The Librarian and Reference Service. Selected by Arthur Ray Rowland. Contributions to Library Literature. Hamden, Conn.: Shoe String Press, 1977. 281p. $12.50. LC 76-50092. ISBN 0-208-01600-7.

This is the author's second compilation of articles relating to reference. The first, *Reference Services,* contained selections from the professional literature from 1930 to 1960. The present volume carries articles from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s.

There is a tendency to consider such collections the sole property of library school students, but this may be unfair; and the practicing librarian will do well to consider the miscellany of reference librarianship to be found between these covers.

The articles, written by persons familiar to readers of major library journals, are grouped into three broad parts centering generally around (1) definitions, (2) directions, and (3) desiderata of reference. In his introduction, the compiler states his aim to collect "the best writings on reference service" during the given time period. Certainly, he has produced a representative collection including thirty-three articles on a wide range of contemporary concerns from the fundamental to the esoteric, the theoretical to the practical, the central to the peripheral.

To this reader one of the better selections perhaps best reflecting the spirit of the volume is Elvin E. Strowd's "Reader's Services —One and All," in which the author refers to all librarians as essentially "reference" librarians, since the product of our efforts is the enlightened reader. But other articles will appeal to the particular interests of practicing or prospective librarians. For example, there is automation in Jesse Shera's "Automation and the Reference Librarian" or interpersonal relationships in Helen M. Gothbery's "Communication Patterns in Library Reference and Information Service" or policy-making in Mary Jo Lynch's "Academic Library Reference Policy Statement."

The one omission of this and other collections of this type which would have been useful is an introductory abstract with a biographical sketch of the author. A simple subject index also would have been useful since many of the articles touch on subjects hidden in their general titles. There is, however, a list of contributors and an author-title index as well as an extensive bibliography of related articles from the same time period. Although lacking subject divisions, this reading list should prove valuable.— *James F. Parks, Jr., Head Librarian, Millsaps-Wilson Library, Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi.*

Gerulaitis, Leonardas Vytautas. *Printing and Publishing in Fifteenth-Century Venice.* Chicago: American Library Assn.; London: Mansell Information/Publishing Ltd., 1976. 190p. $25.00. LC 73-21703. ISBN 0-8389-0126-3 ALA; 0-7201-0628-1 Mansell.

Behind the humanistic title of this work lies a sociological study which explores the degree to which humanism penetrated the social fabric of the time. The study goes beyond the incunable period in time and beyond the confines of the Venetian Republic to prove the premise that publishing in Venice was fairly free from government interference on one hand and private patronage on the other so that the books published represent the true taste of the audience which is the middle class society.

Employing Venetian archives as extracted by Rinaldo Fulin and published in the *Archivio veneto,* the author analyzes the economic and technological background, monopoly, and censorship practices, both civil and ecclesiastical. Of special interest to him are the various kinds of privileges granted by the government of Venice from the latter part of the fifteenth century through 1517 when all previously granted privileges were abrogated and remedial legislation was enacted. The decrees issued are examined and systematized, setting forth the legal thinking on the subject of privileges at that time.

A chapter of considerable length is devoted to content analysis of the works printed in Venice and—for comparison—another which sorts the contents of books printed in Florence, Bologna, and Nuremberg. These two chapters contain tables and statistics on the basis of which the author reflects on the interests of the audience attracted by these early published works and