

methodology, an extensive list of notes and references, as well as a good index.

Although this book will undoubtedly stand as a significant contribution to the sociological literature, the volume clearly has even greater value for academic librarians whose world of books is so closely related to the publishing industry.—*Hendrik Edelman, Rutgers University.*

**Cave, Roderick.** *Rare Book Librarianship.*

2d, rev. ed. Hamden, Conn.: Shoe String, 1982. 162p. \$20 cloth. ISBN 0-85157-328-2.

Roderick Cave has successfully summarized the most significant concerns and precepts of rare book librarianship in a deceptively slim volume that will stand as a major resource in the field for a long time to come. There is much more content than the size of the volume might suggest. For librarians already in the field, Cave's book is a welcome review of major concerns and practices of rare book libraries. For administrators of large institutions, of which rare books and special collections operations constitute a part, *Rare Book Librarianship* should be required reading and should also stand alongside other reference tools used by administrators in their work. For students contemplating a career in the field of rare-book librarianship, Cave's text will serve as an excellent description of what such a career is likely to entail and how the students should plan to prepare themselves for entering the profession.

Although *Rare Book Librarianship* reflects Roderick Cave's British background and many of the references are to British libraries and institutions, libraries of North America are not ignored. Cave clearly delineates how differing historical traditions in Britain and the United States have produced somewhat different types of rare book libraries. He also identifies some of the major distinctions in service and orientation in rare book libraries that are privately or publicly funded. Perhaps most significant to North American readers is Cave's treatment of the growth of major rare book operations within state-supported universities and colleges.

Cave has organized *Rare Book Librarian-*

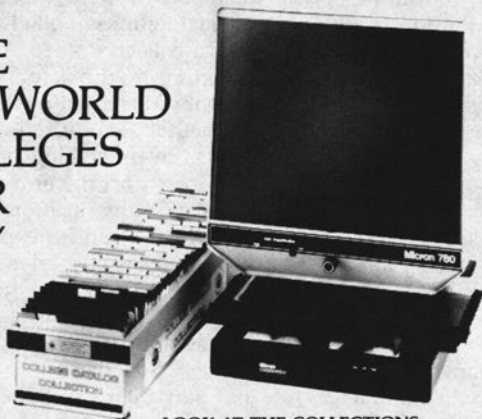
*ship* along the lines of an administrative analysis. He moves from a general introduction to the field, through an admirably succinct definition of what rare books and special collections are, and why they are important, to the actual operation of rare book libraries, treating the special acquisition activities required of a rare book library, the processing of rare books, the care, restoration, and housing of rare books, the organization of special collections for use, and the common methods that rare book libraries use to publicize their collections both to potential users and to potential benefactors. Finally, he discusses the training of rare book librarians.

Of particular value is Cave's discussion of the antiquarian book trade and its relationship to the operation of rare book libraries. He recognizes the cross-fertilization that booksellers and rare book libraries experience if they have a healthy working relationship. Because the marketplace for antiquarian books is far more influenced by scarcity and unpredictable availability of goods than is the new-book marketplace, rare book librarians must work out significantly different strategies for collection development than is true for general libraries. Cave's treatment of this subject should make clear to all concerned library administrators just why their special collections operations do not follow the same well-established procedures that are used in acquiring current publications.

Those interested in the development of rare books training programs in North America will need to look somewhat beyond *Rare Book Librarianship* for information about current trends. Although this is the second edition, revised, developments in the field are moving quickly, and there has been considerable activity of note. The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries had greatly strengthened its programs and activities since the late 1970s, and while Cave identifies the section's work, he did not have the opportunity of bringing his text up-to-date with the latest activities. Librarians interested in the field will want to consider member-

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ship in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section in order to assure that they receive its communications. Cave extracts for his appendix from the report *Book Thefts from Libraries* prepared by a working party of the [British] Antiquarian Booksellers' Association and the Rare Books Group of the [British] Library Association, 1972. In March 1982 the more recent guidelines on marking of rare books and manuscripts and on library thefts drafted by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section were published in *College & Research Libraries News*. Also in 1982 the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America published *Rare Books and Manuscript Thefts: A Security System for Librarians, Booksellers, and Collectors* by its president, John H. Jenkins, with a foreword by Terry Belanger.

Roderick Cave has provided us with an outstanding resource on rare book librarianship and this reviewer recommends it highly.—Peter E. Hanff, *University of California, Berkeley*.

**Maxwell, Margaret F.** *Handbook for AACR2*. 2d ed. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1980. 463p. \$20. LC 80-17667. ISBN 0-8389-0301-0.

It is a compliment that the evolution and change that both AACR2 and the Library of Congress' application of AACR2 have undergone have not significantly diminished the worth of this volume. Maxwell's *Handbook for AACR2* lays out a generally logical and useful series of examples and commentary that will enlighten the novice and interest the more experienced. The book examines most chapters in AACR2 in some detail: the chapters on description of manuscripts and machine-readable data files, and the portion of chapter 2 that treats early printed monographs, are not covered. The stated reason is that these materials are "not usually acquired by libraries." Even though we have seen the sudden increase in machine-readable data file collections, these limitations, especially with the publication of several specialized AACR2 manuals, are not serious.

The writing is clear, and Maxwell takes a sensible and logical approach to cataloging. Most chapters have introductory essays that provide historical and theoretical

frameworks that put the chapter in perspective. The examples are extraordinarily good, although the "title page" representations are not as good as they might be. For example, they do not portray some of the nuances of title-page typography and layout by which publishers keep cataloging as an art as well as a science. The total descriptive treatment of each example puts the rules in a larger context than the examples in AACR2. The examples make use of standard three-by-five-inch card format.

The book contains some helpful suggestions to aid the beginning cataloger. For example, there are the guidelines on pages 64-66 for recording name of publisher, distributor, etc. Appendixes offer comments on examples, lists of helpful cataloging information (e.g., "uniform headings for common anonymous classics"), and an index to the examples. The index to the examples is most useful when a cataloger remembers an analogous situation to an item being cataloged.

Most errors in the text were not incorrect at the time of publishing but have occurred as a result of changes in Library of Congress policy or the code itself. Two good examples are the absence of LC's unique serial identifier used to create a kind of serial uniform title and the addition of certain cartographic materials to the categories under 21.1B2 (corporate entry).

More irksome is the incorrect explanation (p.11) of AACR2 "levels of description." This concept is frequently misunderstood or confused with other types of "levels" (National Minimal Level Description: Books and OCLC-MARC levels). The AACR2 "levels of description" describe the minimum amount of information required at each level; thus, for the first level, any description that contains the prescribed minima or the minima and any other information up to the minimum required for the second level is a *first-level* description. If one thinks of the completeness of description as a continuum, then the levels are not single points but areas on the continuum. Also, while Maxwell states that third-level cataloging is the standard for large libraries and research