

Examples of the unique materials in the special collections and nonbook units of the library are highlighted to make the sketches of those units particularly interesting. (John Y. Cole's *A List for Further Reading*, p.285-88, provides access to more information about specific departments.)

Librarians will not view this work as the definitive study of LC; the author himself notes this on p.175:

. . . our hurried, obviously superficial glance at a few of the many libraries that make up the Library of Congress. Not only could whole books be written about a single room—or drawer or item of the Library—but whole books have been so written.

The description of the six card catalogs covers but one and a half pages. The explanations of the theories and practices of technical processing are, of necessity, oversimplified. There are no footnotes for the quotes used so effectively throughout the text. Although numbers of positions, job descriptions, and statistics of work accomplished are given, the book seems somehow unpeopled except for the superstars.

Librarians will find the last five chapters particularly interesting. Here Mr. Goodrum asks how well is the library doing its job (p.177). He uses this question to structure his presentation of the needs and satisfaction level of the library's three principal user groups: Congress, the library profession, and the scholarly research world. How the library goes about meeting these needs, the relationships between the library and each group, and some of the political realities of those relationships are concisely reported. Mr. Goodrum objectively sets forth the demands on the library's resources by each of the three and the conflicts which would be involved in meeting any particular group's requirements completely. The chapters do not appear to be merely a personal view or to favor one group. Rather, they do give a sharp outline of those conflicts about the purpose of the Library of Congress and how that purpose may be determined and what the choice will mean to all those interested in the outcome. Mr. Goodrum's perceptions of the issues of concern have additional significance as the library world awaits the selection of a new Librarian of Congress. That person will

have to have what Mr. Goodrum offers as the answer to the library's questions about the future, ". . . more wisdom" (p.280).

Mr. Goodrum's work does extremely well that which it sets out to do. As an added recommendation, it provides a clear statement of the library's directional conflicts. The price of \$10.00 unfortunately may prevent individual librarians from buying their own copies.—*Judy H. Fair, Director of the Library, The Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.*

National Library of Canada. Resources Survey Section. *Research Collections in Canadian Libraries*. Ottawa: Information Canada, 1972- . Part I, Universities. Volume 6, Canada (1974). 100p.

Volume six is a summary and a critique of the first five volumes in a continuing series, which is entitled *Research Collections in Canadian Libraries*. The earlier volumes, each of which dealt with a geographic area of Canada, were all issued in 1972. They report statistically by subject forty-five collections in as many universities, or parts of universities, that offer graduate studies in the humanities or the social sciences. It is planned that "the information will be kept up to date in the future and will be augmented by further surveys of federal government libraries, special libraries, and large public libraries, and by the extension of these surveys to include science and other collections."

On the whole Canada has been well served in the past by many and varying library surveys—well served in part because the principal finding has always been so simple and so apparent. Canadians needed books. The satisfaction of this lack is still the main and most difficult task for the libraries of this vast land.

Volume six of this the latest, but not the best, survey is in two parts.

The first part presents a list of recommendations which are addressed to libraries in general. There follows a historical sketch of Canadian universities and two further essays. One essay relates academic programs to library resources, and the other deals with national information and library networks in the Canadian context. A final piece, called "Surveying the Survey; A Self-

Critique," contains the following revelation: "This survey has been in a very real sense a long on-the-job learning process for the National Library's Resources Division." I personally doubt the wisdom of publishing such an experiment as a definitive piece of work. I believe that this survey must be used with great caution, for its definitions of such terms as volume and serial and the consequent assignment of statistics are arbitrary and unconventional and differ from volume to volume. Any comparative value that the survey could have had, even among the constituent volumes of the series, is thus negated. Any future work that seeks to build on it without its extensive revision should be doubted. Any judgments that are based on the statistics of the individual library holdings delineated in this survey must be made with care.

The second part of volume six is a subjective, arbitrary, and unsuccessful attempt at an assessment of the relative quality of the individual surveyed libraries. This part also contains the six-volume index and a bibliography that manages to omit two seminal Canadian surveys. One of these was done by Edwin Williams in 1962 and the other by a Commission of Enquiry chaired by John Ridington in 1933.

It was Stephen Leacock who had one of his characters ". . . fling himself into his saddle and gallop madly off in all directions."—*Thomas F. O'Connell, Director of Libraries, York University, Downsview, Ontario.*

Dosa, Marta L. *Libraries in the Political Scene.* (Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science, No. 7) Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1974. 226p.

The only fault of consequence in this book is its title. It is not, as the title states, a study of libraries in the political scene. It is rather an account of the professional life and milieu of Georg Leyh. The fact that Dr. Leyh was Germany's leading librarian during the critical three-score years following the turn of the century, however, does mean that the work is replete with food for the thought of those who would ponder the politicization of libraries.

Dr. Leyh appears to have conceptualized his philosophy of librarianship quite fully

during his student days at Munich, Strasbourg, and Tübingen between 1896 and 1901; in essence it was that libraries have a high humanistic and scholarly purpose that can and must keep aloof of ideological and political issues. For the most part the present volume describes the testing of that philosophy through the several fateful eras of German history spanned by Dr. Leyh's long life.

And a sore testing it was, too, reminiscent in a way of the journey of Bunyan's Christian in his search for the Celestial City. Raised and educated in the period of empire, Dr. Leyh seems to have been most at ease with the social role which libraries were expected to fill during that time. The First World War, however, created new pressures which caught him "in a web of uncertainty and adversity." The Weimar Republic saw the first questioning of "the integrity of scientific research, free of political and military considerations." Most pernicious obviously was the period of the Third Reich, during which libraries were frankly used as implements of propaganda, a use which Dr. Leyh at his personal peril opposed actively. The wholesale destruction of libraries during World War II, despite the profession's frenetic efforts to protect them, weighed heavily upon his spirit. In the postwar era, with massive library problems borne of occupation and reconstruction, he was most troubled by the ineffectiveness of his efforts to revitalize a single German library community in the face of national partition.

Perhaps Dr. Leyh's greatest disappointment was the widespread criticism from his colleagues in the West which followed his acceptance in 1954 of a National Prize from the East German government "for his prominent, internationally acknowledged works in the field of library science and for his outstanding services in the interest of the unity of German librarianship." The picture which the author gives us of Dr. Leyh at the time of his death in his ninety-first year is of a battle-scarred warrior, largely abandoned by his less stalwart comrades-in-arms, but still struggling manfully to defend the faith. He died in 1968, disappointed but not disillusioned.

This is a great story, even containing some of the qualities of epic, and Dr. Dosa