

American reader might feel, with some justification, that treatment of library and related professional associations in two columns of the article on the United States is insufficient, whereas articles of that or greater length are devoted to individual associations of many foreign countries. Balance of coverage may also be questioned. For instance, law and medical libraries are given lengthy treatment whereas theological libraries do not even appear in the "parallel index." Moreover, the American Theological Library Association is mentioned in only one sentence in the section on library and related professional associations in the United States (p.581). Similar criticism may be expressed on behalf of libraries in several other special subject and professional fields. The authors of historical articles are especially to be commended for full and comprehensive coverage of their subjects. Their contributions add significantly to the literature of library history.

The *ALA World Encyclopedia* clearly fills a need for a one-volume reference work that provides extensive and up-to-date information related to libraries and information services. Although the multivolume *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, edited by Kent, Lancour, and Daily, is far more monumental in both length and scope, and although *The ALA Yearbook* published annually since 1976 provides timely "state-of-the-art" coverage, neither of these works lessens the value or appropriateness of this new ALA publication. The volume is attractively designed and the clarity of type, composition, and overall format make it easy to use. Printed on Forest Book Natural English Finish paper and bound in maroon buckram with gold embossed lettering, this volume's aesthetic qualities complement its considerable value for reference and research.—*Kenneth G. Peterson, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.*

Metcalf, Keyes DeWitt. *Random Recollections of an Anachronism; or, Seventy-Five Years of Library Work*. New York: Readex Books, 1980. 401p. \$14.95. LC 70-67213. ISBN 0-918414-02-4.

Librarians have been surprisingly reticent in writing about themselves. William War-

ner Bishop, Louis Shores, and, a little earlier, Arthur E. Bostwick have written autobiographies. J. C. M. Hanson's manuscript of his early years has recently been edited for publication, and there are a few more, but we have much less than we should about American librarians in their own words. Metcalf overcame his reluctance only after urging from his publisher and his discovery that younger librarians in his library administration seminar at Rutgers in 1958 were indeed interested in listening to his informal accounts of libraries and librarians. Once convinced, he spent five years reviewing his correspondence and some at Oberlin and New York Public Library and calling up details from a remarkable store of memory. This volume, covering the first forty-eight years of his life as student and librarian, is written in an earnest, straightforward style that will earn no literary awards but tells with unmistakable clarity what one librarian recalls of an extraordinary career. In these days when self-revelatory autobiographies crowd the bookshelves, Metcalf's book may seem remarkably impersonal. Indeed, there are many points at which one would like to interrupt the narrative to ask what he felt about the events that have just occurred. His engagement and marriage to Martha Gerrish, the birth of his children, and other personal details are reported as matter-of-fact occurrences. Some matters are simply not to be discussed with strangers.

Metcalf's childhood and early education, which occupies the first quarter of the volume, seem harsh by today's standards, but there is no suggestion that he or his brothers and sisters considered themselves unfortunate in any way. His mother died when he was five and his father three years later; his oldest sister, Marion, gave up her teaching career to return and take care of the younger children. Metcalf's obvious pride in referring to other members of his family throughout the book suggests that she must have been a remarkable woman. His recall of those years, if not total, is remarkable in details: His first motion picture, breakfast in a Cleveland restaurant for ten cents, weeding an onion field for five cents an hour, reading J. S. C. Abbot's *Civil War* and Theodore Roosevelt's *Naval*

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History of the War of 1812 from the Sunday school library are typical examples. He spent three weeks working for his brother-in-law Azariah Smith Root in the Oberlin College Library during a year of enforced vacation to recuperate from the variety of ailments of a frail boy, and the experience was a turning point of sorts. When he returned to high school, the family moved to Oberlin and he became *the* page and errand boy at Oberlin; in his words, "I have been doing library work ever since except for four summers." The summers were spent in vigorous outdoor work on farms and one summer with a surveying team in Montana. A frail boy no longer, he became an enthusiast of football and track, an interest that continued through his New York Public Library years, when he spent many weekends officiating at football games and track meets.

Metcalf's Oberlin years were useful ones for a budding librarian. The collections brought together by Azariah Root were unusual for a small college. A new Carnegie building was completed in 1908, the year

Metcalf entered college. The job of supervising the move from the older Spear Library and merging the college library books with those of the students' Union Library Association was his. The assignment included placing an art collection in the new building and sleeping on guard until locks were fitted to the doors. Preparing red rope paper binders for unbound newspapers and periodicals was a recurring Christmas project. During his college career Metcalf had a hand in virtually all the activities of a college library. College courses, viewed in retrospect, seem less important elements of his education than experience gained in library tasks and athletic contests.

In September 1911 he entered the newly established library school of the New York Public Library, the only man in a class of forty. The course work was easy enough to leave time for exploring the city and for a temporary job cataloging the library at the National Guard Armory. In January, when Azariah Root was unable to find a staff member willing to take charge during his sabbatical, Metcalf was appointed executive

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assistant for a year, an experience that was well worth a year's delay in the library school. The following January he returned to complete the first year with a new class and was appointed chief of book stacks while completing the second year.

Except for another year at Oberlin in 1916-17 as acting librarian while Root substituted as director of the library school for the ailing Mary Wright Plummer, the remaining years covered in this volume were spent in the New York Public Library as executive assistant to the director and later, chief of the Reference Department. These years were important ones in Metcalf's career; the problems the library faced were sometimes overwhelming, occasionally bizarre, always told with detachment and candor and in unexpected detail. Staff selection, inventory, microphotography, troublesome readers, selection of books in specialized subjects, dealing with prospective donors, limiting the clientele of the library, book thefts, and streamlining the technical processes are among the many problems that Metcalf comments on. But his recollections of the people he worked with are the most interesting part of the New York Public Library years. The brief career of Whitaker Chambers in the library has not, to my knowledge, been told before. Metcalf's account of the brilliant but sometimes abrasive Adelaide Hasse differs from the sketch in the *Dictionary of American Library Biography*. The work of G. William Berquist as library detective is reported in greater detail than in previous accounts. Metcalf's admiration of H. M. Lydenberger adds considerably to the information available on a man who should have written his own autobiography.

Surprisingly, Metcalf's important work in the American Library Association begins late in these years. For an account of these activities and the years at Harvard we will have to wait for the second volume. It will be well worth the wait.—*Joe W. Kraus, Illinois State University, Normal.*

Fussler, Herman H., and Bryan, Harrison. *Reflections on the Future of Research Libraries: Two Essays*. Clayton, Victoria: Graduate School of Librarianship, Monash University, 1978. 36p. A\$6.

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This first monographic publication of the Graduate School of Librarianship at Monash University contains two essays on the future of research libraries. One, "Current Research Library Issues," was written by Herman H. Fussler, Martin A. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor at the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. Professor Fussler was a visiting professor at Monash during the 1977 fall term. The second essay, "The Future of the Research Library," was written by Harrison Bryan, librarian of the University of Sydney, who is considered Australia's foremost writer on academic and research librarianship.

Fussler's essay is a revised text of a public lecture given at Monash University on 19 October 1977. In this lecture Fussler points out that the problems facing research libraries are largely due to the growth in the literature and rising costs brought about by severe inflation, coupled with the ever-expanding informational needs of library patrons. Among possible general responses, he suggests the development of a national system for sharing currently published and future research resources on a rather large scale from a national center, as well as the development of a national capability for storing and providing access to bibliographical data in machine-readable form. Citing specific proposals for change, Fussler expands the following topical headings: resource sharing, sharing monographs, sharing retrospective resources, preservation, photocopying and copyright, bibliographical control, and technology.

Bryan's paper was written for a seminar he shared with Professor Fussler at Monash in October 1977. In his paper, Bryan begins by defending the book and stating that it "will survive on its own merits or not at all." He reviews the changes in the research library in Australia in recent years: upgrading of physical plants, astonishing growth in resources, minimal concern for nonbook materials except for recent emphasis on microform, improvement in both sophistication and effectiveness in library administration, important but cautious degree of tech-