

examination of linguistics, anthropology, and theology, with some additional research in history, law, morals, ethics, aesthetics, general philosophy, sociology, psychology, and related fields. His chief objective was to demonstrate that censorship has no basis in reason and that it is "neither essential nor inevitable for man's progress and well-being."

Beginning with the taboos of early civilizations, he traces the history of sex censorship through Hellenism and Stoicism, the Judeo-Christian tradition, and Puritanism to modern-day America and the 1970 Report of the U.S. Commission on Obscenity and Pornography (COP). *Fear of the Word* uses copiously the quotations of contemporaries to reveal the causes of, the reasons against, and the ineffectiveness of censorship since the creation of written language. One chapter, "The Psychology of Repression," discusses the psychobiology of the censor. Others deal with critics as censors, communities as censors, librarians as censors, the law as a censor, and the U.S. Supreme Court as a censor. It concludes with an analysis of the social and political implications of the COP report and with some interesting speculations about its future impact.

After some extensive struggling with the subject, Oboler concludes with this answer to his original question about the fear of certain words: Since the beginning of time the word has been identified with deity and, therefore, is a sacred and fearful object. Although there is, undoubtedly, general agreement among librarians about the inefficacy and undesirability of censorship, not all will choose to accept this explanation for it, solely on the basis of the evidence which he has presented in this volume. It is, however, a good compendium of quotations on sex censorship and an adequate general survey of this topic.—*Dorothy Bendix, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Library Science, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

Foreman, Lewis. *Systematic Discography*. Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books and Clive Bingley, 1974. 144p. \$9.50. (74-8463). (ISBN 0-208-01197-8).

The author, a member of the faculty of the College of Librarianship at Aber-

ystwyth, Wales, has provided us with a thorough and handy addition to the meager literature concerned with the discographical art. As a matter of surprising fact, this volume is the first comprehensive guide to discographical compilation. Mr. Foreman candidly states in the introduction that there is as yet no codification of the rules for the compilation of discographies. There are but the examples which actual discographies themselves provide, but nothing hard and fast. Therefore, Mr. Foreman wisely eschews offering anything other than optional solutions from which the discographer may choose.

The work begins with a very succinct history of sound recording and the early applications of this technology. Next, Mr. Foreman discusses a number of the factors, both legal and mechanical, which bear upon the preservation (and reissuing) of recorded materials. The author then takes up the nature of discography and makes clear its relationship to bibliography in all its forms, e.g., analytical, descriptive, systematic, etc. He goes deeply into methods of grading the sonic qualities of the items included in discographies. In the chapter titled "Practical Discography," the author addresses himself to the problems of defining and limiting the scope of the work to be undertaken and the actual collection and assembly of discographical information. Later chapters take up problems in formulation of the entry, elements for inclusion, typographical style and abbreviations (with many examples), methods of arrangement (e.g., alphabetical, classified, chronological, etc.), examples of select discographies, data processing, and bibliographic control.

The remaining chapters are lists of dealers in out-of-print materials, unusual recording companies and labels, journals and reviewing media, and some select discographies. Following the excellent bibliography are, as an appendix, excerpts from R. D. Darrell's "Gramophone Shop Encyclopedia of Recorded Music," and the index.

Mr. Foreman's little volume recommends itself as a *vade mecum* to all aspiring discographers and makes excellent reading not only for music librarians not thus engaged but also for the disc collector. His discussions, for example, on the relative merits of the *Gramophone* magazine, compared to

American counterparts, and of such catalogs as *Schwann* and the *Gramophone Long Playing Classical Record Catalogue* can prove very enlightening to anyone concerned with the purchase of recordings.—*Kenyon C. Rosenberg, Associate Professor, School of Library Science, Kent State University, and Classical Recordings Editor, Previews Magazine.*

Dessauer, John P. ***Book Publishing: What It Is, What It Does.*** New York: Bowker, 1974. 231p. \$11.95. (74-12162). (ISBN 0-8352-0758-7).

Book publishing today is a complex activity, making use of diversified skills and expertise. It is now and always has been a curious blend of art and business, and the role of entrepreneur is one which publishers have assumed. John Dessauer has provided us with a broad survey of the subject, and he writes out of his experience as bookseller, book club executive, and member of a consulting firm serving publishers and the communications industry.

Dessauer defines the publishing process as including the following areas of responsibility: editorial, production, marketing, fulfillment, administration. In no sense are these topics dealt with equitably in his book. The editorial aspect of publishing is touched upon very lightly, and the real emphasis is on the processes of manufacturing and selling a commodity, which in this case happens to be books. This emphasis may be offensive to those who are preoccupied with the literary and cosmetic aspects of books and have little interest in the marketplace. On the other hand, it is well known that publishing houses have foundered and died because of ineffectual business practices.

It is not easy to deal effectively with the processes of typesetting, printing, and binding in a few pages; but in the chapter "How Books Are Manufactured" the author has handled the subject with clarity and skill, providing the layman with a good introduction to the subject. The chapter on "How Books Are Marketed" describes the complex and often cumbersome methods by which books are distributed to readers in the United States, and should be of particular interest to acquisitions librarians. He

cites three major problems of the book industry: "the need to curtail overproduction, the need for greater standardization in manufacturing, and the need for an effective distribution system." He also reminds us that publishing is in sore need of ongoing research into the desires and needs of the consumers of its product.

Dessauer writes in a straightforward, no-nonsense manner; there is a total absence of footnotes. A "Bibliographic Note" lists eleven well-known books on publishing and related subjects. The book is well indexed, and there is a useful glossary of terms used in publishing and book manufacturing.—*Dorothy Ethlyn Cole, Associate Professor, School of Library and Information Science, State University of New York at Albany.*

Benewick, Anne J. ***Asian and African Collections in British Libraries: Problems and Prospects.*** (Librarianship and Information Studies) Stevenage, Herts., England: Peter Peregrinus Ltd., 1974. (Distributed in the U.S. and Canada by International Scholarly Book Services, P.O. Box 4347, Portland, OR 97208). 139p. \$17.00.

This book is the revised version of the author's M.A. thesis for the Postgraduate School of Librarianship and Information Science, Sheffield University, England. It is a "history of developments in the organization of British Asian and African collections" and an attempt "to describe in detail many of the problems peculiar to area collections and their impact on British libraries." The former is presented in a straightforward fashion giving much useful information on the historical background of these collections and their achievements, especially in the years following the widely acclaimed Scarbrough Report of 1947 and the Hayter Report of 1961—two national surveys which greatly contributed to the subsequent development of area studies and area libraries in Great Britain. The latter is discussed under headings such as regional library groups, acquisitions problems and techniques, the role of the area specialist, etc.

In addition to being the most up-to-date, informative, and candid account of the subject in hand, this reviewer finds Ms. Bene-