

*States Government as Publisher* (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Pr., 1943). Appendix III contains a directory of state agencies whose publications are listed in the main bibliography.

*State Government Reference Publications* contains two indexes—a Personal Authors and Titles Index and a Subject Index. It is assumed that the Personal Authors and Titles Index is selective since omissions were discovered (e.g., *Telephone Directory*, Commonwealth of Kentucky; *Manual, General Assembly*, Missouri).

In spite of minor criticisms, it is the reviewer's opinion that *State Government Reference Publications* serves as an excellent example of publications being issued by state governments.—Earl Shumaker, *Documents Librarian, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green*.

Stevens, Robert D., and Stevens, Helen C., eds. *Reader in Documents on International Organizations*. (Reader Series in Library and Information Science) Englewood, Colo.: Microcard Editions Books, 1973. 410p. \$17.95.

In their introduction, Dr. and Mrs. Stevens note that the data in their book "will allay the fears of the generalist librarian" and provide information on international documents for use in library schools. Unfortunately, rather than fulfilling either of these laudable purposes, this compilation would seem more likely to dissuade the nonspecialist from seeking any further acquaintance with the documents of international organizations.

Only half the book actually deals with international documents or with libraries' work with these, while the remainder is on international organizations themselves or on their libraries as special libraries, with no particular focus on documents. While no documents librarian would deny the importance of a basic familiarity with an organization's structure and functions, for a generalist or student this aspect can be rather limited, since an understanding of the documents themselves is far more crucial. A nonspecialist might well be daunted to find half the book devoted to organizational articles, including such facets as the International Atomic Energy Agency's first year.

The articles on documents vary in quality, but have one thing in common: they are relatively old. Although no one would expect the eleven articles dealing with pre-U.N. documents to be recent, one would hope for up-to-date information from the fifteen on documents during the U.N. period. However, nine of these were written in the 1940s and 1950s, with the two latest dated 1966. Many of the articles were excellent when they originally appeared, and some are still of value; but, since documents are dynamic, the articles now contain much outdated and erroneous information, inextricably intertwined with data that is still completely valid. Only someone already expert in the material could distinguish between the two. The editors have occasionally corrected obsolete information, but not on a consistent basis.

In a book directed toward the nonspecialist, one might question the inclusion of articles dealing with such topics as the effect of World War II on the publication of individual League of Nations series or plans for issuing on microcards meteorological observations from the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year. Even some of the more general articles could discourage the nonspecialist who comes across such items as two pages citing the seventy-four issues of the U.N.'s *Disposition of Agenda Items* and *Index to Proceedings* series published as of 1962 or a listing of the sixty-three draft conventions adopted by the International Labour Conference before 1939. Since there is no index, such items could not be readily located for reference purposes.

The physical preparation of the book was somewhat casual. There are such typographical errors as "sumbol" (p.134) and "sytle" (p.188). A reference to footnote one appears on page 36, but no footnote accompanies the article. The wrong author's name appears in the running head on page 58. And did the editors really intend to describe New York University's United Nations collection, with its coveted delegation status, as "meager" (p.218) or is this too a typographical error?

In an era of straitened library budgets, this \$17.95 book cannot be recommended for purchase.—Mary J. Ryan, *University of California, Los Angeles*.