

adoption of new technologies such as stereotyping. She also addresses relevant contextual issues such as the country's economy, the growth of nationalism, and the opening of the West.

Although Remer, Assistant Professor of History at Moravian College, developed this study from her UCLA Ph.D. dissertation, it bears none of the marks of the unworked dissertation. Rather, it is well written and organized, and excellently documented—with thirty pages of useful footnotes plus a separate full bibliography (too often lacking in current scholarly monographs); and includes six well-chosen illustrations and an index. She makes full use of recent studies in the history of the book, the North American Imprints Program database at the American Antiquarian Society, and the many original records in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Although at first glance Remer's subject may appear narrow, its inclusion in Penn's *Early American Studies* series signifies that knowing how books were made available in the new republic leads to a deeper understanding of its culture. Her work offers academic librarians an opportunity to compare similarities in the emergence of print culture in the United States with the emergence of electronic culture two centuries later. She clarifies the difference between the mechanical activity of printing and the intellectual and economic process of publishing, sometimes confused even by librarians. Collection developers are offered evidence about "American" editions (often abridged, updated, or supplemented) of works from England and the continent, and about the kinds of unassuming best-sellers that today's scholars recognize as primary sources for study. Local history curators will find answers here to often puzzling questions about local and regional imprints (varying publishing statements, printers in other locales, why bindings differ). In short, Remer provides a wel-

come contribution to our understanding of the dissemination of information and ideas.—*Elizabeth Swaim, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut.*

Valuing Local Knowledge: Indigenous People and Intellectual Property Rights. Eds. Stephen B. Brush and Doreen Stabinsky. Washington, D.C.: Island Pr., 1996. 337p. \$50 cloth (ISBN 1-55963-378-6); \$30 paper (ISBN 1-55963-379-4). LC 95-38484.

How are intellectual property rights, indigenous knowledge, and biological diversity related, both philosophically and economically? This collection of essays, developed from a conference at Lake Tahoe in 1993 on intellectual property rights and indigenous knowledge, provides an excellent entree into the breadth and complexities of the issues surrounding these ideas. For those of us overwhelmed with the extension of copyright issues into the electronic realm, this volume will help to put that part of the problem into proper perspective as these authors deal with issues raised by collective rather than individual knowledge.

The immediate background to this volume is the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity which was signed with much fanfare at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 (not by the United States, which waited until Earth Day) to take effect in December 1993. Implementation, however, was left to individual nations and courts of international law. A potentially incompatible agreement, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, was signed in December 1993 in Uruguay at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trades (GATT) talks. The Society for Applied Anthropology, a section of the American Anthropological Association, organized the Lake Tahoe conference, which was sponsored by the Ethics and Values Studies Program of the National Science

Foundation and held in October 1993.

The resulting fifteen papers by a broad cross section of involved players, from academicians to entrepreneurs to governmental representatives, have been organized into three parts preceded by an introductory chapter, "Whose Knowledge, Whose Genes, Whose Rights," which sets the tone and defines the terms. Part I, "Equity and Indigenous Rights," includes six chapters that explore the varied philosophical issues concerning the possible extension of the Western/Northern concept of intellectual property rights to knowledge of biological resources. In Part II, "Conservation, Knowledge, Property," the authors address ongoing efforts by specific, primarily private, organizations (e.g., Shaman Pharmaceuticals Inc., Native Seeds/SEARCH) to implement the spirit of the Biodiversity Convention; five excellent case studies from different parts of the world are presented. The volume concludes with three chapters on "Policy Options and Alternatives," which address specific legal avenues that are being pursued by such entities as the National Cancer Institute and the International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups Program (funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health), the U.S. National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

This very valuable collection of papers serves to broaden the discussion of intellectual property rights to a truly international level and to place it firmly within the framework of the growing indigenous rights movement. These discussions bring a very useful international perspective to the issues of copyright and patent as we encounter them in our electronic information world, which is primarily Western and Northern in outlook and tradition—*Joan Berman, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California.*

Wiegand, Wayne A. *Irrepressible Reformer: A Biography of Melvil Dewey.* Chicago: ALA, 1996. 403p. \$35. (ISBN 0-8389-0680-X.)

This volume accords Dewey the biography he deserves—grounded on thorough research, clearly written, critical though appreciative, and enlightened by a sound sense of the cultural issues involved in its subject's career. It will interest students of not only library history but also general cultural developments at the end of the nineteenth century.

Americans concerned with books then confronted enormous problems. They somehow had to arrange systematically the rapidly rising tide of volumes printed in the United States and abroad, and also make them accessible to a vastly expanding number of readers and borrowers. Whatever its other virtues, the Library of Congress did not function as a national library, and state, town, and municipal institutions each coped with the general difficulties by following its own eccentric fashion.

The most prestigious collections were private, assembled as at Harvard for instructional purposes or gathered as an avocation by one or several gentlemen—the Redwood at Newport, the Atheneum in Boston, or the Astor,

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