

Moon, president of Scarecrow) are certainly to be commended for their effort in attempting to winnow out some grain from the tremendous amount of chaff. Furthermore, they propose to do this every year.

In case we need to be reminded of the sorry state of library literature, we are reminded by Eric Moon's superb "The Library Press," reprinted from *LJ* as "Prologue." In all, there are thirty articles from twenty-one journals (four from *LJ* and *WLB*, three from *American Libraries*, and one each from the others, ranging from *Horn Book* and *LRTS* to such less frequently seen things as *South Today* and *Soundings*.

After the introduction and prologue, the articles are grouped into four major headings: Libraries and Librarians, Technical Services/Technical Processes, Communication and Education, and The Social Prerogative. Generally speaking, the articles are excellent, although, as the editors note, no one will be happy with all the selections, on grounds of inclusion or exclusion. At any rate, certainly pieces like Joseph L. Wheeler's "What Good Are Library Standards?" in the first group; and "Shared Cataloging" by Herman Liebaers, "MEDLARS: A Summary, Review and Evaluation of Three Reports" by Norman D. Stevens, "CATCALL" by Ralph R. Shaw, and "Automation Stops Here" by Roscoe Rouse in the second group, deserve as wide circulation as they can get. Equally deserving are Curtis G. Benjamin's "Book Publishing's Hidden Bonanza" in the third group, and Robert P. Haro's "How Mexican-Americans View Libraries," Jesse Shera's "Plus ça Change," Anita R. Schiller's "The Disadvantaged Majority," and O. James Warner's "Law Library Service to Prisoners" in the fourth.

The immediate question is, "Why reprint all of this?" Certainly most of us see *LJ*, *WLB*, *CRL*, *AL*, and a handful of other journals, but how many of us read (or even see) *all* of the journals? We read in our own fields of interests, with little time for more. Perhaps an anthology of this type will broaden horizons in a relatively easy way.

My one quibble is in reprinting without any editorial notes articles from British journals which employ terminology unfamiliar to most American readers. No doubt

it is pure ignorance on my part (widely shared, I suspect) when I fail to understand terms like "G.C.E. pass" and "Part II papers" in Peter D. Pocklington's excellent "Letter to a Library School Lecturer." Couldn't there be a brief editorial note?

In short, this volume is recommended for library schools and professional collections, institutional and personal.—Walter C. Allen, *University of Illinois, Urbana*.

Books That Changed America. Robert B. Downs. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1970. 280p. \$6.95.

The compilation of lists of influential books is a fairly common phenomenon in the literary world. A frequently used gambit in the preparation of such lists is a poll of authorities in a given field which yields a list of books most frequently mentioned by the authorities polled. That few people would agree on any such list is a foregone conclusion. In a 1935 *Publishers' Weekly* article Edward Weeks, John Dewey, and Charles A. Beard each chose what they considered to be the twenty-five most influential books of the previous fifty years; Bellamy's *Looking Backward* was the only unanimous choice. The wide variation of choices for lists of influential books is due to the large number of works which have exerted some measure of influence on the public as well as to the differences in taste and background of the compilers.

Armed with this warning that no one list of books will satisfy everyone (or perhaps anyone except the compiler) let us examine Robert Downs' new work, *Books That Changed America*. Downs has given us a list of twenty-five works in the general area of the social sciences which have exerted a telling influence on America; the list was limited to the social sciences because the author felt that the influence of works in this area is more easily demonstrated than that of works in other fields. Over eighty books were considered for inclusion at the onset of this project; as Downs notes in the introduction, "the task of reducing the list to twenty-five was by no means easy." One could compile a very creditable list of influential books from those works which he considered and then omitted; among such works noted in the introduction are Horatio Alger's *Ragged Dick*, Dana's *Two Years*

Before the Mast, Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography*, Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*, and the Kinsey reports. One cannot fault Downs for his inclusions or omissions; the book is admittedly a subjective list, but one which reflects a wide acquaintance with works in the social sciences by a man quite close to the world of books.

What does Downs consider an "influential book"? Differing types of influence become apparent as the reader is led through the author's selections. *Common Sense* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* are examples of books which were read by and exerted a direct influence on large numbers of people. Another type of influence is found in the book which is read by a small number of important people who can apply its lessons and thus affect the public: Abraham Flexner's *Medical Education in the United States and Canada* is of this sort. America has been influenced by individuals from without commenting on the manners and mores of the country: Downs includes a work of this type in Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*. At times, the writing of Americans has influenced foreign powers and the results have been brought home to the American public in sundry ways: such is the case with Alfred T. Mahan's *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783*, to which most authorities attribute the establishment of modern navies.

An influential book, then, is one which has the power to affect the lives of people, either directly or indirectly. Downs has compiled a most interesting list of books of this genre, replete with very readable commentaries on each. Downs has written that one of his goals in this work was to demonstrate that books have power; he has succeeded admirably. *Books That Changed America* has the ability to send the inquisitive reader off in search of the original works. Downs has written a book which is worthwhile reading for all librarians.—David H. Eyman, *Central Michigan University*.

Research Guide to Argentine Literature.

David William Foster and Virginia Ramos Foster. Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, 1970. \$5.00.

This book is an attempt at organizing a guide to the criticism of Argentine litera-

ture and literary figures. It is primarily intended as a tool for the student of the field in response to the need for some kind of retrieval of the literary criticism "of an important segment of a vital Latin American literary tradition."

While this type of work can be valuable, this particular book contains certain inadequacies which must be mentioned. Although the authors state in the preface that their work is to be the "first comprehensive guide" to Argentine literary criticism, their exclusion of Alberdi, Ricardo Rojas, and, most particularly, Sarmiento, is incongruent with their presumed comprehensiveness.

While some of the extant research does deal with literary issues, it is negligible when compared with the enormous bulk of opinion on the role of these three individuals, not in the development of Argentine literature, but in the formation of a national cultural and intellectual heritage. (*Pref.*, IV)

Sarmiento is perhaps one of the most significant Argentine literary figures, and if the authors are capable of separating the importance of the "formation of a national cultural and intellectual heritage" from "literary issues," they should have at least included that "negligible" portion of research which is available.

The work is divided into four parts. Part I lists general bibliographic sources; Part II, journals publishing research on Argentine literature; Part III, general works on Argentine literature; and Part IV, articles and books about Argentine literary figures. Each part has various subsections.

From the standpoint of completeness, Parts I and III have serious omissions. For example, works such as Palau y Dulcet's bibliography, J. R. Fernandez's *Historia del Periodismo Argentino*, the index of Enrique Peña's periodical and newspaper collection, Sabor and Revello's *Bibliografía Argentina de Artes y Letras* and *Armario del Teatro Argentino* are each valuable in their own field.

Part II is a well-organized and extensive listing of journals publishing research on Argentine literature. Each entry is accompanied by a conventional abbreviation which is used in other sections of the book when referring to that particular journal. The imprint date is also included.

The most valuable part of the book is un-