

welcome the unusual whenever possible. Several years ago a midwestern insurance company asked for slides of a dozen or so scenes of the Christmas story from some of our most beautifully illuminated manuscripts. The request was granted, and in the evenings between Christmas and New Year's the slides were flashed on the side of the company's building, while an attractive pamphlet identifying the scenes and the manuscripts was handed out to the hundreds of people who came on foot or in cars to see this special display.

Rare book librarians, it seems to me, enjoy a life of infinite variety built around the collecting

of early, important, and useful records. The late Wilmarth S. Lewis, that great collector and chronicler of Horace Walpole, once said of collectors that they "appear to noncollectors as selfish, rapacious, and half-mad, which is what collectors frequently are, but they may also be enlightened, generous, and benefactors of society, which is the way they like to see themselves. Mad or sane, they salvage civilization." For me, and I am sure for many other rare book librarians, it is a source of unending pleasure and satisfaction to think that we are joined with private collectors in a continuous effort to salvage civilization. ■■

Letters

Louis Round Wilson

To the Editor:

I should like to mention that in addition to the other relevant facts of Louis Round Wilson's illustrious life and career (p.71 *C&RL News*, March 1980), the death of this Melvil Dewey medal recipient on December 10, 1979, came on the anniversary of Dewey's birthday.—*Christopher Albertson, director, Orange Public Library, Orange, Texas.*

Closing the Catalog

To the Editor:

The cover article, "Close the Card Catalog?" in the February issue is by far the most informative

thing I have found on the impact of AACR 2.

Like other librarians, I have serious reservations about this business of "closing" the card catalog.—*Robert Underbrink, head librarian, Blackburn College, Carlinville, Illinois.*

"The Reference Librarian"

To the Editor:

Ann T. Hinckley's article "The Reference Librarian" in the March 1980 *College & Research Libraries News* really catches the flavor of the work of reference librarians. Indeed, her article expresses the very reasons why I became a reference librarian.—*Judith B. Quinlan, reference librarian, Perkins Library, Duke University.* ■■

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