

or other early Ohio Valley printers. The early tribulations of the frontier printer and his ultimate emergence as a community leader follow a fairly routine pattern. Charless is almost a prototype, although the others are all worthy of a biography. Professor Kaser refers to Joseph Charless as "a relatively unimportant man." Viewed from a perspective of world history, this comment is true; but viewed from the history of Lexington or St. Louis, Charless was an important man, a founding father of the community. Henry Clay thought Bradford and Charless were important enough to include them on his select list of card-playing companions.

With this captious note the present reviewer has exhausted any adverse criticism of Professor Kaser's work. Step by step, from the parish register of Killucan in County Westmeath, through the advertisements of Charless' St. Louis hostelry in his own *Missouri Gazette*, the source material on Charless has been excavated, interpreted, and put together to give a full picture of one of St. Louis' most important early citizens. As a practitioner of "the black art" Charless was a typical frontier printer and publisher but this rôle takes away none of his individuality.

The chapter on "The Kentucky Country" fills in the history of early printing, book-selling, and publishing in Lexington with several important details. If this chapter is any measure of the accuracy of other sections dealing with Charless against a local background (Ireland, Pennsylvania, or Missouri), Professor Kaser's use and interpretation of his sources cannot be questioned. The portrait of St. Louis in the first half of the nineteenth century is a chapter of western history which ought to be a point of departure for studies of the plains, Rockies, and far west. The merchants, factors, trappers, military men, politicians, and adventurers who created the mosaic of early nineteenth-century St. Louis are a part of this colorful picture of the first city of the trans-Mississippi west. The Story of Charless' feud with Thomas Hart Benton is a minor classic of American politics and journalism.

There are two appendices, one on Charless' family, giving short biographies of each of the five children, and the other giving a list of Charless imprints. Locations and full

bibliographical descriptions of the latter would have been helpful, but most of this information can be found elsewhere and inclusion in this work would have expanded it to a point beyond which the commercially oriented university presses will not go without fat subsidies. Perhaps such a subsidy should be sought unless we want to wait for the next depression when we will again have an employers' market. There is a full index.

If the proto-typography of every North American jurisdiction were as well documented as is that of St. Louis with this study, life would be far easier for students of nineteenth-century American publishing, printing, and bookselling. The Ohio Valley, the "old Southwest," and the plains, Rockies, and Pacific coast urgently need this type of study. There are many rather superficial masters' essays and articles in state and regional historical journals on the life and work of individual early printers, but studies of the scope and quality of Professor Kaser's work are the exception. We may hope that a trend has been started with this work.—*Lawrence S. Thompson, University of Kentucky.*

**Medical Librarianship; Principles and Practice.** By John L. Thornton. New York: Philosophical Library, 1963. 152p. \$4.50.

The disclaimer on the dust jacket of this book, that it "is primarily for the newcomer to medical librarianship," is scarcely adequate to excuse the thinness of its contents. It is largely reportorial, citing miscellaneous facts and figures about hundreds of institutions, publications, and medical bibliographers. The Medico-Chirurgical Society of Aberdeen was founded in 1789, and among other things preserves the minutes of the society since that date; in 1947 the British Medical Association launched two abstracting journals, one of which lasted for only a few years; the name of Conrad Gesner's uncle was Hans Frick. These nuggets are interspersed with frequent rhetorical questions, pious homilies, and conventional exhortations. One-sixth of the volume is devoted to an alphabetical listing of 700 medical libraries, with dates of founding.

There is naturally a British bias to the

material, but even so one is surprised to find the chapter on "Libraries in Hospitals" dealing with all sorts of libraries, medical school libraries as well as medical sections of public libraries. There is little in the chapter on "Cataloguing and Classification" except outlines of various medical classification schemes, the finding that in 1957 nine out of 109 British medical libraries were using sheaf catalogs, and the fact that author catalogs are essential.

Mr. Thornton, the medical librarian at St. Bart's in London, has provided us with some useful works, but the book under review is not one of them. It is to be feared that the hope expressed—"that all medical librarians will find material for discussion in the summaries of controversial topics"—is entirely vain.—*Frank B. Rogers, University of Colorado Medical Center.*

**Répertoire des Bibliothèques d'Étude et Organismes de Documentation.** Publié sous l'égide de la Délégation Générale à la Recherche Scientifique et Technique. 3 vols. Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale, 1963. 1233p. 85 n.f.

This guide presents information on nearly twenty-four hundred French scholarly libraries and documentation centers. Since the present work will, for most purposes, replace the *Répertoire des Bibliothèques de France* (3 vols., Paris: Bibliothèque Nationale, 1950-51), the user's first reaction is to compare it with its predecessor. At the outset he notes the basic similarity: a directory of libraries and documentation centers with information presented on a fixed number of points and with an index to facilitate use. The differences between the two compilations fall into three groups: (1) scope, (2) information presented, and (3) arrangement.

The later directory has a narrower scope than the earlier; it includes only scholarly libraries and documentation centers and thus contains no information on the central lending services of the *départements* or on certain municipal libraries (even for those which are included there is no mention of lending and children's services or of branches). Beyond metropolitan France two libraries (in French Guiana and Guadeloupe)

are included as well as one in Monaco, but gone of course are listings for Algeria. Neither Martinique nor Réunion (both in the earlier list) figure here. Nevertheless, total coverage has increased from 1634 to 2382 institutions, or about 45 per cent.

Each entry contains the following information: name of library or documentation center; name of parent organization to which it belongs; address, telephone number, cable and teletype address; hours of service and dates of annual closing; purpose and activities of parent organization; lending policies; subject strengths and special collections; statistics (1960) of volumes, additions, periodicals currently received and of other forms of material held; classification used; catalogs available; documentation (*i.e.*, special bibliographical tools and services to facilitate the reader's work); translation services; union catalogs to which information is supplied; publications; photoduplication services; historical data and references. Although this corresponds generally to information found in the 1950-51 guide, three items (reading rooms; administration, including the names of the director and department heads; and source of funds) have been dropped, while three (classification, documentation, and translation services) are new. The fullness of entries varies, those for the larger libraries being longer and more complete than those for the smaller. As one might expect, the longest entry (I, 60-72) deals with the Bibliothèque Nationale; divided into eleven sections, it covers general information and the library's departments (*viz.*, Maps, Acquisitions, Prints, Printed Books, Manuscripts, Oriental Manuscripts, Numismatics, Music, Serials, and the Annex at Versailles). The average listing seems to require between one-quarter and one-half page. In a few cases the *Répertoire* merely serves to indicate the existence of a collection, since little information is provided other than that access is strictly limited.

Users of the earlier compilation will recall that it devotes one volume to Parisian libraries, one to those in the provinces, and one to documentation centers. The new version incorporates the last category into the first two groups. The first volume, however, now comprises not only organizations in Paris but also those in the two surrounding