

the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Hagerstrand, T. *The Identification of Progress in Learning.* Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Pr., 1985. 204p. \$39.50. LC 84-14277. ISBN 0-521-30087-8.

This is a collection of papers presented at the European Science Foundation Colloquium, held in Colmar, France, in March 1983. Because its purpose is to increase an understanding of knowledge, of the research process and of learning, it is central to the concerns of academic librarianship. The collection consists of twelve essays by respected scientists and scholars in the fields of physics, mathematics, biology, medicine, sociology, linguistics, art history, history, and economics, each accompanied by the commentary of another scholar. Two general essays help to make of this diverse assembly of ideas a coherent contribution to the sociology of science.

Each paper is a synthesis of considerations such as the criteria for the evaluation of knowledge in each field; identification of the significant discovery, breakthrough, or advancement; priorities within fields; and obstacles to advancement. Such syntheses are more important now than ever before because of the rapid movement toward specialization and interdisciplinary research, rendering communication among scientists and scholars more complex, and an understanding of the growth of knowledge more difficult for anyone involved. The undersigned is not competent to judge the merits of individual contributions to this collection, but it is fairly clear that, overall, they provide stimulating insight into the fluid nature of the classification of knowledge, paradigms of theory, and changing methodologies for advancement.

Reference to the library appears only once in this book, yet a common thread that links concerns about the present and future among the disciplines represented has to do very essentially with library and information science. That is the technological control and, increasingly, the intellectual control of information in the broadest sense. Briefly, significant advance-

ment is dependent upon the ability to deal selectively with the growing volume of compartmentalized information and to enhance cross-fertilization among disciplines. The logic is as follows: knowledge is advanced by discovery, variously interpreted among disciplines; discovery is defined as such within a context of knowledge accepted within each discipline; the better the organization of that knowledge is, the more readily identifiable will be the discovery that will advance the field; where discovery is both most likely and most fruitful is the region of overlap or potential overlap between fields.

None of this is terribly new, of course, but it is focused particularly well in this collection of essays. And it underscores the important pivotal function that librarians could perform in the evolving scholarly communication system. Based on the logic of the advancement of knowledge outlined above, it appears that it falls to our profession to become more active in the intellectual organization of information (in the broadest sense) and to direct

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special attention to making compatible that organization from one discipline to another.—Charles B. Osburn, *University of Cincinnati Libraries, Ohio.*

Stern, Madeleine B. *Antiquarian Bookselling in the United States: A History from the Origins to the 1940s.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1985. 246p. \$29.95. LC 84-19273. ISBN 0-313-24729-3.

The epigraph of this book is a quotation from Sir Stanley Unwin to the effect that while writing, printing, and reading books are difficult tasks, "the most difficult task that a mortal man can embark on is to sell a book." At the risk of dignifying Sir Stanley's hyperbole, one might remark that it would seem even more difficult to write a history of those who sell books. Underscoring the problems inherent in such a history, Stern remarks in her introduction: "That this book represents the first formal attempt to record the history of antiquarian bookselling in the United States should cause no undue surprise . . . the bookseller has always been a ghost, whose transactions as intermediary between source and market are seldom preserved." Working from what she admits are meager sources, she has attempted to "reanimate those ghosts and trace the history of their fascinating trade . . . to restore their tastes and temperaments, their trials, their struggles, and their achievements, to clothe once again in flesh and blood the purveyors of antiquarian books."

The book is divided into a series of chapters that outline the history of antiquarian bookselling in Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and "Cities to the South"—Annapolis/Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Charleston, and New Orleans. A final chapter covers what Stern calls "lone stars," booksellers such as Henry Stevens of Vermont, who don't fit into the geographical framework of her book but who cannot be ignored. Each chapter is adequately footnoted, and there is a short bibliographical essay at the end of the volume, as well as an index.

Although she covers some ground al-

ready familiar to those acquainted with the biographies and autobiographies of A. S. W. Rosenbach, Henry Stevens, Fred Rosenstock, and others, Stern has rescued any number of interesting "ghosts" from oblivion. Herself an antiquarian bookseller of no small distinction, she presents sympathetic and informative portraits of the men and women whose careers she chronicles. If she occasionally lapses into biblio-clichés and all too readily quotes some of the more gongoristic language of earlier writers, her understanding of the nature of the business saves her from some of the pitfalls awaiting a less sympathetic historian.

Unfortunately, this book is less a history than a collection of essays, many of which originally appeared in *AB Bookman's Weekly*. While she does attempt to place the history of bookselling in each city covered within a larger framework of regional history, her book lacks any overall perspective on the development of the trade itself, or even a unifying sense of inquiry that might have melded her chapters into a connected narrative. Disavowing any attempt to define antiquarian books or booksellers, and evading many of the questions and problems surrounding what must appear to the uninitiated as essentially a luxury trade, she has limited the audience for her book to the true believers of bibliophilia. In the one instance where she raises an interesting question—why has the South fostered so few antiquarian booksellers and collectors?—she avoids answering it by saying that it is a "strange anomaly" caused by the superficial intellectual and aesthetic culture of the region. If, as she asserts, the antiquarian trade "created a demand, and then supplied that demand . . . helped to shape taste, and so has been an educative force," why didn't it prove educative in this place?

Stern believes that the antiquarian bookseller has been an "arbiter of learning" and a "dispenser of knowledge," but frankly one gets little sense of this from her history. The role of the book in our culture has only recently come under serious study, and certainly the role of the specialized antiquarian bookseller must