

special attention to making compatible that organization from one discipline to another.—Charles B. Osburn, *University of Cincinnati Libraries, Ohio.*

Stern, Madeleine B. *Antiquarian Bookselling in the United States: A History from the Origins to the 1940s.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1985. 246p. \$29.95. LC 84-19273. ISBN 0-313-24729-3.

The epigraph of this book is a quotation from Sir Stanley Unwin to the effect that while writing, printing, and reading books are difficult tasks, "the most difficult task that a mortal man can embark on is to sell a book." At the risk of dignifying Sir Stanley's hyperbole, one might remark that it would seem even more difficult to write a history of those who sell books. Underscoring the problems inherent in such a history, Stern remarks in her introduction: "That this book represents the first formal attempt to record the history of antiquarian bookselling in the United States should cause no undue surprise . . . the bookseller has always been a ghost, whose transactions as intermediary between source and market are seldom preserved." Working from what she admits are meager sources, she has attempted to "reanimate those ghosts and trace the history of their fascinating trade . . . to restore their tastes and temperaments, their trials, their struggles, and their achievements, to clothe once again in flesh and blood the purveyors of antiquarian books."

The book is divided into a series of chapters that outline the history of antiquarian bookselling in Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and "Cities to the South"—Annapolis/Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Charleston, and New Orleans. A final chapter covers what Stern calls "lone stars," booksellers such as Henry Stevens of Vermont, who don't fit into the geographical framework of her book but who cannot be ignored. Each chapter is adequately footnoted, and there is a short bibliographical essay at the end of the volume, as well as an index.

Although she covers some ground al-

ready familiar to those acquainted with the biographies and autobiographies of A. S. W. Rosenbach, Henry Stevens, Fred Rosenstock, and others, Stern has rescued any number of interesting "ghosts" from oblivion. Herself an antiquarian bookseller of no small distinction, she presents sympathetic and informative portraits of the men and women whose careers she chronicles. If she occasionally lapses into biblio-clichés and all too readily quotes some of the more gongoristic language of earlier writers, her understanding of the nature of the business saves her from some of the pitfalls awaiting a less sympathetic historian.

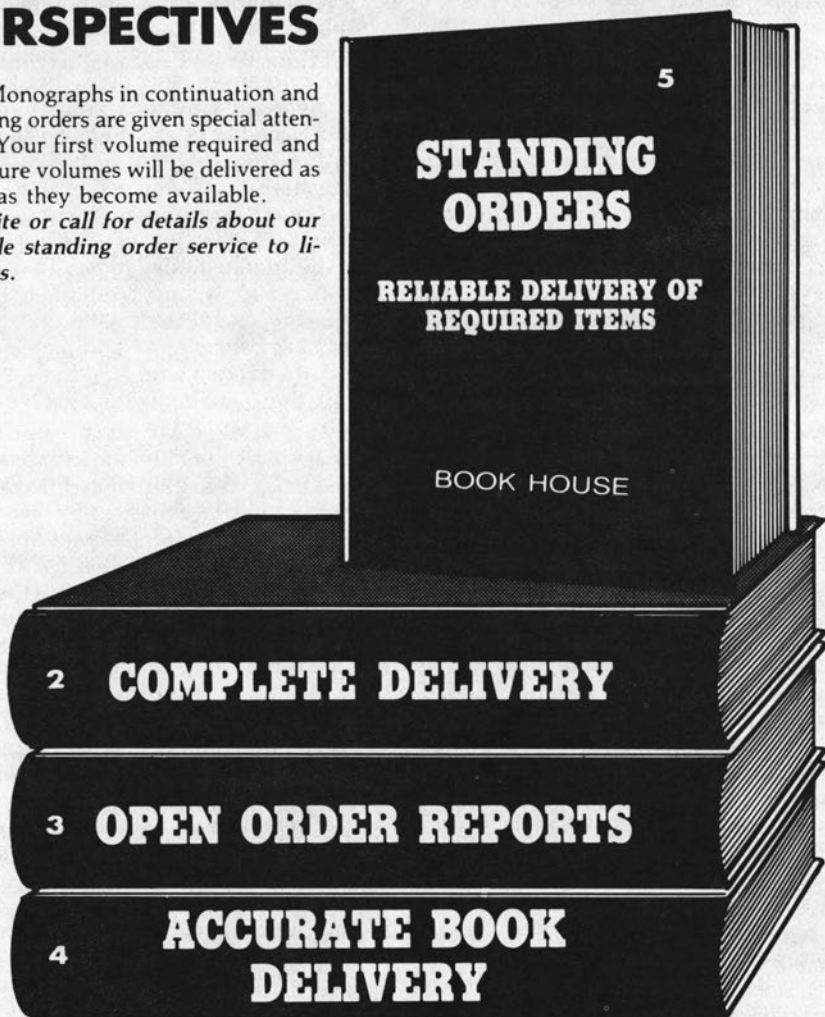
Unfortunately, this book is less a history than a collection of essays, many of which originally appeared in *AB Bookman's Weekly*. While she does attempt to place the history of bookselling in each city covered within a larger framework of regional history, her book lacks any overall perspective on the development of the trade itself, or even a unifying sense of inquiry that might have melded her chapters into a connected narrative. Disavowing any attempt to define antiquarian books or booksellers, and evading many of the questions and problems surrounding what must appear to the uninitiated as essentially a luxury trade, she has limited the audience for her book to the true believers of bibliophilia. In the one instance where she raises an interesting question—why has the South fostered so few antiquarian booksellers and collectors?—she avoids answering it by saying that it is a "strange anomaly" caused by the superficial intellectual and aesthetic culture of the region. If, as she asserts, the antiquarian trade "created a demand, and then supplied that demand . . . helped to shape taste, and so has been an educative force," why didn't it prove educative in this place?

Stern believes that the antiquarian bookseller has been an "arbiter of learning" and a "dispenser of knowledge," but frankly one gets little sense of this from her history. The role of the book in our culture has only recently come under serious study, and certainly the role of the specialized antiquarian bookseller must

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have a place in this history if it is to have any significance. But the study will have to ask serious questions about the antiquarian book and those who sell them if we are to have any understanding of the manner in which all types of books—new, used, and antiquarian—interact with each other and with other cultural resources. How and why did the specialized antiquarian trade develop out of the second-hand book market? What influence does the antiquarian book have beyond the elite group of collectors and specialized libraries that purchase them? How are these elites related to other elite groups dominant in a culture or epoch? Who was the audience that comprised the earliest book collectors? How have general developments in Western society altered that audience or affected the market for rare books? How did the development of the bookseller catalog influence the development of the trade and its clientele? Why are so many of the metaphors of book collecting seemingly drawn from the English sporting life?

This is only a first attempt at a general history of antiquarian bookselling in the United States, and we cannot expect Stern to do everything. She is to be commended for having at least begun the work, and the historical framework she has provided can serve as a starting point for later historians who will have to fill in the blanks and ask themselves the questions that will lead to the full treatment this peculiar trade deserves.—Terence A. Tanner, *Hamill & Barker, Chicago, Illinois.*

Irvine, Betty Jo. *Sex Segregation in Librarianship: Demographic and Career Patterns of Academic Library Administrators.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1985. 171p. (Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science, no. 53) \$29.95. LC 84-21228. ISBN 0-313-24260-7.

Irvine surveyed 371 directors, associate directors, and assistant directors in the ninety-nine academic libraries that belong to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Her survey gathered data from which conclusions could be drawn regarding differences between male and female administrators in terms of demographic, career, and institutional characteristics.

This book, part of the Contributions to Librarianship and Information Science series, imparts her findings.

A change in academic librarianship resulting from the equal-employment-opportunity, affirmative-action, participatory-management decade of the 1970s motivated Irvine to conduct her survey and write her book. What existed, in the late 1960s, as a "female profession" administratively dominated by men, by 1984 had become a profession whose majority of women were substantially represented in the administrative ranks. These survey results supply unprecedented, fascinating, and useful information on the relationship between sex and managerial careers in librarianship.

Of the 371 administrators surveyed, 256 were men and 115 were women. Data from the surveys made it possible to compare these two groups in terms of personal and family characteristics, mobility and career history, relationships with role models and mentors, and professional activities. The comparisons reveal some unexpected surprises. The women administrators, for example, have a lower average age than the male administrators (forty-six versus forty-nine), and assumed their present positions with less previous managerial and administrative experience. Certain stereotypes, e.g., that professionally successful women are "first-born over-achievers who spen[d] night and day amassing degrees and publications," are simply not supported by Irvine's statistics. Not all of the findings, however, contradict traditionally accepted notions. The men, by a fairly wide margin, have higher academic credentials than the women and have published more prolifically. Women, more than men, have been receiving encouragement from mentors to apply for promotions internally. In addition, *Sex Segregation's* comparative data on the families of these male and female academic library administrators is consistent with data found in other studies of administrators in higher education and corporate management: women in administration are more likely to be single or to have fewer and older children than their male counterparts.

Irvine's book reads a little like a celebra-