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BOOK REVIEWS

Stevens, Norman D., ed. *Essays for Ralph Shaw*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow, 1975. 212p. \$8.00. (LC 75-6664) (ISBN 0-8108-0815-3)

This little volume pays tribute to a distinguished librarian, truly a giant in the profession, but Ralph Shaw was more than a librarian. He was also a relentless teacher, an exacting inventor, a warm yet fierce personality vividly portrayed in the opening essay by Lowell Martin in "Shaw the Person," part I of this book.

To honor his mentor, Norman Stevens has skillfully assembled essays from outstanding contributors who studied with Shaw, and in most cases, completed doctoral dissertations under his direction. The volume is divided into four parts: part I, "Shaw the Person"; part II, "Projects and Experiments"; part III, "Scientific Management and Statistics"; and part IV, "Theory and Philosophies." In addition, Stevens has written a fitting introduction as well as the final essay and an afterword on "The

Aphorisms of Ralph Shaw." Those of us who knew Ralph well and worked with him on professional assignments appreciate being reminded of the "flavor" of the man through his pithy statements. There is also a section on the contributors, each of whom has distinguished himself during the last ten to fifteen years since receiving the doctorate.

Each essay contributes information on Shaw or the effect he had on librarianship, either directly or by inference through the kind of research instilled in the contributors by their former professor. This is particularly true in the second and concluding essay in part I by Theodore C. Hines, "Shaw and the Machine."

Hines points out that Shaw was a "gadget" man and inventor especially remembered for his rapid selector, the first complex piece of equipment designed for searching recorded information; his photoclark, a miniature photostat machine adapted to clerical functions; and his system of transaction charging, a method of recording loan information by photography. Shaw's ideas made possible the *Bibliogra-*

phy of Agriculture as we know it today and the Shaw-Shoemaker bibliographies which filled the gap in the U.S. national bibliography.

Part II includes essays on "Adverse Drug Reaction Information in the Literature," by Robert F. Clarke; "Libraries and Innovations," by Richard M. Dougherty; "Scholars in Residence," by Ira W. Harris; "The Real World of Continuing Education for Library Personnel," by Peter Hiatt; and "ESEA Title II Contributions to State Department of Education Leadership of School Media Programs," by Milbrey L. Jones. These five contributions are literally for Ralph Shaw, and they exemplify the kind of scholar-researcher he admired and demanded.

To say that Ralph Shaw was intensely interested in scientific management and statistics would be an understatement. He was a library administrator who managed scientifically and a library school dean who insisted that his students study statistics. The essays in part III under these headings are: "Compound Growth in Libraries," by Fred Heinritz; "Turnover Rate: Basic Library Statistics and Some Applications," by Theodore S. Huang; "Quali-Quantum as Output Performance Criteria," by Choong H. Kim; and "Inventory," by Henry Voos.

The concluding essays in part IV are indicative of Ralph Shaw's own theories and philosophies. He would have taken pride in these former students who learned their lessons well and who have articulated so many of his own ideas, or who, because of his tutelage, have communicated their own theories or projections so effectively. The contributions in this section are: Susan Artandi's "Theories of Information," Leonard Grundt's "Cooperation Unlimited," Doralyn J. Hickey's "Public and Technical Library Services: A Revised Relationship," and Norman Stevens' "Beyond the Promises of Automation."

This is a thought-provoking book and one which Ralph Shaw would have liked and appreciated. It is a worthwhile contribution to library literature. The volume, judged in its entirety, is the kind of research Shaw envisaged for his students.—*Dale M. Bentz, University Librarian, University of Iowa, Iowa City.*

Wijasuriya, D. E. K.; Lim, Huck Tee; and

Nadarajah, Radha. *The Barefoot Librarian: Library Developments in Southeast Asia with Special Reference to Malaysia.* Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books & Clive Bingley, 1975. 120p. \$8.00. (LC 74-30140) (ISBN 0-208-01366-0)

This little book with the eloquent title plows a field that has probably not been plowed before; or, if it has, probably not as well. It is concise (about 100 pages of text) with a nine-page bibliography and an index.

In the introduction the authors are apologetic: "*The barefoot librarian*," they write, "is perhaps the first book about Southeast Asian libraries by the Southeast Asians themselves." One suspects this may be the first book on Southeast Asian libraries, period.

Beginning with chapter one, we have a general review of "the Southeast Asian environment," followed in the next chapter with a country-by-country assessment of library developments. (Excusably missing from the country list is North Vietnam.) Then follow three chapters on libraries in Malaysia. The concluding chapters deal with library education, professional associations, and library cooperation.

Whatever the sins of this work, they are more sins of omission than of commission. Missing are serious discussions of the influence (if any) of the American Public Law 480 program on publishing and bibliographic control and the mechanics of the library operation in public, university, and special libraries.

As one who is familiar with *almirahs* and the somewhat antiquated notions of library service in some parts of South Asia, this reviewer would like to have read something about these aspects of library activity in Southeast Asia. We would have welcomed a composite picture of a typical barefoot librarian—together with his low wages, meager budget, and day-to-day problems of book preservation, circulation, bureaucracy, cataloging, and acquisitions.

Despite an index which could be more adequate (considering that the three authors are librarians), the authors are to be congratulated on a book full of solid data, meaningful and informative tables and statistics, and a substantial bibliography.—*Henry Scholberg, Librarian, Ames Library*