

have issued publications under such top-heavy designations.

This raises the practical point: do such lists really make a contribution, or are they merely the by-products of "busy work"? It may be argued that even if they are in the latter category, the results are possibly useful and should be made available. All well and good, but part of the \$5.00 price tag on the Wisconsin list is due to the padding-out of headings. Each library must assess the value of these lists for itself, weighing the advantages against the drawbacks. Librarians need not be reminded that, an Oklahoma heading to the contrary, there is no Santa Claus Commission.—*John Rather, School of Library Service, Columbia University.*

## Cambridge Publishing

*The Evolution of Cambridge Publishing.* By S. C. Roberts. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1956. 67 p. \$2.75.

Unlike the editors of *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, those Cantabrigians who guide the Sandars Lectures in Bibliography are well aware that bibliography is neither confined to the history or description of books and manuscripts, nor to lists of writings. During the past decade, this distinguished lecture series has offered sound and varied fare, including studies of manuscripts, incunabula, and the book trade as well as John Carter's penetrating comments on tendencies in book collecting. *The Evolution of Cambridge Publishing*, the latest to be published, again reminds us of this breadth of interest, for it concerns the history of publishing rather than the history of books.

Although the university press at Cambridge has printed books since the sixteenth century, its publishing activities are fairly recent. In this volume of the Sandars Lectures for 1954, S. C. Roberts, master of Pembroke College and formerly secretary to the syndics of the press, presents a broad survey of publishing at Cambridge. Each of the three lectures is devoted to a particularly important period: the revival of the press under Richard Bentley about 1700, the increased attention to publishing in the second half of the nineteenth century, and some significant developments of the twentieth century. The first two

lectures supplement the author's *History of the Cambridge University Press* (1921) where the material on early publishing lacked the information provided by manuscripts since discovered and where the material on modern publishing was, with proper delicacy, subordinated. Thus, the earlier book discusses works published or printed at the beginning of the eighteenth century with occasional references to the curators' minute-books; in the present volume, cash accounts are analyzed to show production costs. The "sad story of the publication of the *Suidas Lexicon*" (1705), in which, unwillingly, "the Curators were for the first time faced with the problems and responsibilities of a publisher," is here told in detail.

The master of Pembroke then turns to the nineteenth century, discussing efforts to maintain the press on a profitable basis before considering the important publication projects: *Arabia Deserta*, the Revised Version, the Pitt Press series of textbooks, the *Cambridge Modern History*, and lesser works. These are reviewed in a rather cursory fashion; no attempt is made to supply detailed information about production costs, number of copies sold, or even the editorial policies. Instead, emphasis is placed upon the growth of the publishing business conducted by the press, citing changes in organization as well as in kinds of books published.

The final lecture describes "a few, only a few, features of the development of Cambridge printing and publishing in the present century." But the few chosen are probably the most interesting: the syndics' experience with an American promoter in the publication of the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the typographical renaissance under Bruce Rogers and Stanley Morison, and the success of the press in publishing textbooks as well as occasional best-sellers. When one remembers that, during part of this period, the author was secretary to the syndics, it is disappointing to find comparatively little new information. A less objective, more personal approach might have provided a better insight into the evolution of Cambridge publishing at that time. However, now that this study has been completed, it is to be hoped that an autobiographical account will be prepared. Certainly there is much more to tell.

This very handsome volume, with its fine plates, has been produced with the artistry and care characteristic of recent Cambridge University Press books. One could not imagine a more appropriate format for this brief but useful contribution to the history of publishing.—Rollo G. Silver, *School of Library Science, Simmons College.*

## Bibliographies of Bibliographies

*A History of Bibliographies of Bibliographies.*

By Archer Taylor. New Brunswick, N. J.: Scarecrow Press, 1955. ix, 147 p. \$3.50.

In this notable contribution to professional literature, Professor Taylor returns to the consideration of that "essence of an essence," that "sophisticated tool" which, within narrower limits, he discussed with so much grace and learning, a decade ago, in his *Renaissance Guides to Books*. Now he traces the history of bibliographies of bibliographies from Jerome the canonized to Besterman the blessed and beset. He has restricted himself to "works of universal scope"; some 50 names or titles appear in the index.

To Conrad Gesner's *Pandectae* (1548) he gives credit for "an auspicious beginning of a very difficult aspect of bibliography," and for constituting "the first modern bibliography of bibliographies," which "aimed at comprehensiveness and included works of all ages as far as they came to his knowledge." Francis Sweerts' *Athenae Belgicae* (1628) is said to have been not only "the first classified bibliography of bibliographies" but also "the first independent or almost independent bibliography of bibliographies," a qualified primacy which, in its fullest sense, he reserves for Philip Labbé's *Bibliotheca Bibliothecarum* (1652).

There are interesting accounts of the efforts (so far fruitless) to recover Jodocus Dudinck's vanished *Bibliothecariographia* (1643), of the unpublished *Bibliotheca Bibliothecarum* of Cornelius a Beughem, and of the lost manuscript of Charles Moëtte's *Bibliotheca Alphabetica*, this last the only treatise on the subject which "can be dated in the eighteenth century."

Professor Taylor refers to "the temptation that comes to every bibliographer to wander afield and include works of little pertinence

to the task," and insists that "accuracy, industry, and learning are not the only virtues required of a bibliographer," adding that "a bibliographer must be a practical man who sees how his book will be used." He concedes that "any definition of a bibliography is difficult to formulate and even more difficult to adhere to." The penultimate chapter is devoted to modern "Periodical and Cooperative Enterprises." The conclusion reached is that "with all their faults and insufficiencies—and what human works lack them?—bibliographies of bibliographies are very valuable aids to scholars." "Each age," Professor Taylor avers, "must create its own bibliography of bibliographies."

Professor Taylor alludes to his study as an "historical summary," but it is more than that: it is criticism at its finest and soundest, too.—David C. Mearns, *Library of Congress.*

## Books, Libraries & Librarians

*Books, Libraries, Librarians. Contributions to Library Literature.* Selected by John David Marshall, Wayne Shirley and Louis Shores. Hamden, Conn.: Shoe String Press, 1955. 432p. \$6.

The compilation offered by Mr. Marshall and his associates is intended to include a "representative selection" from the "body of professional literature" which possesses the "quality of readability," to provide "a source of pleasure and of profit to the profession's tyro and veteran alike," and to be "read by librarians and library school students seeking recreation, instruction and perhaps even inspiration." (Introduction, p. [xi]) Inasmuch as more than a quarter of the authors are non-librarians, the meaning given to "body of professional literature" is a rather unusual and certainly a very broad one. But let it stand without argument.

The work is divided into four sections: "Books and Reading," with 13 papers; "Libraries," with 11; "Librarians and Librarianship," with 16; and four notable statements of the librarian's profession, "The Freedom to Read," "The Library Bill of Rights," "The ALA Statement on Labeling," and the "Code of Ethics."

This is, in several respects, an astonishing florilegium. Of the 40 articles and essays,