

raphies and the distributing efficiency of publishers. If persons overseas whose work brings them into contact with new reference books were to send a brief description of these to Miss Winchell she might be helped in her task of assembling titles for examination. In the final result the very great use-

fulness of the *Guide to Reference Books* and its excellent supplements, of which *Reference Books of 1944-1946* is typical, would be increased for all who make use of them, both in this country and abroad.—*Wilma Radford, library assistant, Public Library, New South Wales.*

## Governing Boards and Libraries

*Men Who Control Our Universities: The Economic and Social Composition of Governing Boards of Thirty Leading American Universities.* By Hubert Park Beck; with a foreword by George C. Counts. New York, King's Crown Press, 1947. x, 229p.

College and university libraries are on the way to gaining equality of status and consideration with other instructional departments. Librarians therefore should be reviewing their boards of trustees with the same kind of concern as is appropriate to their classroom-teacher colleagues. The matter of fact is that the librarian's concern is greater because the average trustee understands the role of librarians less than he does that of teachers.

Dr. Beck's book is an indispensable aid to the librarian who wishes to look squarely at his trustee situation. Of special interest to the administrator and student of administration are the numerous tables (p. 168-98) which show the distribution of board members by occupation, age and length of service, offices and directorships in business enterprises, and method of designation. The information bearing on socio-economic backgrounds will have extraordinary meaning for librarians operating in publicly supported institutions where boards of governors must represent the claims of their institution upon the tax funds of some governmental unit. In addition to general analyses which describe the composition of governing boards on a nation-wide scale, the author has provided much enlightening data for the thirty individual universities studied.

The author addresses his study and conclusions to an extremely broad audience composed of all who are interested in the relationship of social forces and backgrounds to education. Librarians will therefore find practically nothing that relates specifically to their functioning in institutions of higher

education—with the exception of the reported fact (p. 58) that 5 out of 734 board members were librarians or museum officials. (This small representation is not as deplorable as it may seem when one notes the "total absence of professional sociologists, economists, psychologists, political scientists, social workers, and social welfare administrators" from governing boards.) There is a good deal, however, which should stimulate thought and inference among librarians of college, university and endowed research libraries.

One may well, for example, raise questions about the educational accomplishment of members of governing boards. A very large percentage (72 per cent) hold earned bachelor's degrees; a still higher percentage show educational achievement beyond the high school. From the point of view of improving financial support generally, and salary scales for librarians in particular, may it not be desirable to have larger numbers of board members with an educational background which has demanded more extensive and serious use of libraries such as is implied in any program of graduate study? Again, one notes that the age-level data places most board members in college some thirty to forty years ago, in a period well before libraries assumed their enlarged role in the instructional program.

As one reads in Dr. Beck's book of the numerous and varied business, institutional, and charity activities in which individual board members engage, he is inclined to question whether the paucity of time and energies left for a college or university would not of necessity result in superficial interest. With all of these activities (p. 105-06), board members can hardly be expected to attain a working acquaintance with the aims, operations, and needs of one part of a university—its library. It would be interesting to know how frequently, if at all, members of govern-

ing boards have visited the libraries directly or indirectly under their jurisdiction. What image do trustees have of their librarians? Do they think of them as the book-fetching and date-stamping set one met at a public library desk in the days of yore?

It may be argued that there is little pertinence in these questions because governing boards are but rubber-stamping agencies for the college president's decisions. Dr. Beck points out that this is far from true especially

in matters of budget allocation. Trustee interference in the matter of appointments must also be taken into account: There is also the question of academic freedom which has on occasion reared its ugly head in the annals of librarianship. For those whose primary interest is in endowed research libraries, the problems which are discussed in this book must have even greater immediacy.—*Sidney Ditzion, College of the City of New York Library.*

## International Exchanges

*American Library Association. Board of Resources of American Libraries and International Relations Board: Conference on International Cultural, Educational and Scientific Exchanges, Princeton University, November 25-26, 1947. Preliminary Memoranda. Recommendations Adopted; Summary of Discussion.* By Edwin E. Williams [and] Ruth V. Noble. Chicago, American Library Association, 1947. xxii, 210p.

In the autumn of 1839 there arrived in the United States a Frenchman "of rather under the medium size, spare, with long hair, sparkling eyes, and an energy of gesticulation which," said a contemporary, "accords well with his animated countenance." This man was imbued with an idea, and it was admitted that "everybody with whom he converses becomes enlisted in his project, nor is it possible to withstand his earnest arguments, which evidently come direct from the heart." The subject of this description was Alexandre Vattemare, and his idea was to promote the international exchange of publications. "Intelligence diffused and everywhere accessible!" was his battle cry. The art of printing, through which intelligence is diffused and made accessible, was for him nothing less than "that mighty engine which has established the future liberty of the human race." His own job was to promote the diffusion and the accessibility.

The story of the immediate and enduring benefits to American scholarship which resulted from Vattemare's visit composes a well-known chapter in American library history (it is summarized and adequately docu-

mented in the work under notice), and his memorial to Congress in 1839 is often cited. The present work promises to become a landmark of at least equal prominence. Superficially, it is the record of a two day conference at Princeton in the autumn of 1946, attended by thirty-two librarians and others, to discuss the whole matter of exchanges. The idea for the conference and the supporting studies was originally conceived by Carl H. Milam. The meeting was sponsored by the Board on Resources and the International Relations Board of the American Library Association. The preliminary work as well as the publication of the results were made possible by the Carnegie Corporation. That the conference was related to the work of UNESCO is evident from its title. (Actually, since the interest of the conference was restricted to library exchanges, the title is a trifle misleading.) The charter of UNESCO specifically mentions international exchanges as one of the objects which it will promote in the interest of peace. The question put to the Princeton conference, therefore, was "how the highly significant aims can be most effectively achieved."

To the Princeton conferees the subject of exchanges was no longer the simple matter that it was to Vattemare. In the one hundred nine years which have elapsed since the publication of his memorial, the simple concept of exchange of publications has become entangled with a multitude of dependent and ancillary considerations. It is a chief merit of the present work that it has assembled, disentangled, and brought order into these various considerations. The lapse of time has