

measurement processes that will yield accurate results. Also informative are the chapters on data collection and analysis, crucial in determining what the results, once assembled, actually mean.

Ultimately, the underpinnings of any successful library evaluation include an understanding and articulation of the library's mission, vision, and values, as well as its particular purpose. What characterizes the library's users, and what stake do they hold in the library's evolution? Furthermore, how should a library use performance measures to assess the success of the newly implemented strategies? Finally, how does a library foster a culture of assessment that includes and recruits staff members in ongoing monitoring of library progress? Without staff support of strategic plans, the evaluation and assessment process is for naught. The true strength of this book is the author's expansive knowledge of his subject. Not only does he raise significant questions, but he also provides valuable answers. —
Lynne Maxwell, Villanova University.

Staikos, K. *The Mirror of the Library.* New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll, 2006. 49p., \$45 (ISBN 1584561793).

I am not certain that a pamphlet (less than fifty pages by definition, though the unnumbered colophon does bring it up to fifty pages, and there is also a separately paged foreword by Robert D. Fleck) can be a "coffee table" book—especially one without pictures. This homage to the book, published as "a private press keepsake of significant text and delightful design," certainly should be on the coffee table of every collector and book lover. The two hundred signed and numbered copies and additional seven hundred copies printed for the masses will not be sufficient to serve all of those who would delight in its simple praise of the book.

Konstantos Staikos' work in the history of the book and library history has been published by Oak Knoll previously. His contributions in the scholarly realm are considerable, and this translation from

the Greek original by Timothy Cullen is elegant. The book itself, as is typical of Oak Knoll productions, is a masterpiece of the book arts. It is a book that feels right in the hand, looks right to the eye, and even smells right. It is a physical object that completely realizes the author's and the publisher's commitment to the celebration of the book.

Staikos begins with the conceit derived from Stephane Mallarme: "The world exists to end in a book." Every human action, every thought, every sin, every salvation is recorded. It ends on the same mystic note that "all of us ... are writing chapters in a book that is constantly being expanded but never completed." Earlier reviewers of Staikos' work have objected to his somewhat haphazard scholarship, but this book cannot be included among those. This is not a work of scholarship but a hymn of praise to the book and to its creator(s). It stands outside the narrow realm of scholarship in its antiphonal alternation between fact and faith.

The introduction by Robert D. Fleck, founder of the Oak Knoll Press, is equally a delight. Few people readily admit to reading A. Edward Newton any longer. Fewer confess to his having had an influence on their lives. Newton became the preeminent American book collector of the first half of the twentieth century largely because of his popular books on collecting. The sale of his collection in 1941 was a national event (at least, in the book world). Newton's reputation suffered from his spirited defense of the integrity of Thomas James Wise even long after the evidence of Wise's duplicity was overwhelming, and Newton's books, perhaps partially because of this and because of the changes in collecting tastes since their publication, have fallen into some obscurity.

This is unfortunate. Newton's books are excellent excursions into the delights of book collecting and, if not scholarly, serve, as does Staikos' book, as the inspirational literature of the bibliophilic faithful.

Fleck has named his business operation after A. Edward Newton's home, Oak

Knoll. The Oak Knoll Press and Oak Knoll Books, the antiquarian bookselling part of the business, have specialized to some extent in the works of Newton. Newton is primarily known as an author and book collector, but his day job was as president of the Cutter Electrical and Manufacturing Company, and Fleck's education and early career was as an electrical engineer. There seems to be a potentially interesting paral-

lel, if it is not pressed too far. Oak Knoll's bookselling and publishing activities have become a major influence in the antiquarian book field. Fleck's contributions to this have been significant, and it would seem that the publication of his own story would be an important contribution to the literature of the field. He does have his own press to do it.—*Lee Shiflett, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.*

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