

the Tennessee Valley Authority and was supported by the state library agencies and state library associations of the nine-state region—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. It updates a similar survey conducted in 1946-47 under the aegis of the Tennessee Valley Library Council.

Since its primary intention, as stated in the preface, was "to provide a data base for regional planning for library development and for cooperative action," one might expect somewhat more emphasis on the implications for cooperation in the course of the presentation of data gathered. Several references are made, for example, to limitations which placed time constraints on the scope of the study, among them the decision not to collect data on academic consortia.

As it stands, however, the volume offers valuable information on almost every kind of library resource in the area, and we are told that a supplementary volume of statistical data has also been issued (see M. E. Anders, *The Southeastern States Cooperative Library Survey, 1972-74: Tables* [Atlanta: Industrial Development Division, Engineering Experiment Station, Georgia Institute of Technology, 1975]).

The report is simply organized and easy to approach. In successive chapters, the author describes the region, the major agencies responsible for leadership, the types of institutions providing library services, and general characteristics of library personnel with a cursory look at library users. The services offered by the various types of agencies and libraries are analyzed according to the geographical area served, financial support received, materials held, personnel employed, personnel practices observed, types of people served, and physical quarters and equipment maintained. Except for state library agencies and supreme court libraries, findings are not broken down by individual institution. Specific recommendations for achieving greater effectiveness are offered for each type.

A final interpretive chapter gives an overview of the survey, assesses current conditions in terms of the goals set in the 1946-47 study, and outlines eight overall recommendations for regional action. Addressed

to the sponsoring association, these specify the hiring of a full-time SELA director with responsibility for exercising leadership in regional plans involving all types of libraries, agencies, and organizations concerned with library services. The ensuing programs would link library resources more closely with user needs, develop new networks compatible with the national program, encourage more financial support for public library service, and strengthen research collections cooperatively. Dr. Anders also suggests the strengthening of standards for school library/media centers and the provision of a regionwide continuing education program.

In deciding the future direction of their regional efforts, Southeastern leaders should perhaps give special attention, not simply to the survey director's final recommendations for SELA, but more basically to her recommendations for state library agencies and to other observations she makes along the way. Dr. Anders mentions variously the existence of legislation in eight of the nine states authorizing interstate compacts, the responsibility of state library agencies to create and support programs uniting the types of libraries, and the hazards of expecting library associations to sustain continuity in long-range planning and development.

Put together and carried to their logical conclusion, these points might suggest the solution which is currently being tried in New England. In the early 1970s the New England Library Association, seeking a focus for regionwide cooperative efforts, initiated the creation of a separate legal entity, representative of all types of libraries but directed by the state agencies under the Interstate Library Compact. SELA may wish to consider the New England experience as it seeks ways to implement the survey recommendations for regional cooperative action in the Southeast.—*Mary A. McKenzie, Executive Director, New England Library Board, Hartford, Connecticut.*

Sullivan, Peggy. *Carl H. Milam and the American Library Association*. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1976. 390p. \$17.50. LC 76-3686. ISBN 0-8242-0592-8.

Milam, Carl H. *Carl H. Milam and the United Nations Library*. Edited and with

an introduction by Doris Cruger Dale. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1976. 132p. \$6.00. LC 76-14866. ISBN 0-8108-0941-9.

From 1920 to 1948, the name of Carl Hastings Milam was synonymous with the American Library Association and, to some extent, with American librarianship itself. As spokesman, administrator, consultant, and friend, he shaped the course of libraries in the United States and their relationship to librarianship around the world. Those who remember this hearty, gregarious, and effective man are startled to discover that many now do not even recognize his name. Fortunately—for his career explains much about our present situation—scholars are beginning to study this key figure of twentieth-century American librarianship.

Born in Kansas in 1884, Milam began his work in libraries as a student assistant at the University of Oklahoma under the direction of Milton J. Ferguson, later the respected public librarian of Brooklyn. The experience prompted Milam to go on to the Albany library school after completing his college studies. Beginning work as cataloger at Purdue University, he became secretary and library organizer for the Indiana Public Library Commission in 1909, moving in 1913 to become director of the Birmingham, Alabama, Public Library. When the Library War Service was established in 1917, Milam became a principal assistant to Herbert Putnam, the Librarian of Congress, who directed the work of providing libraries for the servicemen in France and in camps in the United States. Although nominally on leave from Birmingham, Milam soon turned most of his attention to the national enterprise.

When American librarians, inspired by their success in the war effort, determined to seek support for a widened and deepened postwar library service, Milam soon became a leading figure in the so-called Enlarged Program. For a time he jointly administered the closing days of the Library War Service and the beginnings of the fund drive for the postwar effort. Then, in 1920, he was appointed executive secretary of ALA, bringing together his previous responsibilities with new duties. Although the grandiose plans for the Enlarged Program were never realized, Milam was at the

center of the efforts during the 1920s to carry out reform and expansion.

Supported primarily by the Carnegie Corporation, which had ceased to subsidize buildings in favor of improvement of library programs, American librarianship undertook new activities, particularly in adult education, library extension, and library education. During the depression years of the 1930s, Milam led the association in seeking to protect library services and librarians' positions from budget cuts. Programs supported by the New Deal were harnessed for the benefit of libraries, and the new fashion for planning was reflected in the activities of ALA under Milam's leadership. Then, with the onset of World War II, ALA was again involved both with the encouragement of wartime library services and with postwar planning. During all of these twenty-eight years of change, adjustment, and growth, Milam, as Sullivan says, "showed a remarkable capacity to grow" (p.95).

Concurrently with all of his activities at home, Milam was often a leading library spokesman for the United States in other countries. It was natural that he was one of the group selected to survey the library needs of the newly organized United Nations and that he was then asked to undertake the responsibility of setting the new library on its feet. In 1948, aged sixty-three, he anticipated his impending retirement by taking on this new challenge for the last two years of his career.

During those same years, he was nominated as ALA's president by an influential inner circle of the association whose members thought he had earned the honor. To Milam's embarrassment, a group of members chose that occasion to overturn the tradition of a single nominee for the office, nominating by petition a rival candidate who was elected. Although the outcome seems to have been primarily a result of the movement toward democracy rather than personal opposition to Milam, it was an unfortunate episode in his association career. All the evidence suggests that he took the defeat in good grace and without bitterness.

For his last thirteen years he retired to his home outside Chicago, enduring the sadness of his wife's difficult final illness

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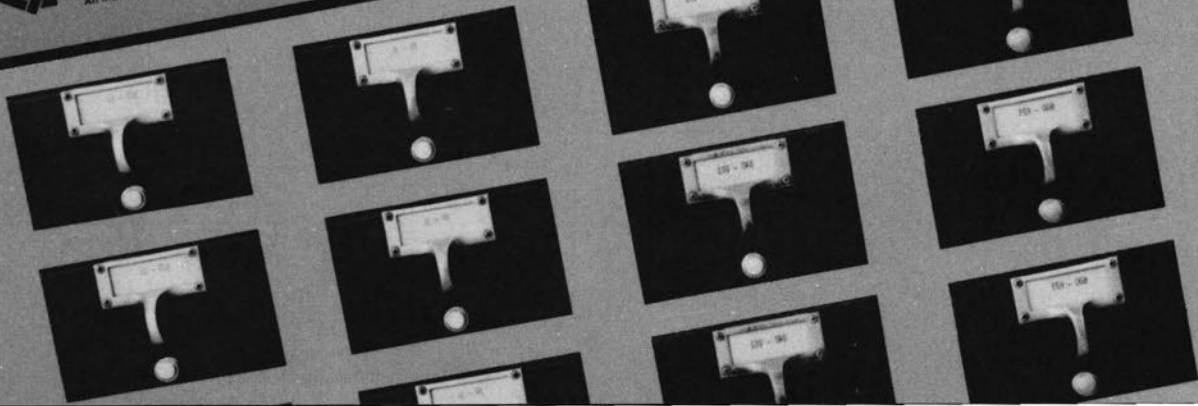
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and making a life for himself with continued participation in library affairs and with work on a manuscript that unfortunately was not completed before his death in 1963, aged seventy-eight.

Sullivan's biography is a lively and competent recounting of Milam's life and professional career. Carried out as a dissertation at the University of Chicago, the work brings Milam to life as a person and summarizes his career well. In the process, Sullivan tells us a great deal about the progress of both the association and the profession. It is a useful and informative book. It has an unfortunate flaw that makes it difficult to read as a single sequence. Faced with the multiplicity and complexity of Milam's life and career, Sullivan chose to divide her work into topics rather than to adhere strictly to chronology.

She begins with two chapters that bring first the association's history and then Milam's life up to 1920. A third chapter seeks to summarize the work of the association broadly during Milam's tenure. The succeeding chapters deal with his relations with outside organizations such as foundations and the federal government, his international involvements, his position and activities as spokesman of the association and of the profession, his personality at work and in his private life, and his final years. The consequence is a fragmentation that prevents the reader from following the story from beginning to end.

Sullivan's choice is, of course, a response to the classic dilemma of the historian seeking to reconcile chronology with integrated treatment of subject matter; to an extent, one or the other inevitably suffers. In this

instance, however, the fragmentation is more than simply a matter of choice and taste. Particular matters, being treated in a number of places piecemeal, are never completely explained. Just as one example, the nature of the Enlarged Program is never detailed with the fullness that this important and revealing dream warrants, though it is mentioned on numerous occasions.

In another instance of unfortunately meager coverage, Sullivan leaves the reader dependent for detailed knowledge of Milam's work at the United Nations upon Doris Cruger Dale's *The United Nations Library; Its Origins and Development* (ALA, 1970). Surely the reader of Milam's major biography is entitled to a comprehensive summary of the nature of the problems and Milam's responses to them. Despite its flaws, however, Sullivan's *Milam* is an interesting and well-done study that fills an important void. It can be heartily recommended as one of a growing group of studies that will enlighten us about the crucial half-century or so that is immediately behind us.

As a by-product of her work on the UN library, Dale has edited Milam's diary of his United Nations years together with an introduction and six appendixes related to the library or Milam's work with it. The study is competently done. Library school libraries and comprehensive research libraries will doubtless wish to have the book in their collections, though it is difficult to think of many other people who would be likely to need it at hand.—W. L. Williamson, Professor, Library School, University of Wisconsin-Madison.