

raphy arranged by type of application. Citations are listed within application in reverse chronological order.

The chapter on problems is general; it is organized around the difficulties of three groups of people: computer center and systems personnel, suppliers of hardware and software, and librarians. Three other types of problems are also discussed: poor planning, poor design, and poor implementation.

The final chapter on prospects touches on networks, standards, minicomputers, commercial systems, and future developments. This chapter is short, general, and not especially insightful, but may stimulate questions from those beginning their examination of library automation systems and trends.

In summary, the book is easy and interesting reading. It contains a wealth of information presented in a free-flowing, pleasant manner and is a good starting point for those desiring an orderly review of what has gone on before. Also, the author and publisher succeeded in publishing material that was as timely as possible up to the point of publication. However, the \$24.50 price tag is going to be hard to swallow.—*Eleanor Montague, Project Director, Western Network Project, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.*

Cole, John Y., ed. *Ainsworth Rand Spofford: Bookman and Librarian*. The Heritage of Librarianship Series, no. 2. Littleton, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, Inc., 1975. 203p. \$11.50. (LC 75-31517) (ISBN 0-87287-117-7)

In the foreword to this volume, series editor Michael Harris indicates that the subject of this book is "the rise of the Library of Congress to a position of unrivaled supremacy among American libraries" (p.5). That rise was the work of Ainsworth Rand Spofford. His own writings and the introductory background describe what he did for the Library of Congress.

John Y. Cole is, perhaps, preeminently qualified to edit this volume and to discuss Spofford's career. Cole's doctoral dissertation is entitled "Ainsworth Spofford and the National Library," and he has written seven

lengthy articles about the Library of Congress and Spofford. Part I of this work is a well-documented, precisely written history of Spofford's professional life. These details provide the background necessary to establish the context of the selections presented in Part II. The important features of Spofford's philosophy about the library and his profession are also highlighted in this summary. A skillful use of quotations encourages the reader to move directly and willingly into the selection of writings.

Part II is one of the most pleasant surprises this reviewer has had recently. Spofford was an opinionated, articulate person who had clearly defined goals and equally definite methods of achieving them. No librarian today would agree with all of his ideas. But any discussion about reference service or the role of the Library of Congress or book selection or the qualifications of a librarian or even classification could be vigorously stimulated by a reading of these essays. Would you characterize the Library of Congress as the "book palace of the American people" (p.43)? Spofford did, in 1899. He also saw the public library as the "people's university" (p.22). "Everyone seeking to know anything, should find the librarian a living catalogue" (p.152), he concluded.

Several of his writings may offer "new" solutions to hoary problems. His "First Annual Report" could serve as a model for a librarian describing library needs to a non-librarian supervisor. Present-day administrators might find that his arguments for more space in "A 'Wholly Distinct' Library Building" could be used with great effectiveness. ALA's GODORT members will want to read his memo on "An Index to the Documents and Debates of Congress."

Librarians and library school students should read this book and study this man's ideas. The volume is a necessary acquisition for collections concerned with library history and library philosophy. John Y. Cole has reestablished an important figure in our professional heritage.—*Judy H. Fair, Director of the Library, The Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.*

Martin, Susan K., and Butler, Brett, eds. *Library Automation: The State of the*