

Materials. Chicago: American Library Assn., 1973. 251p. \$9.95.

In 1969, after considerable deliberation, an ALA committee recommended that a book on acquisitions work be prepared and published. Wulfekoeter's book (1961) was considered out-of-date and the need was felt for a synthesis of the abundance of literature on new developments. Stephen Ford, formerly order librarian at the University of Michigan, was found willing to prepare the book. According to the preface, it is designed for use as a textbook in library schools and as a "conceptual manual" for practicing acquisitions librarians. Ford touches on most aspects of acquisitions work, such as searching, domestic and foreign purchasing, blanket orders, out-of-print material, serials, automated order routines, etc. A quick glance through the table of contents, the literature lists at the end of each chapter, the glossary, and the index at the end seems to point toward success because there are very few, if any, obvious omissions.

Close reading, however, reveals two serious problems which have been confirmed by evaluations from library staff with varying experience and education. The first problem is the obvious failure to define the book's audience. In trying to reach the public, school, college, and university acquisitions librarians, the trained and the untrained as well as the student, Ford overshoots his goal by a wide margin and, as a result, none are reached. He goes out of his way to cover all possible viewpoints, never going into too much detail, never showing preferences, and the result is a series of halfway attempts. In this way, his description of the NPAC program has little meaning to anyone. He never really says what USBE is and does not even give an address. A good example of his careful generalization is the disappointing chapter on collection development and selection procedures when he states: "Some academic libraries do not allocate funds to departments, and others have control over allocations that permit library staff members to make purchases from them. In other institutions, allocations to faculty units are small and a large general fund gives the library faculty extensive responsibility for collection development."

My main criticism of Ford's book, however, lies with editorial aspects. On page after page there are sentences and statements that at times are very hard to understand even for the well-trained reader. On page 50 Ford mentions that the annual supplements to the British Museum Catalogue appear periodically. But the worst sentence must be on page 123 where it reads: "Non-periodical serials also differ from other library purchasing when they are purchased as series rather than as monographs. Librarians call these standing orders or continuations."

It is truly unfortunate that so much time and effort have been spent on this project by the author and numerous others. A less ambitious and more practical searching and acquisitions manual, such as the one Clara Brown did recently for serials (EBSCO, 1973), would have been far more useful, especially for those librarians involved in the continuous training of new staff.

For the time being, we will have to go back to dog-eared homemade manuals, Wynar's bibliography, and photocopies of good articles.—*Hendrik Edelman, Assistant Director, Cornell University Libraries, Ithaca, New York.*

Williams, Harold. *Book Clubs & Printing Societies of Great Britain and Ireland.*

Ann Arbor, Mich.: Gryphon Books, 1971. (Repr. of 1929 ed.) 126p. \$13.50.

Here is a little volume that will delight the cockles of many a bookish antiquary's heart. It first appeared, in a severely limited edition and largely without notice, some forty-five years ago in London, and this Gryphon reprint now makes it for the first time generally available in this country. Individuals and libraries with interest in bibliographic printing and the early book clubs and scholarly text societies will want copies.

The author prefaces his text with a clear and succinct definition of his subject. "On the study of texts," he writes, "on the appeal of antiquarianism, on wayfarings among forgotten books or rare editions, and the contribution these ventures bring to our knowledge of history, of social life, and of literature, are founded those societies whose work this essay follows."

After a brief survey of seventeenth- and

eighteenth-century precursors to this particular genre of book club, Sir Harold chronicles the establishment in 1812 and the early history of the Roxburghe Club. "In addition to the practice of heavy dining," he reports, "it was early resolved that each member . . . should, in turn, print 'some rare old tract, or composition—chiefly of poetry,' at his own expense."

Roxburghe was followed in 1823 by the founding of the Bannatyne Club by Sir Walter Scott with the purpose of printing texts illustrative of the history of Scotland, a pattern promptly followed by a number of other similar associations in that country. Others—throughout the British Isles—dedicated their activities to slightly different specializations, and such names as the Camden, Chetham, Caxton, and Hakluyt societies soon became well known to the historian of British life and culture. These in turn led to a proliferation of printing historical societies—such as the Pipe Roll, the Selden, and the Folk-Lore societies—and of printing literary societies—including the Early English Text Society, the Shakespeare Society, and the Chaucer Society. Collectors soon had their printing clubs, such as Ye Sette of Odd Volumes and The First Edition Club, by which the book here under review was first commissioned. Bibliographical societies were not far behind.

As a result of the work of these sixty or so organizations, many of which are still active, virtually thousands of texts have been made available to scholars, texts which would otherwise be languishing still in single manuscript. Although motivated in part by considerations of vanity and dilettantism, these printing societies have accrued a large debt of gratitude from scholarship, a debt which has not yet been fully recognized or acknowledged. But that is another book.—*David Kaser, Graduate Library School, Indiana University, Bloomington.*

Foskett, A. C. *The Universal Decimal Classification: The History, Present Status, and Future Prospects of a Large General Classification Scheme.* London: Linnet Books & Clive Bingley, 1973. 171p.

And now rides forth on a white charger another brave knight to succor that elderly

damsel in distress, *Universal Decimal Classification.* Boldly he chants again the oft-told tale of her royal (albeit with bar sinister) descent from Good King Melvil, her auspicious birth, her trials and tribulations, the mighty feats of her noble protectors, Sir Otlet, Sir LaFontaine, and Sir Duyvis, and the evil days which have fallen on her since their passing.

Then he gets down to the nitty-gritty:

There are full editions of UDC and medium editions and abridged editions and special subject editions, all in various stages of development, in various degrees of modernity, and in various languages. Schedules are produced in volumes, in fascicles, in loose-leaf, and by computer. UDC still has the general intellectual pattern of DC with its bias and notational problems; and in development of detail synthesis appears alongside enumeration. Revision is spasmodic, cumbersome, decentralized, and slow. Two Unesco surveys have suggested that UDC could no longer serve as an adequate international general classification scheme.

Ideas for the future of UDC have ranged from tinkering with its schedules and notation (e.g., Cales, Perreault, and others) to fundamental reconstruction of the scheme (e.g., Mrs. I. Dahlberg). Perhaps even more important than a restructured scheme is a restructured management—more efficient, more centralized, and above all, adequately funded (cf. Wellisch and others). But where to get the money? Although "the English edition of UDC sells quite well," yet "the United States would present a more difficult market" and "without fairly considerable support from sales in the USA it would be difficult to finance the improvements which all agree are necessary" (p.67-68).

At this point Foskett sticks in a chapter on mechanization and another on the Classification Research Group (CRG): mechanization and UDC would go well together—e.g., the Freeman-Atherton project sponsored by the American Institute of Physics. The work of CRG toward the construction of a new general classification scheme developed a number of theories which might be helpful in revising UDC—e.g., levels of integration, categories, etc.

And then we are returned to the future