

The book includes a fascinating chapter on American music and the numerous challenges it has posed for copyright law. "Music more than any other vehicle of culture, collapses the gap that separates idea from expression." Extensive essays on the blues tradition and sampling practices in rap music provide informative and entertaining histories of these art forms, but through them Vaidhyanathan also makes a lucid and compelling argument for loose, less ethnocentric interpretations of copyright law. The blues art form was built on a tradition of borrowing and improvisation, an extension of the oral traditions that passed stories and songs from one generation to the next. Rap, as it developed in the 1970s and 1980s, was composed of two layers—vocalizations laid over a mosaic of fused sample rhythms and melodies lifted from many different records. Thus, both blues and rap, by definition, borrow from and build upon previous work. Rap was transformed by legal decisions against artists in the early 1990s, changing sampling practices. The author argues that the aesthetic tradition of African-based cultures is ignored by American copyright law, just one more example of racial and cultural biases inherent in our system of laws.

The final chapter examines a diverse range of copyright issues that have sprouted in the digital age, including the software wars of the late 1990s, development of database protection measures, and the rise and fall of Napster. The chapter includes an erudite explanation of what Vaidhyanathan calls "legislative recklessness"—the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998. He credits the DMCA with "upending more than 200 years of copyright law" by taking decision-making power away from Congress, courts, librarians, writers, artists, and researchers, and putting it in the hands of engineers and companies who employ them." Technological innovations, rather than democratizing information, have been used, with the sanction and authority of copyright law interpretation and new legislation, to further limit public access.

*Copyrights and Copywrongs* is remarkably readable, free of legal jargon, and entertaining. It is thoroughly researched and includes extensive notes. Vaidhyanathan, a professor in the School of Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin, makes a persuasive argument for looser, thinner copyright protections that would benefit both users and creators of cultural goods. The original intent of copyright is lost as it becomes increasingly a vehicle of property law rather than creativity. The current punitive system favors established rather than emerging artists and hinders new creative production. Librarians and scientists are losing the battle to Microsoft and Disney, resulting in a steady centralization and corporatization of access to the cultural and information goods of our society. The author's arguments are cogent, enlightening, and important to all information professionals.—*Janita Jobe, University of Nevada, Reno.*

**Carpenter, Kenneth E., Wayne A. Wiegand, and Jane Aikin.** *Winsor, Dewey, and Putnam: The Boston Experience: Papers from the Round Table on Library History Session at the Sixty-Seventh Council and General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Boston, Massachusetts. August 1–25, 2001.* Ed. Donald G. Davis Jr. Urbana-Champaign: Univ. of Illinois, Graduate School of Library and Information Science. (Occasional Papers, no. 212), 2002. 37p. \$8 (ISBN: 0878451218). ISSN 0276-1769.

Through the nineteenth century, New England was the capital of American intellectual activity and Boston was its uncontested center. It is no great wonder that three of the principal figures in the shaping of modern librarianship had careers in Boston at the end of the century. The association of these three major American librarians with the city in which IFLA happened to meet in 2001 provides a tenuous rationale for the presentation and publication of these three papers in this pamphlet, but in reality, these three essays need

no rationale. These essays are each excellent, provocative, and readable works that reflect the deserved stature of their authors in the field of American library history. Kenneth Carpenter, recently retired from Harvard University Library writes on Justin Winsor, librarian of the Boston Public Library (1868–1877) and then Harvard (1877–1897). Wayne Wiegand's essay on Melvil Dewey covers the years from 1876 to 1883 when Dewey operated his various enterprises from Boston. Jane Aikin, who has written an excellent monograph on Herbert Putnam's career at the Library of Congress, has taken the opportunity to write on his work at the Boston Public Library from 1895 to 1899, prior to his move to the Library of Congress.

It has long been a major problem in American library history that the only competent biographical treatment of Justin Winsor has been that of Joseph A. Boromé completed as a doctoral dissertation at Columbia in 1950. Winsor, as the first president of the ALA, the founding president of the American Historical Association, and the archetype of the nineteenth-century scholar-librarian, has been largely ignored by potential biographers. The academic librarians have for the most part been ignored in favor of men (and women) considered to be more central to the public library focus of the library movement in America in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The ALA from the beginning has focused American librarianship on the ideals, development, and needs of a general library in support of a general population rather than the peculiar needs of academic or special libraries. Even so, Winsor lurked behind the curtains prompting others in promotion of the public library in America. Boromé's excellent, but unpublished, biography of Winsor has been useful over the years but has been in need of serious reconsideration.

Carpenter's brief contribution here is not designed to fill this vacuum. He offers a rather sketchy account of Winsor's career at the Boston Public Library and Harvard with little fanfare. He does, however, present one of those remarkably pro-

vocative "holes" in the fabric of narrative history that may well provide some doctoral student with a dissertation in his too-brief paragraph on Winsor's relation to the governing forces at Harvard. Winsor held little power to act on any policy or even procedural matter in the library. It is, perhaps, this situation that led to Winsor's establishing strict rules of conduct and rigid work regulations for the library staff at Harvard. At least, he could have some control over his employees, if not his library.

Dewey spent only a short time in Boston from 1876 to 1883, but these were years in which he set his career and, to a great extent, changed the face of American librarianship. Wiegand's offering here retreads some of the ground he covered in his masterful biography of Dewey. In Boston, Dewey embarked on numerous enterprises—the founding of the ALA, publication of *Library Journal*, as well as other enthusiasms—spelling reform, the metric system, and the standardization of library furnishings and supplies. It was in Boston that Dewey began the course that would make him the prime mover in the American library world. And it was from Boston that he set the stage for many of the difficulties that would discredit and disgrace him in the library world. Wiegand's contribution does not add much to his biography of Dewey, but it does make accessible to a wider range of readers this crucial period in Dewey's life and the evolution of American librarianship in a form that is readable and captures well the spirit of Melvil Dewey.

Of the three men treated in this pamphlet, Herbert Putnam is the one only known solely for his career as a librarian and is, perhaps consequently, the least known in the wider world. Putnam's term at the Boston Public Library from 1895 to 1899 was only a way station in a career that culminated in forty years as Librarian of Congress. Unlike Winsor at Harvard, Putnam at the Boston Public Library was given wide-ranging authority by the trustees and used that power to modernize the administration, services,

and operations of the library. It was his prominence in the profession and his achievements in Boston that led to his appointment as the first *professional* librarian to head the Library of Congress, which he transformed over his four decades there into a modern national institution.

This pamphlet represents the contributions of three outstanding scholars on topics on which they are each uniquely

qualified to write. The *Occasional Papers* is a series that librarians have found, over the years, produces good value for the price and this contribution is recommended to any collection of librarians or American history. For eight dollars, you get three insightful, provocative, informative, and well-written articles, which is more than most scholarly journals will give you in a year's subscription.—*Lee Shiflett, University of North Carolina*