

regard to their employment, deployment, and performances domestically and in foreign wars, in regard to their leaders, and also in regard to American public reaction to and support (or lack of it) for a developed standing army.

Chapter 1 lists writings covering these topics throughout the nation's history while the remaining seven chapters are set up to cover the topics chronologically in well-defined and significant periods, as from 1607 to 1783 or from 1783 to 1815, which is a good, useful arrangement and in fact seems the only logical one. Concluding the book are an author index and a subject index whose simplicity and brevity increase their usefulness.

A helpful feature is found in the compiler's short descriptive annotations on the content of most of the works listed; these are of considerable aid to the user in choosing which items would be worthwhile to pursue or peruse. Sometimes, however, the annotations make one wonder why some writings happen to have been included:

such cases are certain biographies and personal narratives, some writings having to do with nonmilitary groups such as Tories in the 1770s or suffering southern civilians during the Civil War, some reports on international politics and propaganda, the CIA, or American industry in more recent wars. Such writings appear to this writer to be outside a strict concept of subject context, but they are not numerous.

On the other hand, while there are some relevant citations, there could have been more in respect to the major armaments developed and employed from period to period and also the weapons, accoutrements, uniforms, and way of life of the soldiers composing the armed forces over the years. Some of the early official publications giving guidelines and regulations from when our military strength was first being formally organized might have been included, too.

While pagination is always given, it would be helpful if some small mention or signal had been included to let one know whether illustrations, maps, or charts are present in a cited work.

These criticisms are, however, all minor ones, and perhaps carping, because overall this is a bibliography that is compact, comprehensive, and easy to use. The compiler has made a very good selection of informative materials, resulting from what must have been lengthy and exhaustive searching. The citations are arranged in convenient groupings or sequence and also in a typographical format that is, happily, easy on the eyes. And, finally, Professor Lane's descriptive annotations—which represent much time spent by him, even to making them as concise as they are—are invaluable and will save any researcher using this book much of his own time.—*Richard B. Harrington, Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, Providence, Rhode Island.*

Asby, Peter, and Campbell, Robert. *Microform Publishing*. London, Boston: Butterworths, 1979. 189p. + 1 microfiche. \$36.95. LC 79-40407. ISBN 0-408-10606-9. (Available from: Butterworths, 10 Tower Office Park, Woburn, MA 01801.)

For a long time there has been a need among librarians for an understanding of the

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many factors that must be taken into account by a micropublishing firm when considering a proposed filming project and the many detailed procedures that must be followed in properly and successfully implementing a selected project. Now two officials of a British micropublishing company have provided a monograph intended specifically to enlighten librarians and other interested parties about all aspects of micropublishing, from project conception through marketing. It is a thoroughgoing, straightforward, and useful discourse that should help those who make acquisitions decisions to understand why some micropublications cost so much more than others of similar dimensions and to recognize when a salesman for microtext materials is blowing smoke. Indeed, a librarian who studies *Microform Publishing* carefully will soon know more about micropublishing than 95 percent of the sales representatives in the field.

The authors do not restrict themselves to the more common applications, i.e., back issues of newspapers and journals, report literature, and out-of-print monographs. They also give careful attention to other applications, including closed system (intra-organizational) publishing, dissemination of text generated by COM (computer output microfilm), and publication of the proceedings of meetings.

The final chapter of this work looks briefly but beneficially at the future of micrographics, particularly with regard to publishing. Of especial interest at this time are the remarks about the potential effect on microform publishing of low-cost microfiche duplicators, which are cropping up in more and more libraries.

Microform Publishing incorporates a glossary based on the National Micrographics Association's *Glossary of Micrographics* (which is now undergoing a much-needed revision) and includes a supplement on microfiche, which is very neatly pocketed inside the back cover.

For all its utility, this book is not without minor faults. Most obvious of them is the rather careless and sometimes contradictory way that a number of details are dealt with. For example, on page 11 we find, "There are much higher reductions of 90 to 150× which may eventually be used by pub-

lishers" (emphasis mine). This is immediately contradicted by, "These *ultrafiches* are used only for very large scale publications . . ." (emphasis mine). The fact is, of course, that Encyclopaedia Britannica and others have used and are using such ratios in large-scale projects. Again, on page 9, "This ratio of 24:1 is the maximum normally found in microforms for library applications"; and two paragraphs later, "The higher reductions of 42× and 48× are, however, becoming popular . . . in the library COM (Computer Output Microfilm) catalogue field."

The fact that the authors write primarily about the British business scene makes their detailed explanations of the economics of micropublishing of limited usefulness in the U.S. The price of *Microform Publishing*, \$36.50 for about 200 pages, makes it unlikely that many personal copies will be sold.—Carl M. Spaulding, *Sunnyvale, California*.

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