

Librarians are indebted to him for he is a real propagandist for the profession. He assumes that librarians like books and like to read. This attitude is contagious, for nearly everyone likes reminiscences from former librarians who guided parched and avid youth to succulent pasture. Librarians, booksellers, publishers, and patrons generally get this infection from these essays. The profession needs more who read and write as does Lawrence Powell.—Wyman W. Parker, *Wesleyan University Library*.

Reference Books

Guide to Reference Books (7th ed.) *Third Supplement, 1956-1958*. By Constance M. Winchell, assisted by John N. Waddell and Eleanor Buist. Chicago: American Library Association, 1960. 145p. \$3.75.

This supplement lists about 1,230 books and brings to approximately 8,930 the number of reference works or different editions of those works included in the seventh edition and its supplements. The third supplement lists mainly books published in the three years 1956 to 1958, but some publications of 1955 and some received before March 31, 1959, have been included. Special emphasis has been given to Russian and East European materials, reflecting the current interest in the Slavic world. In many sections, such as National Bibliography, Periodicals, Literature, and History, the emphasis on Russia, which seems to me justified, is particularly obvious.

Mudge-Winchell is a selective guide to reference books, and there is perhaps little point in cavilling at omissions or inclusions. It is nevertheless surprising to me that not a single business service is listed (although a discussion of these important reference works is included and reference made to Hausdorfer's guide) and that none of the increasingly important *Annual Review* or *Advances in* or *Progress in* series in the natural and physical sciences is mentioned. Although coverage in

science and technology and the social sciences has been notoriously weak in the *Guide* from its inception, yet one wonders why *Nuclear Science Abstracts* and Singer's *History of Technology* were omitted. There are some strange omissions in other fields, for example, Wallace's *Dictionary of North American Authors Deceased before 1950* (1951) and Vance's *Illustration Index* (1956). I can see no reason for excluding Schmieder's *Bibliographie des Musikschiffstums*, a comprehensive and excellent bibliography in a field in which bibliographies are sparse. Why is the *Checklist of Hearings* prepared by the Library of Congress not included? The answers to these questions, I am sure, all go back to the same difficulty: there is no such thing as a complete bibliography or a book free from error. Most reference books of importance are included in Mudge-Winchell, and the *Guide's* entries are remarkably accurate.

There are now three supplements to the seventh edition of Mudge-Winchell, and a fourth supplement is scheduled before a new eighth edition will be published. To find all the reference works listed in this invaluable guide, it is now necessary to consult four separate volumes; to purchase a set requires the outlay of \$20.50 plus sales tax. The supplements already cost more than the original volume, and the complete set is priced beyond the reach of most beginning librarians or library school students. At least one library school has decided not to continue to require it as a text in reference courses because it is becoming too cumbersome to use and more expensive as its usefulness as a text decreases. The annotations in the new supplement are as welcome when present and as uneven in helpfulness and as mysteriously absent frequently as in the previous volumes of the seventh edition. If there is one valid criticism of this work as a guide, it is that there should be an annotation for every work listed and that the annotations should be fuller. Every reference class I have taught has complained about Mudge-Winchell as a textbook for this reason. A proper guide to reference books should be completely annotated, no matter what the cost.

Reference librarians will welcome this new supplement and will check their collections against it. If they have done a reasonably good job of current acquisition, they will

find few titles in the supplement that they do not already know about, for all the books included are at least a year old, and many of them were published more than three years ago. It is also possible to find in the new supplement new editions of reference books that have already been superseded by newer editions not mentioned in the supplement. Take, for example, *Ulrich's Periodicals Directory*, the eighth edition (1956) of which is listed in this new supplement. A new edition of Ulrich was published in 1959 and so, of course, was not included. The fact is that the supplements to the *Guide* are not published frequently enough to serve as useful selection guides for reference books. The articles "Selected Reference Books" by Miss Winchell published twice a year in this journal do not completely solve this problem because many libraries do not subscribe to *CRL* and many librarians are not aware of the existence of the articles. Could there not be a reference in the supplements to these very helpful *CRL* lists? It seems to me that reference books are an important enough category of library materials so that an annual cumulating supplement to the Mudge-Winchell *Guide* should be produced to aid reference librarians in their unending struggle to keep their collections up-to-date. We should not have to wait four years for as important an aid to better library service as this new supplement.—*Fredric J. Mosher, School of Librarianship, University of California, Berkeley.*

Materials for Junior College Libraries

Reference Books, compiled by Louis Shores. (Basic Materials for Florida Junior College Libraries: Materials Bulletin 22CJC-1). Tallahassee: Florida State Department of Education, 1960. 22p. \$1.00.

Magazines, compiled by Dorothy May Potat (Basic Materials for Florida Junior College Libraries: Materials Bulletin 22CJC-2). Tallahassee: Florida State Department of Education, 1960. 40p. \$1.00.

These two mimeographed publications are the beginning of a series of six presently projected under the sponsorship of the Division of Community Junior Colleges of the Florida State Department of Education and the Library School of Florida State University. They are designed to provide convenient up-to-date materials lists for Florida's rapidly developing junior college libraries. Other items in the series are to include books in the fields of Science, English language and Literature, History, and Biography and Geography; and Audio-Visual Materials and Equipment. The lists are being prepared initially by graduate students in the Library School at Florida State University, after which each is circulated among junior college librarians and faculty members both in Florida and beyond, and the final draft is compiled on the basis of the pooled judgment of the respondents.

At this distance there is no reason to quarrel with any of the titles included, nor any basis to quibble with any titles which have been excluded, for the lists are prepared with the needs of Florida junior college curricula clearly in mind. To engage in a study of these curricula in order properly to evaluate the titles on the list is clearly above and beyond the call of duty for one brief review. The titles are all good ones, as one would expect in publications appearing under the general editorship of Louis Shores and Sarah Reed, and would certainly have to be considered for inclusion in any junior college library anywhere.

If one could be sure that these lists would be used only in this way, as a list of suggestions for consideration by librarian and faculty in each junior college, their claim to fame or at least existence would be secure. However, one necessarily harbors the suspicion that they will be used not as buying guides only, but as order lists, and that the books and magazines will be added into junior college libraries in Florida and elsewhere without any consideration on the part of the librarian and faculty as to their suitability, and without either librarians or faculty having engaged in the intellectual exercise of determining whether or not these books are indeed the ones which ought to be in their particular library. As things now stand, the student compilers of the lists have gained much in the way of selection practice