

the original catalog, and the size of the book when known. On the whole, the individual entries are recorded quite accurately, both for German and for non-German books.

Comparison with American auction records indicates a distinctly lower price trend, and this phenomenon might well be the subject of a fairly careful investigation. It would seem, in general, to be advantageous for American librarians to participate more actively in European auctions rather than to pay a premium to domestic firms who acquire books we want at these same auctions.—*Lawrence S. Thompson, University of Kentucky Libraries.*

Contemporary Book Design

Contemporary Book Design. By Ralph E. Eckerstrom. "Beta Phi Mu Chap-Book Number One." [Urbana, University of Illinois Library] 1953. 26 p. \$3.00.

Eckerstrom's work is the first in a series of books to be published under the auspices of Beta Phi Mu, National Library Science Honorary Fraternity. The fraternity, founded at the University of Illinois in the spring of 1949, decided that "first attention should be given to the publication of a series of books which would be authoritative and worthwhile contributions to the literature of books and librarianship and would, at the same time, have the virtue of presenting the best in book design." The volume here under review admirably fulfills the scope and promise of the stated purpose of this series. If succeeding volumes in the series are of like excellence, the Beta Phi Mu Chap-Books will prove distinguished contributions to the literature of books and librarianship.

Mr. Eckerstrom, art director of the University of Illinois Press since 1949, defines book design as "the manner in which the paper, cloth, ink, type face, and illustrations are bound together in book form to make a visual presentation of the author's ideas." In his brief essay, the author contracts traditional book design with that of today, noting the new techniques now being employed in the composition of books. Type faces, illustrations, color, paper, binding—each plays an important role in the composition of the physical book; and the role of each is discussed clearly and concisely.

This contemporary "chap-book" was designed by the author, and he has agreed to design the other volumes to be published in the series. The format of the present volume offers ample proof that Mr. Eckerstrom practices in book design that which he preaches. *Contemporary Book Design* is a handsome example of typography, a delight to read and to own.—*John David Marshall, Clemson College Library.*

Physics Literature

Physics Literature: A Reference Manual. By Robert H. Whitford. Washington, D.C., The Scarecrow Press, 1954. 228 p. \$5.00.

The appearance of this guide to the vast amount of reading matter and the complex publishing pattern of physical science literature will be welcomed by the librarians and students at the college level at which it is aimed. *Physics Literature* is a survey of literature, arranged by "most usual lines of inquiry termed 'approaches'". Eight major approaches are outlined (bibliographical, historical, biographical, experimental, mathematical, educational, terminological, and topical) and the most useful titles in furnishing helpful guidance and a basic collection are listed.

This survey will immediately be suspected of being a rival to Nathan Parke's *Guide to the Literature of Mathematics and Physics* . . . published in 1947. These books are only rivals in part. Parke's work is largely a selected list of the outstanding treatises on various subjects arranged alphabetically by topic. The topical listing, however, is only one of many approaches used by Whitford to develop his guides to the literature of the various phases of physics. Although Parke lists more titles, from 30 to 40% of the titles listed in Whitford's topical section were published after 1947 and thus do not appear in Parke's guide. Parke's excellent discussion of study methods and literature searching, and his more detailed subject listing, and Whitford's carefully analyzed approaches and more recent titles are more complementary than competitive.

Dr. Whitford used a number of criteria to cull out the most useful titles to physicists. By the same criteria, his own book would also be included. *Physics Literature* will un-

doubtedly prove to be a useful bibliographic tool. A thorough reading of the chapter on the bibliographic approach will prepare serious students, both of physics and of librarianship, for effective use of physics literature. While one may find it difficult to decide just which approach or combination of approaches would produce the best results in his quest for literature, the book has a virtue in being brief enough to allow one to read any part deemed pertinent in a short time. The book's value as a ready reference guide may be somewhat hindered by this broad approach arrangement, except to those who use it frequently.

The author has been thoughtful in his selection of titles. In this work he surveyed four extensive technical library collections. Moreover, he was guided by knowledge gained as a science librarian. Omission of titles does not indicate that they lack merit. Selectivity in reference guides is bound to offend the personal opinions of users at some point or another. It will not be difficult, using this book as a guide, to develop bibliographies and readily to fill in titles which have been omitted to keep the book compact and live. Dr. Whitford's comments, though brief, are pertinent and filled with clues to additional useful literature on both physical science and bibliographic work in physics.

This book does fill a major gap. It is now the only suitable book that can be used as a text for prospective physics librarians. It brings Parke up to date by listing books published in the last seven years. It answers a need for an effective guide to literature, arranged to provide a maximum amount of information on all phases of physics (including teaching, philosophy, popularization and industrial applications) for a variety of types of users.—*Russell Shank, Columbia University Libraries.*

Document Reproduction

International Federation for Documentation.
Manual on Document Reproduction and Selection. F.I.D. Publ. No. 164. The Hague, F.I.D., 1953. \$7.10 plus \$2.50 for Suppls.

In the last chapter of the *Manual on Methods . . .* Robert Binkley writes: "It has seemed almost impossible to close the book, because the rush of innovation makes a chapter

out of date almost as soon as it leaves the typist's hands." (Joint Committee on Materials for Research. *Manual on Methods of Reproducing Research Materials . . .* by Robert C. Binkley . . . Ann Arbor, Edwards, 1936. p. 183.) That was in 1936. The normal progress to be expected in eighteen years was accelerated by the forced efforts resulting from a world-wide war. There has long been a need for a study to bring Binkley up to date.

The International Federation for Documentation has published with assistance from UNESCO a manual that is by no means a revision of Binkley, but an entirely new approach to the problem. Whereas the earlier report was limited to practices and procedures native to the United States, the new publication is global in scope. In order to be as universal as possible, it speaks with two tongues. Most of the expository material is presented in both English and French. The editorial board, under the leadership of F. Donker Duyvis (Secretary General of F.I.D.) presents as international a gathering as does the United Nations.

Realizing that documentation methods and equipment are not of a static nature, the editors of this manual wisely decided to bring it out in a loose leaf form. The first mailing consists of two three-ring binders filled to about one-half of capacity. The pages are not numbered consecutively, but sections and sub-sections are given expandable classification numbers, and the pages are numbered within classes. This will facilitate the insertion of supplementary material as it is received.

At present Part I is all that has been issued. It consists of sections on: Reproduction, Document Reproduction Materials, The Cost Angle of Document Reproduction, Standardization for Document Reproduction, and a General Bibliography on Document Reproduction. Part II, which is due to appear later in 1954, and will be sent automatically to buyers of Part I, will contain sections on: Selection, Training of Personnel for Document Reproduction, and an Index to both parts.

The largest section of Part I is that on Reproduction. It is divided into sub-sections on: Reproduction by Hand or Mechanical Means (e.g. typing, relief printing, offset printing, etc.), Photographic Reproduction,