

# Recent Publications

## BOOK REVIEWS

***Book Pirating in Taiwan.*** By David Kaser. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1969. ix, 154p. \$6.50. (69-12289).

Perhaps any reference to piracy whets the reading appetite; in any case, David Kaser's book presents a suspenseful account of a bedeviling situation in the book publishing world. The book has much to offer for serious thought; it happens also to be entertaining, a quality that never prejudices a judgment.

The chapter headings are tempting. Witness a few: "Through Tara's Halls: The Beginnings of Copyright"; "A Lick and a Promise: First Attempts at Resolution"; "The Carrot and the Stick: Reactions on Taiwan"; "And Never the Twain . . . : Negotiations Flounder"; "Hope Springs Eternal . . . : New Efforts to Bargain"; "Dashed Hopes and Greater Chaos: The Situation Worsens"; and "This Point Whither: The Present Scene and Current Trends."

The Irish reference recalls the sixth century decision of King Diarmuid against St. Columba who, without permission, had copied a psalter. "To every cow her calf; therefore to every book its copy." The tangled webs resulting from that decision have stretched and strengthened through the years and Kaser writes a short, informative background to the understanding of his present concern. He does not overlook the struggles of noted English writers with the vagaries of nineteenth century reprinting in the United States.

The reader is equally well served by a brief description of the status of literary property in the East. Since the American copyright laws had become fairly stable, American publishers found it most unpleasant to be confronted with dwindling sales and a dictum agreed to by China and the United States in 1903: "It is un-

derstood that Chinese subjects shall be at liberty to make, print and sell original translations into Chinese of any works written or of maps compiled by a citizen of the United States." During the 1950s it became apparent that far more than translations into Chinese were being printed; furthermore, the books were being published not only for students in Taiwan but for other centers like Hong Kong and Macao, and finally for sale in the States.

There follows a detailed account of the frustrating efforts of American publishers to come to terms with this flagrant piracy. Misunderstandings on a colossal scale complicated the paths of decency and fairness. "Almost all of the Taiwan reprinters had done exactly what good businessmen have always done everywhere—they operated their activities to the limit of the law in the interest of profits and what they felt to be the public good." The ever-increasing hordes of students needed books; book prices were high; reprinting seemed to be as kindly as it was unauthorized.

Kaser clarifies the maze of negotiation, compromise, and self-interest with a narrative style that untangles and delights. He concludes on a note of subdued optimism, having told a good yarn while increasing the reader's awareness of an important facet of the world's book trade. A satisfying index guarantees the book's usefulness to future students of copyright. The same index comes in handy for more casual readers; it helps them keep track of the names and numbers of the players.—*Philip J. McNiff, Boston Public Library.*

***The Library of The College of William and Mary in Virginia, 1693-1793.*** By John M. Jennings. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1968. xvi, 91 (1) p. \$5.00. (68-59130).

Much of the intellectual history of colonial America has gone up in smoke—literally. One need only recall the fire

which destroyed the first and largest library of the early days—the Harvard conflagration of 1764, and the two devastating holocausts which literally wiped out the Library of Congress in 1814 and decimated it in 1851. Somehow—and it cannot all be blamed on Sherman—the South suffered book losses to a greater extent than the North. The library of the College of William and Mary burned in 1705, 1859, and 1862.

It is remarkable that Mr. Jennings has been able to salvage so much history from the ashes which destroyed both books and the records of them. Of the first collection but a single volume, Paolo Sarpi's *History of the Council of Trent*, has survived. However, there is a manuscript list of the substantial nucleus of that collection, the 158 works given the college in 1698 by Governor Francis Nicholson. From the titles cited (one wishes the list had been printed in full in an appendix), the choice seems to have been in scope, size, and contents as theologically Anglican (with a sprinkling of books on history, travel, science, and literature) as the collections sent at the same time to Boston, New York, and Philadelphia by Dr. Thomas Bray. William and Mary also received a shipment from the book-dispensing Bray, but what those works were we do not know.

Growth after the fire of 1705 seems to have been slow. Books were begged for in England, bought in London by John Randolph with money from the Brafferton fund, and supplied after 1734 by grants from the General Assembly from liquor import duties—an unusually advanced form of subsidy. Gifts and bequests, notably that of President James Blair, added to the college's store. A few volumes and a few titles mentioned in documents and letters are the tantalizingly scanty indications of what the library may have contained. One visible tip of the iceberg is the inventory of scientific works purchased from the estate of the Rev. James Horrocks in 1772. During 1781 the academic book resources suffered a loss when the college buildings were occupied by British, French and American troops at different times during the Yorktown campaign.

It is curious that the only record of the library's size at this time—3,000 volumes—comes from the recollections of a Revolutionary soldier. With the addition of a gift from Louis XVI, similar no doubt to that given at the same time to the University of Pennsylvania, the Library of the College of William and Mary at the end of a hundred years of existence is estimated by Mr. Jennings to have consisted of 4,000 volumes.

The library historian will find this account of the struggles to build a collection of books for an academic institution strangely modern in tone. There were periods of academic dedication which resulted in gifts and governmental support. There was unforeseen loss through fire. There were major windfalls of money and books. There were periods of relaxation, which in libraries amounts to retrogression. Yet basically Mr. Jennings' chronicle is one of bookmen trying to convince non-bookmen of the importance of books, with good to moderate success. Alas, we learn more about the tree than the fruit. The records of the books are lacking. Mr. Jennings cannot be faulted. He has written everything that can be written about the first hundred years of the Library of the College of William and Mary.—*Edwin Wolf 2nd, Library Company of Philadelphia.* ■ ■

## BOOKS RECEIVED

NOTE: *The titles listed represent books received at the editorial office that may be of interest to academic librarians.*

Akers, Susan Grey. *Simple Library Cataloging*. 5th ed. Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, 1969. 345p.

Bekker, Nielsen Hans, ed. *Bibliography of Old Norse-Icelandic Studies 1968*. Copenhagen: Munksgaard, 1969. 95p. 30 Danish Kr.

Brunn, Alice L. *How to Find Out in Pharmacy*. A Guide to Sources of Pharmaceutical Information. London: Pergamon Press, 1969. 130p. \$4.75/hd, \$3.00/flexi-cover. (Commonwealth & International Library of Science Technology Engineering & Liberal Studies.)

Crowley, Edward L., et al., eds. *Party and*