matters of more vital concern to librarians than most of us would admit.

The diversity of Binkley's work was so great that only a little of his full impact upon librarianship is reflected in the present volume. This is no fault of the editor, for much of Binkley's impact grew out of his energy, his imagination and his interest in people and their ideas, rather than his writings. The brief biography discusses his contributions to librarianship, but the biography, quite properly, is devoted more to Binkley's work in the field of history, his major professional field, than to his work in connection with libraries and their problems.

Binkley's broad perspective, which was so helpful in his planning, may be illustrated by his introduction to the brief paper on the problem of perishable paper.

"The invention of writing provided mankind at one stroke with two new instruments: a means of communication and a new device for remembering. This double function of writing serves a purpose which libraries are expected to fulfill. Our civilization expects our libraries to be at once institutions for the diffusion of contemporary ideas and depositories of the records of the race."

From this theme he develops the divergency and conflict in the duties of librarians, with respect to these two tasks, and the relationship which each has to the physical deterioration of the records of modern civilization.

His perspective is also reflected in the relative permanence of his articles. The editor, of course, has recognized this in his selecting process. Everything that Binkley wrote does not have quite the same degree of relevance today, for much of his writing was, by the nature of his interests, devoted to critical and topical problems of the time. He wrote about topical items, however, in such a way that there is unusually important content and meaning still today in much of the material relating to procedures and economy.

This aspect of Binkley's writing may be shown by quoting from his article on the reproduction of materials for research.

"Micro-copying and near-print will force us to think anew the whole procedure of library work, from selection of acquisitions to lending. The mass of material that is 'accessible' is increased in astronomic proportions. This will mean that our traditional catalogues will no longer control the material that is accessible. They will control only a part of it. The greater the amount of material to be controlled, the greater is the need for inventions of all kinds."

This statement appeared in 1937 and was, of course, directed to a very specific subject. In the 12 years since then we have made progress, but we still have some way to go before we will be up with Binkley—"We will have to think of library systems rather than separate libraries. . . . Our problems will be far more intricate than theirs and also, I believe, far more interesting."

This book is valuable, not only because it shows us clearly how serious our loss was in Binkley's untimely death, but because it recalls to our attention—if we have forgotten —the variety of unsolved problems relating to the provision of materials for contemporary and future research.—*Herman H. Fussler, University of Chicago Library.*

A Helpful Guide for Building Planners

Planning the University Library Building, a Summary of Discussions by Librarians, Architects and Engineers. Edited by John E. Burchard, Charles W. David and Julian P. Boyd, with the assistance of LeRoy C. Merritt. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 1949. xvii, 145p. $2.50.

To the many who have had no connection with the Cooperative Committee on Library Building Plans, but who have followed the proceedings of its conferences, this book will appear to be much more than a by-product of those meetings. It adds both system and substance to the discussions as previously reported, and supplies a new compendium for college and university librarians who are confronted with building projects, and who seek the fullest information bearing on the decisions and recommendations they must make.

As its activities have shown, the purpose of the committee was to pool efforts in meeting the questions pertinent to the construction of university library buildings, and thus to prepare the way for solutions in particular cases

—this rather than to seek final and universal answers. That end was pursued over a period extending from December 1944 to January 1948, and it dominates the book now published. The reader is given a fund of facts and of such views as were found to be established or commonly accepted. On points which are as yet undetermined, or which can be settled only in the light of specific situations, the text is carefully repeated to make clear that no formula can be stated, and that the only possible advice is to study the conditions and to use to best advantage the knowledge provided throughout the volume and otherwise available. This may be disappointing to some who are faced with dilemmas, but it preserves the atmosphere of exploration in which the group worked, and fosters the entertaining of all appropriate opinions and options, without premature commitment to any given idea or set of ideas.

Planning the University Library Building embraces some serviceable material on space arrangements and stock construction, which is illustrated by floor plans of representative buildings, and which is staple rather than an addition to commonly held doctrine. Its sections on air conditioning, illumination and various technological topics fall in a somewhat similar category, except that they deal with matters which are more fluid and subject to change, and less widely understood by librarians. The aim in these parts is to furnish the latest relevant data, and to help readers to keep as closely as they can on the heels of that revolution which in the building industry is said to be "always around the corner."

The most widely applicable parts of the book are the first and second chapters, whose contents are basic to many of the decisions commonly called for from librarians, committees and architects. The first takes up, with fresh perspective and phrasing, the determining relation of educational policy to the planning of a library building. The second presents anew the questions associated with the size and growth of collections, with the forms of materials, and with the possible varieties of over-all organization. True to the course laid down, the text reminds the reader that no building can be successful, however perfect in a constructional sense, unless it is shaped by the purposes of its institution, and then by clear judgments as to what stock it is to hold, what services it is to accommodate, and how the work and operations are to be disposed within it. All this may seem commonplace, yet the treatment implies that its interpretations may prove in particular cases to be as unique and vexing as the choices on technological aspects are bewildering. Especially as library buildings approach their limits of size and manageability such matters grow more and more pressing, and appear with greater persistence upon the doorsteps of librarians.

A chapter headed "The Librarian and the Architect" should help to dispel whatever uncertainties still becloud the relations of these officers, as well as to make wholly clear to librarians what their role and responsibilities on building projects are. After treating broadly various considerations which bear upon the relation of an architect, it stresses "skill, imagination, cooperativeness and integrity" as the all-important qualifications in an individual or firm, thus rating them above experience and expertness in the construction of library buildings. It advises librarians to be punctilious in preparing their programs, yet reasonable and considerate in presenting their recommendations and in listening to the viewpoints of architects. It also urges that ordinarily they will be wise to limit themselves to written statements, illustrated by flowcharts for the library's work and including indications as to how the spaces should be related, rather than to attempt the drafting of floor sketches. On their decisions about the operating parts of their structures, however, the committee counsels librarians to be definite and immovable.

A "Bibliographical Essay," constituting a final chapter of the book, provides reference to valuable sources as well as some of the substance to be derived from those sources. This directs the reader and the student to much matter in relevant technical fields which easily might escape the attention of librarians, and whose application to libraries might not always be grasped fully even by architects.

Perhaps the most heavily stressed theme in the volume is flexibility, and the chief novelty the full discussion of the windowless building. The text gives unusual emphasis also to noise control, with speculation regarding such tolerances as seem unlikely at any early date to be expressible in terms of stand-

ards. Such treatments aid in giving modern and specific meanings to some of the generalities contained in C. C. Soule's early "Points of Agreement among Librarians as to Library Architecture," which the editors of the present book quote in part on page 3.

In recent years it has been gratifying to many to realize that the difficulties surrounding the adequacy of library buildings were being dealt with on a broad scale. The constituting of the cooperative committee is evidence that the problems involved have gained the attention of the institutional officers who can do most about them. The manner and scope of its conferences reveal recognition of the importance of proper provision for scholarly libraries. The joint deliberations of educators, architects, engineers and librarians which the committee brought about, hardly can have failed to promote grasp of the issues entailed in library construction and collaboration in meeting them. The book now produced by the committee's editors reflects all this, while making available to a wide circle another helpful guide for building planners.—*Ernest J. Reece, White Plains, N.Y.*

The Books of the Ancients

Illustrations in Roll and Codex: A Study of the Origin and Method of Text Illustration. By Kurt Weitzmann. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1947, viii, 219p. 56p. of plates. (Studies in Manuscript Illumination.) $12.00.

The World of Books in Classical Antiquity. By H. L. Pinner. Leiden, A. W. Sijthoff, 1948, 64p., 14 plates.

On first sight the reason for this review may not be fully apparent to all readers of this journal.

These volumes are highly specialized studies of a body of material that seemingly lies more in the province of the classical scholar, archeologist and the student of the fine arts than in the sphere of interest of the librarian. Very few members of the library profession in America are likely to come into professional contact with any of the original material treated in these books. Nevertheless there are good reasons why the scholarly librarian has every right and some obligation to know these studies.

Illustrations in Roll and Codex, by Dr. Weitzmann, is a major contribution to our knowledge of the physical form of the book at the turning point from classical antiquity to the Christian Middle Ages. It clarifies and greatly broadens our understanding of the role of book illustration as a significant vehicle of literature. It presents challenging, even radical new views on the roots and the evolution of the illuminated codex. It rewrites an important chapter in the history of the book arts.

After nearly 20 years of experience as a teacher of book arts in a graduate library school, your reviewer still believes that this field is an integral part of library science. The term "book arts" is perhaps somewhat limited, since we have come to include under that heading a rather broad approach to the study of the book. We mean by this term today the study of the social needs, the materials and processes, the artistic skills and schools, the personalities and organizations which have formed and are forming the book as the physical vehicle of a particular kind of long-range communication.

The concept of "book arts" as an integral part of library science is originally European. The presence of an important body of ancient books and manuscripts in every major European library is the natural reason for the concern of the academically trained librarian with this type of material. The fact that the first volume of Milkau's Handbook of Library Science (*Handbuch der Bibliothekswissenschaft*) is entirely devoted to the history of writing and the book is tangible manifestation of this situation.

Your reviewer has had a chance to become acquainted with German postwar plans for library education. They show every sign of adherence to the old scholarly ideals. They also show a sad lack of understanding of the librarian's social function. The serious obligations and the splendid opportunities of the library in a democratic community are literally unknown in postwar Germany. In these respects the professional librarian there has everything to learn from his American colleague. Some beginning has been made by our