" The survey was conducted in early 1970; the dissertation which grew out of it earned a Ph.D. in 1972; and the book was published in 1975.

Four of the seven chapters report that survey; the other three are an attempt to place the study in a larger historical perspective. The canvassing results are interesting though hardly surprising; the larger perspective is very surprising though not terribly interesting.

The larger perspective is, in fact, nothing else than a review of the literature concerned with library professionalism. The weakness in this, of course, is that one faces the very real possibility of capturing a somewhat limited view of the real library world. What would happen years from now, for instance, if someone attempted such a perspective on university library administration largely based on all the articles on this subject by library science faculty?

I have other criticisms of the work. For one, the author has on too many occasions

proffered conclusions which are wider than the premises established in the survey. What is true of beginners is not necessarily or even often true of seasoned veterans. Neither can one conclude that the computer is not playing a significant role in the professional work at the University of California libraries just because it is not significantly part of the beginner's role (page 66).

For another, in dealing with a definition of professionalism, he spotlights the sociologist's criterion of a body of knowledge in any valid profession. The author asserts that the only valid body of knowledge which would fulfill the definition of professional for librarians is that which a subject specialist would have.

The book has value in its limited area of concern, viz., the types of functions which beginning librarians are allowed to perform. It raises serious questions for those beginners, their supervisors, and administrators, just as it does for library educators. The author suggests that the beginner's inaugural period be clearly established as an

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The book has value in that one can analyze the methodology of an interview research procedure. The questions used are in an appendix and the results are clearly offered to the reader in the text. Readers can allow themselves to think of other questions that might have been asked. And they can provide themselves the luxury of second-guessing the conclusions. The review of the literature in chapters 1, 2, and 7 highlights the problem of professionalism for librarians. But as a larger historical perspective it leaves much to be desired.

We will continue to wait for the final answer about such professionalism, what it means, how one achieves it, and the means of getting others to accept it. This book makes one small contribution toward that answer. Hopefully, it will encourage others to continue the research so we will no longer have to ask, "What do librarians do when they are doing well as librarians?"—*Leslie W. Sheridan, Director of University Libraries, The University of Toledo.*

Adamovich, Shirley Gray, ed. *Reader in Library Technology*. Reader Series in Library and Information Science. Englewood, Colo.: Microcard Editions Books, 1975. 236p. \$18.95. (LC 75-8051) (ISBN 0-910972-52-4)

This volume successfully continues a series aimed at presenting a comprehensive overview of contemporary library concerns. It is primarily about library technical assistants—their history, rationale, education, and use—and their relationship to the library profession. To some their existence is a thorny problem, to others a cause to espouse and a way of life. These points of view are reflected in the fifty-one pieces in the book, which include articles and statistical studies. They have been selected mainly from recent periodical literature written by authorities in this area, from library educators and librarians to the practitioners themselves and a student.

The collection touches most of the aspects of subgraduate education in library techniques and the use of such trained non-professionals in diverse library situations. It is hoped that those seeking this information will not be deflected from their aim by the title. This is not a book about library technology. It is a book about nonprofessionals in libraries who have had training in library techniques and their impact.

This does seem an area beset with concerns over terminology, probably because of the very disparity of its parts. In one of the articles, Lester Asheim answers a list of ten, "I don't like the term _____," by saying, "Suggestions for ideal terminology are always welcome" (p.60). A better title for this book would be "Reader on the Library Technical Assistant."—*Barbara R. Healy, Management Library, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York.*

Evans, Frank B., comp. *Modern Archives and Manuscripts: A Select Bibliography*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1975. 209p. \$11.00. (LC 75-23058) (Order from Society of American Archivists, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, P.O. Box 8198, Chicago, IL 60680.)

This volume is a revised and enlarged version of the author's earlier bibliography



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