

compilers was to produce as nearly complete a guide as possible within the limits imposed by the time available for the project and by the vast amount of material to be studied. Definite bounds of inclusion and coverage were established for this initial work. The area of geographic coverage is carefully delineated on pages 5-6 of the *Introduction*; it is outlined graphically on the index map which is reproduced in each of the volumes. The span of time included is almost entirely the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; this necessarily excludes important earlier works. Some publications which were too difficult to analyze in the time allowed for the preparation of these volumes were omitted. It has been estimated that approximately 50% of the material which might have been included within the scope of this set is yet to be indexed. There is, for example, in the Stefansson Library, alone, still a sizeable quantity of material in this category but, as yet, unrecorded. This fact does not detract from the *Arctic Bibliography*; rather, so much is presented to the user that he is impressed not only by the wealth of Arctic writings but also by the immense work which has been produced. Moreover, in order to bring the initial publication up to date and to include, as well, both older works not previously analyzed and some classics, supplements—several already nearing completion—will be issued.

One would probably be correct in presuming that in preliminary discussions the compilers debated the relative merits of the chosen author listing, with its subject-geographic index, in comparison with a chronological or other arrangement. The plan selected is probably the most convenient for the majority of users and, considering the bibliography as a tool of great value for citation verification, one is inclined to think that the best decision was made.

A few more than twenty thousand items are recorded in Volumes 1 and 2, the author listing. They represent coverage of almost all the earth sciences as well as anthropology, botany, zoology and sociology. Books, papers and contributions to works of multiple authorship are noted under each author's name. Entries include not only the transcribed title but also English translations of foreign-language titles—a great advantage where a majority of the listings are in Russian, Ger-

man or the Scandinavian languages. Generally, when books or articles include a bibliography, this is noted with either the number of items included in it or the paging. Descriptive annotations are given for each entry. A library location symbol indicates where the cited copy was examined. In this regard, the searcher should note, for example, that though Item 4472 is a Library of Congress copy, this does not signify that the Stefansson Library at Dartmouth does not have it. One might wish that in the case of monographs and books which, like this, are not found in many collections, more library locations could have been noted. (True—a footnote on page 8 indicates that the LC Union Catalog or the *Union List of Serials* should be consulted for other copies of books and locations of journals.)

Volume 3 comprises the index—in itself a remarkable tool. Not only do the geographic entries have subject subheadings but the subject entries have, first of all, geographic subdivision; then, subject subdivisions. This factor, plus abundant cross-referencing, makes it almost impossible for the user not to find the item for which he is searching. Inclusion of imprint date with the brief title is an additional aid. The index illustrates the intention of the *Arctic Bibliography* to note, first of all, the original records of explorations and reports of scientists; the entries under "Expeditions" extend for 107 pages.

The *Arctic Bibliography* was financed by funds from the U.S. Department of Defense under a contract with the Arctic Institute of North America. The Canadian government also contributed financially to its completion. Anyone whose work touches on the polar region and who must work with its literature and bibliography owes a debt of thanks to the compilers of the *Arctic Bibliography* but especially to Marie Tremaine of the Arctic Institute of North America who has both directed and inspired this undertaking.—*Virginia L. Close, Dartmouth College Library.*

Serial Publications

Periodicals and Serials, Their Treatment in Special Libraries. By David Grenfell. London, Aslib, 1953. 200p. (Aslib Manuals, vol. 3.) 12s.6d. (10s.6d. to members).

The so-called incunabula period for serials

extended through the year 1700. In the two-and-a-half centuries since 1700 each age has been impressed with the upsurge of serial publications, so much so that each has proclaimed itself the age of serials. The twentieth century is more impressed with its accomplishments than preceding centuries, and well it may be. For following the introduction of woodpulp paper as well as major developments in printing and near-print, the twentieth century has witnessed an astounding multiplication of serial publications. The stage has been reached where three-fourths of the intake at the Library of Congress is serial in character.

Special libraries were quick to realize the research value of serials, much more so than the average general library. They have been enterprising in acquiring and servicing serials; they have done pioneer work in processing them. So it is in keeping with special-library traditions that Aslib has published a decidedly worthwhile book on serial publications written by the chief cataloger of the National Film Library in London. Naturally the book reflects British practice to a high degree, but Mr. Grenfell is well acquainted with recent American writings on his subject and has made good use of them.

The tone of the publication is set in a foreword by Miss Ditmas who says: "the literary, scientific or technical periodical has come to stay—more, it has won such an honoured place amongst the tools of research that it has attained the right to be treated *sui generis*, and not as a poor relation of the book." Miss Ditmas goes on to say that this status has always been acknowledged by special libraries, but that library manuals have often been influenced by the outlook of the general library where monographs outweigh periodicals in importance. One could wish that Miss Ditmas had said "popular" instead of "general library," because the research library of practically all types, general or special, ought to accord priority to serials as the backbone of its collection. Actually there is too much truth for comfort in her statement; for with a few exceptions (like the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library) the general research library has been remiss in its collecting and overelaborate in its processing of serials. So today the general research library has much to learn from the special

library; and hence the value to the general library of manuals like Grenfell's.

Something like a quarter of the book is devoted to annotated bibliographies, a valuable feature in itself. Grenfell also takes up a fair amount of space hunting the chimeras of a definition of the term "periodical" or "serial." In this connection he says that "the term 'serial,' although it has such a wide connotation, finds comparatively little mention in professional literature, whilst in everyday usage the term 'periodical' is used now more in the sense of the term 'serial.'" He adds that "the term 'serial' is becoming unpopular and a more comprehensive interpretation is being given to the term 'periodical.'" Quite evidently he is reflecting European thought, not American, as can be seen from the fact that the United States has not only its *Union List of Serials* (which Grenfell graciously calls "the greatest union list ever issued"), but also its *New Serial Titles* and its *Serial Slants*, while its libraries have numerous serial divisions, sections, etc.

But the major part of the work is devoted to the techniques of acquisition, visible-index work, circulation, reference, and binding. One interesting fact is that although the author is a cataloger, the cataloging of serials is played down, being limited to a brief discussion of the theory of entry in a chapter entitled "Bibliographic Arrangement and Listing of Titles." On the one hand, it is in keeping with special-library practice to play down the catalog records, but on the other, it is unfortunate to skimp in an area where there may be most interesting developments to report, such as the ideas Marjorie Plant put in operation in the British Library of Political and Economic Science. (See her "Periodicals Procedure in a University Library," *COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES* 3:62-3, December 1941.) Likewise classification receives short shrift in a chapter on "Display, Storage, Binding and Shelving." Yet even if a library is advised to dispense with classification, there are problems to be faced: how to arrange the material when there are changes of name or title; how to shelve annual reports, government documents, and other types of serials; and how to arrange the charge file when call numbers are not used.

The work has been planned for the small special library, and as such will be really use-

ful, particularly in Great Britain. But it has much to offer research libraries in general, so it is natural to hope that the book will be strengthened in a second edition.—*Andrew D. Osborn, Harvard College Library.*

Books About Books: The Anglo-American Tradition

The Alchemy of Books. By Lawrence Clark Powell. Los Angeles, The Ward Ritchie Press, 1954. 263 p. \$4.50.

A History of the Old English Letter Foundries, with Notes Historical and Bibliographical on the Rise and Progress of English Typography. By Talbot Baines Reed. A new ed., rev. and enl. by A. F. Johnson. London, Faber and Faber, 1952. 400 p. 84s.

Cambridge Press Title-Pages, 1640-1665: A Pictorial Representation of the Work Done in the First Printing Office in British North America. By Sidney A. Kimber. Takoma Park, Md. (7302 Hilton Ave.), The Author, 1954. \$10.00.

Morris-Drucke und andere Meisterwerke englischer und amerikanischer Privatpressen (Morris Imprints and other Masterpieces of English and American Private Presses. Exhibition of the Gutenberg Museum, March 24, 1954, on the 120th Birthday of William Morris). Mainz, Gutenberg Society, 1954. Free to members.

PI: A Hodge-Podge of the Letters, Papers and Addresses Written during the Last Sixty Years. By Bruce Rogers. Cleveland, World Publishing Co., 1953. 185 p. \$6.00.

I would like to say at the outset that the theme for the present article (as well as for one to be included in a future issue of C&RL, which will deal with "The Printed Picture") was selected solely on the basis of the books to be reviewed. The decision was made before Anglo-American relations had become once again a major point in current world politics. It was also made before I knew that one of the books would turn out such a powerful and direct plea for cultural cooperation of the English speaking world. This is the volume by Lawrence C. Powell.

The first of the three divisions of *The*

Alchemy of Books, a charming and inspiring collection of essays, is entitled "Bookman in Britain." It is largely the fruit of a prolonged stay of the author on a Guggenheim Fellowship for the study of the British antiquarian booktrade and its relation with America. From the piece "A Southwesterner in Scotland" I quote the following: "In this luckless time when ties between countries of different languages are strained to the snapping point, it is the strong bond between the English-speaking people which may prove the one thing that ensures our common survival, and that of lesser nations who look to us for protection." With Powell, this is not, as so often, a convenient phrase, but the expression of a conviction born from a life devoted to the individual's search for books and the wholly natural practice of personal reading. His rediscovery of the shrines of 17th century literature in the war-scarred British Isles is matched by the new discovery of some fresh poetic talent of today of which many of us have probably not heard. It is good, very good, that a professional librarian appears as a personal guide to new literary values.

"Reading and Collecting," the second section, begins with a piece called "A Bookman's Credo", and there is not an article in this section which does not express this credo. In "Librarians as Readers of Books", for instance, one finds not far from each other, the following sentences: "The aspect of librarianship which interests me most is—books. . . . I urge librarians to be on the alert for today's unstandardized books . . . I want to consider reading as a personal therapy, as a tonic . . ." The third section, "People, Books, and Places," is perhaps more intimate and personal even than the earlier portions, and it contains some very fine prose.

The next item on the list, *A History of the Old English Letter Foundries*, carries us back to the early traditions of English printing and typesetting. On reading this new edition of the classic work on English printing type, previously published in the one edition of 1887, one realizes two things: first, how much of today's familiar and current knowledge of English printing history comes from this one source, and second, what a splendid piece of work A. F. Johnson has done as the editor of the new edition.

The book was originally planned by Reed